



Learning Through Play

"Play is the highest form of research." ~ Albert Einstein

Albert Einstein said, "Play is the highest form of research". Remember to allow children time and space to explore and create. Children learn by doing. **Teaching is passive. Learning is active.**



Encouraging
Early Learners
in Brazos Valley

2017—Quarter 1

Active Play

When children play they use all of their senses. The experiences they have with their senses send messages to their brain and establish the connections they will need for later learning. While children play they learn many skills—

- ★ They learn how to get along with others
- ★ They learn how to solve problems & devise solutions to challenges
- ★ They learn to take turns
- ★ They learn to cooperate & collaborate
- ★ They learn how to use words to communicate
- ★ They learn to take another child's perspective



If you think about it, these are more than play skills; they are life skills.

Early Experiences Matter

Experiences between birth and age 5 matter significantly to children's long-term emotional and psychological health. The emotional, social, and physical development of young children has a direct effect on their overall development and set the path for their adult life.

We have listed a few wonderful websites here that have great information on child development and early experiences. Enjoy!

8 Positive Phrases!

- ☺ I am grateful for you.
- ☺ I believe in you.
- ☺ You are worth it.
- ☺ It's good to be curious.
- ☺ I learn new things from you everyday.
- ☺ I appreciate you.
- ☺ That's a very fair point.
- ☺ I love seeing the world your way.

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[Zero To Three](#)

[Early Childhood Teacher](#)

[Texas Childcare Solutions](#)

[Child Care Encyclopedia](#)

[Infant-Toddler TAMU](#)

Growth and Development

Incredible Infants (0-9 months):

Guess What?! I am learning to hold up my head, kick my feet, and sit. Put me on the floor, I need space to practice!

Mobile Movers (9-24 months):

Guess What?! I can crawl and walk now. Please lock all cabinets and remove small objects to keep me safe.

Terrific Two's:

Guess What?! I have big emotions now and get upset quickly. Be consistent and set boundaries so I can learn how to deal with my feelings.



To learn more about developmental milestones, visit [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)

Remember! Every child develops at his/her own pace!

"Look At Me" Three's:

Guess What?! I am learning how to play with other children. Teach me how to be a good friend.

Fantastic Four's:

Guess What?! I am very curious about everything around me. Please have patience and answer all my questions.

Reading to All Ages:

During all stages of my development, I am learning language skills. Read a book to me everyday, it will help me learn new things and give me love for reading!

Parent Policies - CCAA Swipe Cards

If you receive Child Care Subsidies through Workforce Solutions Brazos Valley, you have a CCAA Swipe Card. Make sure that you are using your swipe card daily to indicate your child's attendance at his/her daycare center.

Remember! There is a limit to the number of absences your child can accumulate without penalty—and not swiping IS counted as an absence!

If you miss a day, you are able to go back for up to 6 days to report attendance.

Each account can have up to 4 CCAA cards, so if someone other than you picks up your child on a regular basis, order them their own card!

Things to Avoid:

1. Leaving your CCAA card at your child's daycare center.
2. Allowing anyone, other than the person assigned to the card, to use the card.
3. Swiping a child as present when they were not in attendance.

To Order a
CCAA Card,
Call:
(979) 595-2801
ext. 2105

Family Activity Corner

Children have a natural desire for real life interaction and they fulfill this need through what we call "play". Through play children learn to take turns, to talk to each other, to make a plan, and to consider another person's ideas.

While your child may spend a large part of the day playing, he/she also needs to play with the parent—with whom your child feels most comfortable.



There are thousands of videos about what play is and how it helps your child, so we have selected a couple to get you started; feel free to keep exploring!

[Play Based Learning](#)

[Importance of Play](#)

Building—Parents do not need a fancy building set for this. Popsicle stick cities, card towers, blocks, or even forts out of boxes and pillows will do just fine. This activity encourages your child's imagination and creativity.

Hide and Seek—No list of games would be complete without it! In this classic game, one person ("It") covers their eyes and counts aloud while the other players hide. When "It" is finished counting, he/she begins looking for the hiders. The last hider to be found is the next "It". **WARNING:** This game is often a source of giggle fits! This activity will encourage your child to count.

Adding music, songs, or stories to any of your families daily routines helps increase play!

Provider Policies - Reporting Issues

Sometimes, situations occur that need to be reported to your Provider Specialist.

Here are a few of those instances:

1. CCAA Swipe Card Machine is Not Working/Phone Line is Down (Parents are unable to report attendance)
2. Emergency Closures
3. 5 Day "No-Call"/"No-Show"
4. Parent intent to not return to your center

It is important that you call your Provider Specialist when any of these situations occur to ensure your file is updated.

CCS Provider
Specialist

(979) 595-2801
ext. 2243

CCMS@bvcog.org

Other situations to report to your Provider Specialist:

1. Non-payment of the parent share of cost (ie. Parent Fee)
2. Transfers to or from your center—especially if you have not or do not remember receiving a 2450
3. Misuse of CCAA Cards

Make sure you report all changes or situations within 5 business days.

For more information on what changes need to be reported, please read the [Provider Handbook!](#)

Provider Resources

Are you looking for professional development hours for your staff? Want to make sure they are learning something from the training hours?

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension offers convenient, affordable, self-paced eLearning! Each account and course is FREE. A few of the courses require that you pay a small processing fee for the official printable certificate, but most certificates are FREE!

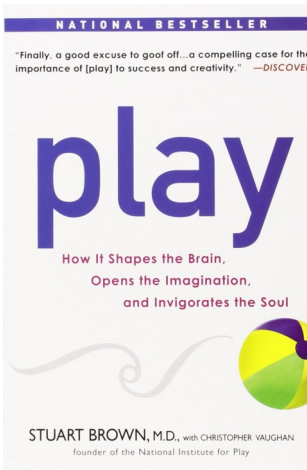
The course offerings cover everything from Pre-Service training, to CDA renewal, to DFPS mandatory annual trainings, and even Special Needs. They have courses focusing on infants and toddlers all the way up to school-age children.

Create a [Free Account](#) to enroll in Child Care courses TODAY!



The more you know, the further you'll go!

Curriculum Enrichment



Dr. Stuart Brown is a leading researcher in the field of play and the founder of the National Institute for Play. He claims that play is more than just a way for kids to have fun and that it is "deeply involved with human development and intelligence".

Dr. Brown is working to establish the study of human play as a vital science. Through the years, he has observed animal play in the wild and has interviewed thousands of individuals about the amount of time they spent "playing" in childhood.

Dr. Brown believes play can have a strong impact on one's life and overall well-being.

Watch Dr. Brown's [TED Talk on Play](#). To learn more about Play and why Dr. Brown states that it is essential to multiple areas of development, you can read his book, *Play: How it Shapes the Brain, Opens the Imagination, and Invigorates the Soul* (pictured to the left) or go to his website www.nifplay.org to read the latest!

What Does Quality Care Mean and Why Does It Matter?

Research tells us that our children's healthy development depends on safe and positive relationships and experiences during the first few years of life. Choosing quality child care is one of the most important decisions you will make for your child as they will be spending a good portion of their first few years in the care of someone other than their parents or family members.

You might want to visit several different child care programs, either centers or family child care homes, before you decide which one is best for your family. Call each child care program and schedule an appointment for your visit. Once there, watch activities, check the surroundings, and ask questions. Find a program that is convenient, open when you need it, and will have a long lasting positive impact on your child's development. Most importantly, you and your child need a child care program that makes sure your child is learning, healthy, and in a physically and emotionally safe environment, ensuring that your child's emotional needs are met.

Texas Rising Star Program

The Texas Rising Star program is a voluntary program striving to provide a higher level of quality care for children. Texas Rising Star provides mentoring and professional development resources to prepare for, sustain, and improve the quality of early childhood environments.

There are three levels of certification (Two-Star, Three-Star, and Four-Star) to encourage providers to attain progressively higher levels of certification. Texas Rising Star provides a higher level of reimbursement, eligibility for quality fund distribution, and out-of-region trainings such as the TLCCA and TAEYC annual conferences. Each year, Workforce Solutions Brazos Valley Board spends approximately \$400,000 on quality items for child care providers who are working towards their Texas Rising Star Provider status.

Providers who are interested in being certified as Texas Rising Star Providers are encouraged to visit the website to learn more.

<http://texasrisingstar.org>



Below is a list of local Texas Rising Star Providers in the Brazos Valley Region.

Provider Name	Star Level
A&M United Methodist Weekday School	★★★★★
AlphaBEST - Bowen Elementary	★★★☆☆
AlphaBEST - Crockett Elementary	★★★☆☆
AlphaBEST - Fannin Elementary	★★★☆☆
Becky Gates Children's Center	★★★★★
Big Top Learning Center	★★★★★
Brazos Valley Kidz Academy	★★★★☆
Bullfrogs and Butterflies Child Care	★★★★★
Christ Lutheran Day School	★★★★★
First Step Learning Center	★★★★☆
Kinder Care 839	★★★★★
Kinder Care 843	★★★★★
Methodist Weekday Child Development Center	★★★★★
New Beginnings Christian CD Home	★★★★☆
Rising Star Learning Center	★★★☆☆

For Questions, Call or Email:

Kristen Goodson

(979) 595-2801 ext. 2014

Kristen.Goodson@bvcog.org

OR

Lidia Hawryluk

(979) 595-2801 ext. 2016

Lidia.Hawryluk@bvcog.org

Equal opportunity employer/program.

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Relay Texas (800) 735-2989, TDD (800) 735-2988 Voice, TTY (979) 595-2819



Learning Through Relationships

"Children learn from those they love." ~ Plato

Plato said, "Children learn from those they love". Remember that loving environments help children develop social and emotional skills that will help them be successful in life.



Encouraging
Early Learners
in Brazos Valley

2017—Quarter 2

Relationships

When children experience loving, supportive relationships with their parents and caregivers, they are able to feel secure and confident that their needs will be met. This security will give your child the confidence to explore his/her surroundings and learn new things. Loving and consistent relationships help children learn:

- ✓ They learn they are loved and accepted
- ✓ They learn self-confidence
- ✓ They develop self-worth and self-esteem
- ✓ They learn to be respectful and loving
- ✓ They learn empathy and compassion
- ✓ They develop courage to experience their environment

This sense of connection prepares your child for future relationships and gives your child the ability to be successful in school and life.



Building Vocabulary

- ★ Pretty → Gorgeous
- ★ Smart → Bright
- ★ Big → Gigantic
- ★ Nice → Thoughtful
- ★ Like → Care for
- ★ Tasty → Delicious
- ★ Wet → Soaked
- ★ Walked → Strolled
- ★ Happy → Joyful

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Early Relationships Matter

Starting from birth, children learn who they are by the quality of their relationships with parents and caregivers. Loving, consistent, and nurturing relationships give children a sense of security. These early relationships help children learn how to form future relationships, express their emotions appropriately, and work through challenges.

The earliest relationships support healthy brain development, build social and emotional skills, and support language development.

We have listed a few wonderful websites here that have great information on Building Relationships with your child.

[Zero To Three](#)

[Early Childhood Teacher](#)

[Texas Childcare Solutions](#)

[Child Care Encyclopedia](#)

[Infant-Toddler TAMU](#)

Growth and Development

Incredible Infants (0-9 months):

Guess What?! I love looking at your face. Please spend time playing with me!

Mobile Movers (9-24 months):

Guess What?! I know when you are gone. Please reassure me that you will come back when you leave.

Terrific Two's:

Guess What?! I watch what you do when you are with me. Please help me learn how to be helpful.



To learn more about developmental milestones, visit [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)

Remember! Every child develops at his/her own pace!

"Look At Me" Three's:

Guess What?! I know how to do many things now. Please let me do some things by myself!

Fantastic Four's:

Guess What?! I like to play with my friends. Please allow me to play with friends and teach me how to do it!

Reading to All Ages:

Reading to your child on a daily basis builds your relationship with him/her and prepares your child for successful school experiences!

Parent Policies - Reporting Changes

If you receive Child Care Subsidies through Workforce Solutions Brazos Valley, you agree to report any household changes that might effect your eligibility within 14 calendar days.

Changes to Report—A few examples:

1. Updated contact information including physical or mailing address, phone number, or emergency contact.
2. Change in household composition or size (increase or decrease).

To Report a Change, Call:
(979) 595-2801 ext. 2105
Or Email:
CCMS@bvcog.org

3. Loss of job, new job, or other job changes, temporary or permanent, including a pay raise, bonus, and an increase or decrease in hours.
4. Any other change in your life which could affect your eligibility.

Remember! If you do not notify us of changes that make you ineligible for services, you will be responsible for paying back all child care payments made during that time.

It is always better to call and ask if it affects your eligibility than to find out later.

Family Activity Corner

Loving and nurturing relationships set the foundation for your child's social and emotional development. These relationships also contribute to your child's success in school.

There are thousands of videos and websites on relationships and how they help your child, so we have selected a few to get you started!

[Building Positive Relationships](#)

[Serve and Return](#)

[Parenting Tips](#)

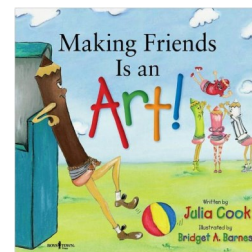


Below we have provided a list of things to help build loving relationships.

- ◇ Play with your child and allow your child to explore.
- ◇ Have conversations about things that interest your child.
- ◇ Create family traditions and routines.
- ◇ Comfort and soothe your child when in distress; love them unconditionally.
- ◇ Teach your child that they do not have to be perfect.

Reading with your child on a regular basis is a great way to build a positive relationship. Here is a book suggestion you may want to consider that highlights skills for making friends and celebrates the individual differences in each of us.

Making Friends Is an Art! By Julia Cook



Provider Policies - Parent Share of Cost & Difference in Cost of Care

When a Child Care Services Specialist calls to inform you of any new referrals, they will mail out a 2450 Authorization Form. This form confirms the child's name, the approved referral dates, and Parent Share of Cost—amount paid to you by the parent.

In addition to the Parent Share of Cost, there are two types of fees that you may be able to charge CCS parents. They are:

1. Difference in Cost of Care—This is the amount you are allowed to charge that is the difference between your published rate and the rate that CCS pays—**IF** a difference exists.

CCS Provider
Specialist

(979) 595-2801
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2. Additional Fees—Any fees that are not included in your daily rate, such as meals, transportation, and special activities or field trips.

There are fees that you are NOT allowed to charge the parent. Those fees include:

1. Registration Fees
2. Supply Fees
3. Curriculum Fees

For more information on what you should and should not be charging CCS parents, please read the [Provider Handbook!](#)

Provider Resources

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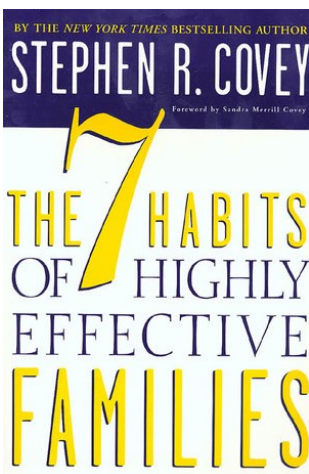
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Curriculum Enrichment



Stephen R. Covey was an author, educator, and professional speaker. Mr. Covey wrote multiple books during his life, most of which contained a message of leadership and empowerment, on a level that resonated with his readers.

Mr. Covey established his own company in 1985 which eventually merged to form FranklinCovey, a world-renowned firm that specializes in training and productivity tools. His organization's mission statement reads: "We enable greatness in people and organizations everywhere".

In his book, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Families*, Steven R. Covey discusses many challenges, both large and small, that families face on a daily basis and offers a helpful guide to resolving these challenges. Mr. Covey's use of stories throughout the book keeps the readers attention and inspires the desire for change.

Mr. Covey believed that people are not held captive by their past and that neither nature or nurture can determine their future; but rather, he believed that people have the power to choose their own future.

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AlphaBEST - Johnson Elementary	★★☆☆
AlphaBEST - Houston Elementary	★★☆☆
Becky Gates Children's Center	★★★★
Big Top Learning Center	★★★★
Blessings from Above CCC 2	★★☆☆
Brazos Valley Kidz Academy	★★☆☆
Bullfrogs and Butterflies Child Care	★★★★
Christ Lutheran Day School	★★★★
First Step Learning Center	★★☆☆
Kinder Care 839	★★★★
Kinder Care 841	★★★★
Kinder Care 843	★★★★
Methodist Weekday Child Development Center	★★★★
New Beginnings Christian CD Home	★★☆☆
Rising Star Learning Center	★★☆☆

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Equal opportunity employer/program.

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Deaf, hard-of-hearing or speech-impaired customers may contact: Relay Texas (800) 735-2989 (TTY) or 711 (Voice).



Learning Through The Senses

"Play is our brain's favorite way of learning." ~ Diane Ackerman



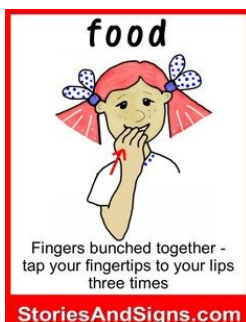
During the process of play, infants and young children use all six of their senses to discover their environment and learn not only about their surroundings but also about themselves.

Encouraging
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2017—Quarter 3

The Six Senses

1. **Hearing** - Hearing develops throughout the early years. Vocabulary, pronunciation, and language are fully dependent on how much conversation young children hear on a daily basis. Keep Talking!!
2. **Seeing** - Sight develops at a slower rate than hearing.
3. **Touching** - Touch is very important in a child's development. Young children need daily hugs and cuddles to build the brain connections that lay the foundation for healthy relationships in a child's life.
4. **Tasting** - The mouth and tongue have thousands of sensory receptors! Young children discover the world through this sense.
5. **Smelling** - Infants identify familiar people and objects, such as a security blanket, with their sense of smell. Children as well as adults associate certain smells with memories of past experiences.
6. **Kinesthetic Sense (Movement & Balance)** - This sense develops by experiencing different positions and opportunities for physical movement. This sense helps young children know where their bodies are in space and gives children a sense of balance.



Summer Safety Tips

- ★ Provide plenty of water for children when they play outdoors.
- ★ Use sun screen often. Check sunscreen for allergies!
- ★ Be attentive when your children are near water.
- ★ Lifeguards are NOT babysitters—Be within reach of your children.
- ★ Look before you lock your car—do not leave children alone in the car.

Sensory Play Matters

Children learn best when they have opportunities to use their senses to experience the world around them. These experiences send information to their brains where it is stored in their memory. Experiences in a loving and nurturing environment create the foundation for future learning. Every child experiences the world in their own way and develops on their own schedule.

Environments must be stimulating, challenging, and engage both their minds and interests. Children learn when their bodies and minds interact with actual objects.

We have listed a few wonderful websites here that have great information on Sensory Play.

[Community Playthings](#)

[Zero To Three](#)

[Early Childhood Teacher](#)

[Texas Childcare Solutions](#)

[Child Care Encyclopedia](#)

[Infant-Toddler TAMU](#)

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Growth and Development

Incredible Infants (0-9 months):

Guess What?! I can recognize your face, voice, & touch. Please sing to me and cuddle with me!

Mobile Movers (9-24 months):

Guess What?! I love to play in water, sand, and with bubbles. Please allow me to splash in the bathtub and build with blocks in the sand.

Terrific Two's:

Guess What?! I am learning new things and want to do them by myself. Please let me play in my own way and allow me choose the books I want to read.



To learn more about developmental milestones, visit [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)

Remember! Every child develops at his/her own pace!

"Look At Me" Three's:

Guess What?! I can do things on my own. Please help me practice writing and spend time reading with me!

Fantastic Four's:

Guess What?! I know my colors and shapes. Please help me learn my letters by allowing me to write in the sand or in shaving cream!

Reading to All Ages:

Holding your child in your lap while reading stories engages many senses which contribute to your child's brain development.

Parent Policies - Suspensions & Transfers

If you receive Child Care Subsidies through Workforce Solutions Brazos Valley, you must contact a Case Worker to make changes to your child's care, such as suspensions and transfers.

SUSPENSIONS - If you know that your child will not be attending care for an extended period of time, such as summer or school breaks, you may request a suspension to avoid absences.

⇒ **What We Need:** The date you want to start the suspension and an estimated date your child will return to care.

To Request a
Suspension or
Transfer, Call:

(979) 595-2801
ext. 2105

Or Email:

CCMS@bvcog.org

TRANSFERS - To change providers, you will need to contact a Case Worker *at least 2 weeks in advance*.

⇒ **What We Need:** The name of the new provider and the requested start date.

⇒ **Remember:** You are responsible for giving your current provider adequate notice according to their parent handbook and for any registration paperwork at the new provider.

We serve over 1,200 children each day so it may take up to two weeks to process your transfer request!

Family Activities

Parent's can help children develop their sensory skills while building connections in their brains. These skills contribute to your child's success in life.

HEARING. Sing songs often and play music for your child—but limit his/her exposure to loud noises that can damage their hearing.

SEEING. Describe what your child sees, by pointing out colors, objects, and shapes. Eye exams starting at age 3 help early detection of delays.

TOUCHING. Hugs and cuddles are a great way to use touch with young chil-

dren. Provide your child with a variety of textured toys and describe the textures.

TASTING. Describe to your child the taste of new foods and offer new foods, one at a time, on a regular basis with foods they already enjoy.

SMELLING. Identify smells and aromas in your child's world. Encourage them to smell flowers, leaves, and dirt outside.

KINESTHETIC. Minimize the time your child spends sitting by allowing them the freedom to move often. Dance with your child to rhythmic music.

Recipe Corner

Snow Dough is fun and easy to make with your child. It promotes math skills through measuring materials, vocabulary of new words, and it helps stimulate the senses.

- * 2 cups corn starch or flour
- * 1/3 to 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- * Optional: Glitter, food coloring, and fragrances!

To view the recipe online, [click here](#).



Provider Policies - CCAA "Swipe Card" Monitoring

If you accept child care subsidies, you must utilize the Child Care Automated Attendance (CCAA) system provided by Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). In accordance with the Provider Handbook that you received, you are responsible for accessing and reviewing the CCAA system attendance and absence report.

Where Do I See CCAA Activity?

- ◇ [CCAA Texas Provider Portal](#)

When Should I Review CCAA Activity?

- ◇ At a minimum - **every three days**

What To Look For:

- ◇ "Z" - The red Z indicates that the parent failed to swipe for that day.

**CCS Provider
Specialist**

**(979) 595-2801
ext. 2243**

CCMS@bvcog.org

Why Should I Review CCAA Activity?

- ◇ To ensure that your parents are swiping properly to record child attendance.
- ◇ This system authorizes payments to you, the provider, for the child's attendance.
- ◇ Watch this short [informative video](#) on the CCAA Card for Providers.

Who Should I Call With Questions?:

- ◇ Specific questions regarding attendance, contact your local Provider Specialist.
- ◇ CCAA device issues and troubleshooting, call: 866-320-8720.

For more information on the CCAA system, please review the [Provider Handbook!](#)

Sensory Play DIY (Do-It-Yourself)

There are thousands of videos, blogs, posts, pins, and websites on sensory DIYs and activities on the internet and in books, but here are a few to get you started!

[Sensory Bins](#) - Affordable, compact, safe, and personalized containers filled with a variety of items intended to allow children to explore, increase acceptance of different textures, and support their language development.

[Sensory Bottles](#) - Easy to make bottles of wonderment that allow your child to use his/her senses to explore without the mess or the "yuk" feel and helps them learn to "self-regulate" or calm themselves.

[Sensory Boards](#) - These boards are fun for kids of all ages and allow them to safely explore a range of textures that stimulate their senses. The best part is, these boards can be made from items

you already have. Here is another fun DIY [sensory board!](#) There are many fun ways to support the senses that are not only for children, but also for adults.



Curriculum Enrichment - Activities & Tips

Activity Ideas:

- ✓ Puzzles - Get on the floor with the child and talk about how the pieces fit and what they look like.
- ✓ Build with Blocks - Let the child decide what you are going to build and follow the child's lead.
- ✓ Dance - Put on some upbeat rhythmic music and have fun!
- ✓ Explore Outdoors - Take a walk.
- ✓ Color Pictures - Blank pages are the best for imaginations!



Activity Tips:

- ✓ Allow children to explore the environment around them; this is their world.
- ✓ Plan activities without an intentional outcome. This allows the child to discover things and enjoy the process.
- ✓ Be mindful: infants and toddlers put everything into their mouths! Assure that objects within their reach are clean and are not a choking hazard.
- ✓ Each child is different and learns at his/her own pace. Stay calm & patient!

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You might want to visit several different child care programs, either centers or homes, before you decide which is best for your family. Call each child care program and schedule an appointment for your visit. Once there, watch activities, check the surroundings, and ask questions. Find a program that is convenient, open when you need it, and will have a long lasting positive impact on your child's development. Most importantly, you and your child need a child care program that makes sure your child is learning, healthy, and in a physically and emotionally safe environment.

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Providers who are interested in being certified as Texas Rising Star Providers are encouraged to visit the website to learn more.

<http://texasrisingstar.org>



Below is a list of local Texas Rising Star Providers in the Brazos Valley Region.

4-Star Providers	3-Star Providers	2-Star Providers
A&M United Methodist Weekday School	AlphaBEST - Mitchell Elementary	AlphaBEST - Bowen Elementary
Becky Gates Children's Center	Brazos Valley Kidz Academy	AlphaBEST - Crockett Elementary
Big Top Learning Center	First Step Learning Center	AlphaBEST - Fannin Elementary
Bullfrogs and Butterflies Child Care	New Beginnings Christian CD Home	AlphaBEST - Houston Elementary
Christ Lutheran Day School		AlphaBEST - Johnson Elementary
Cuddly Care Daycare		Blessings from Above CCC 2
Kinder Care 839		Rising Star Learning Center
Kinder Care 841		
Kinder Care 843		
Methodist Weekday CDC		
		

For Questions, Call or Email:

Kristen Goodson
(979) 595-2801 ext. 2014
Kristen.Goodson@bvcog.org

OR

Lidia Hawryluk
(979) 595-2801 ext. 2016
Lidia.Hawryluk@bvcog.org

Equal opportunity employer/program.

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Learning Through Dramatic Play

"When you are curious you find lots of interesting things to do." ~ Walt Disney

When children play they are using their bodies and their minds. Play gives children opportunities to move their bodies in different ways and gives their minds a chance to create imaginary scenes or imitate real life scenarios.



Encouraging
Early Learners
in Brazos Valley

2017—Quarter 4

Dramatic Play

Dramatic play, or pretend play, is a type of play where children take on different roles and then act them out in real or imaginary environments. In this type of play children try on real life or pretend roles and learn skills they will need as adults.

Children make plans with their friends, they assign roles to each other, they negotiate the rules for the play, and they decide the materials they will need to accomplish their goal. Dramatic play allows children to take another person's perspective, negotiate terms for the play, and even deal with the disappointment of not getting their way.

These pretend experiences also allow children to develop skills such as math, literacy and social studies. Dramatic play can promote literacy by encouraging children to write scripts or create props such as menus or signs. When your child takes on roles such as a pirate or a farmer, it gives you the opportunity to teach them about social studies.

Dramatic play engages children in learning because they are having fun.



Supporting Creativity

- ★ Allow time for your child to play.
- ★ Provide materials like dolls, boxes, blocks, and dress up clothes.
- ★ Make time to spend with your child during play.
- ★ Read stories with your child to inspire ideas for pretend play.
- ★ Build props with your child to enhance creativity.

What's Inside?!

[Dramatic Play](#) 1

[Dramatic Play Matters](#) 1

[Growth & Development](#) 2

[Parent Policies](#) 2

[Family Activities](#) 2

[Provider Policies](#) 3

[Dramatic Play DIY](#) 3

[Curriculum Enrichment](#) 3

[Quality Child Care](#) 4

Dramatic Play Matters

Pretend play helps children learn about themselves; what they like and what fun is for them. They learn to manage their feelings and deal with conflict when they play with other children who may not think exactly like them. They learn about the world around them and they learn more about how their bodies move in the world.

Children are exposed to new vocabulary words as they explore different topics. Imagine all the new words your child will learn when you talk about space, jungle animals, baking, doctor's office's... Oh the possibilities!

We have listed a few wonderful websites here that have great information on Dramatic Play.

[Community Playthings](#)

[Zero To Three](#)

[Early Childhood Teacher](#)

[Texas Childcare Solutions](#)

[Child Care Encyclopedia](#)

[Infant-Toddler TAMU](#)

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Growth and Development

Incredible Infants (0-9 months):

Guess What?! I can hold my head up when you put me on my tummy. Please put me on the floor and let me use my growing body to see the world!

Mobile Movers (9-24 months):

Guess What?! I am curious about my world. Please provide me with a safe place to explore and practice walking.

Terrific Two's:

Guess What?! I am learning many new words. Please read books to me and talk to me about pictures, pointing out different objects on the pages.



To learn more about developmental milestones, visit CDC.gov

"Look At Me" Three's:

Guess What?! I am really big now, I can throw a ball and build with blocks. Please play with me, it helps me learn!

Fantastic Four's:

Guess What?! I can run, skip, hop, and climb. I would like to learn to ride a bike. Please teach me how, make sure I wear a helmet and stay outside with me while I ride!

Remember! Every child develops at his or her own pace. Be patient with your child and encourage them to explore!

Parent Policies - Protect Your Child Care Services

If you receive Child Care Subsidies, you are **REQUIRED** to report any household changes that might effect your eligibility within **14 calendar days**.

Changes to Report—A few examples:

1. Updated contact information including physical or mailing address, phone number, or emergency contact.
2. Change in household composition or size (increase or decrease).

To Report a Change, Call:
(979) 595-2801 ext. 2105
Or Email:
CCMS@bvcog.org

3. Loss of job, new job, or other job changes, temporary or permanent, including a pay raise, bonus, and an increase or decrease in hours.
4. Any other change in your life which could affect your eligibility.

Remember! If you do not notify us of changes that make you ineligible for services, you will be responsible for paying back all child care payments made during that time.

It is always better to call and ask if it affects your eligibility than to find out later.

Family Activities

You can help create areas within your home that encourage dramatic play. When you participate in dramatic play with your child, you support and help shape your child's abilities in all areas of development which contribute to your child's success in life.

COGNITIVE. Help your child plan and organize the pretend play. Ask your child questions about his/her ideas for the characters or the scene. Asking your child questions about what will happen next encourages your child to plan ahead and teaches your child about cause and effect relationships.

PHYSICAL. Help your child construct the scenes for the pretend play. Allow your child to take the lead when building and encourage him/her to try new things.

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL. Help your child work with others in assigning roles and dealing with disappointment when your child does not get the role he/she wanted.

LANGUAGE. Help your child build his/her language skills. During play, engage your child in conversation using new words to describe items or situations. Ask questions and listen for their responses.

The best part is, you get to play too!

Activity Corner

Tea or Lunch Parties

How would you like to have a tea party with a beautiful princess or eat lunch with your favorite superhero? Your child will love getting dressed up for the party—especially if you will be there!

What you need:

- * Paper cups and plates
- * A few snacks from your kitchen
- * Imagination and conversation



Provider Policies - Parent Share of Cost & Difference in Cost of Care

When a Child Care Services Specialist calls to inform you of any new referrals, they will mail out a 2450 Authorization Form. This form confirms the child's name, the approved referral dates, and Parent Share of Cost—amount paid to you by the parent.

In addition to the Parent Share of Cost, there are two types of fees that you may be able to charge CCS parents. They are:

1. Difference in Cost of Care—This is the amount you are allowed to charge that is the difference between your published rate and the rate that CCS pays—**IF** a difference exists.

CCS Provider
Specialist

(979) 595-2801
ext. 2243

CCMS@bvcog.org

2. Additional Fees—Any fees that are not included in your daily rate, such as meals, transportation, and special activities or field trips.

There are fees that you are NOT allowed to charge the parent. Those fees include:

1. Registration Fees
2. Supply Fees
3. Curriculum Fees

For more information on what you should and should not be charging CCS parents, please read the [Provider Handbook!](#)

Dramatic Play DIY (Do-It-Yourself)

Your child likely already engages in some type of dramatic play scenario, but you may want to help expand their interests. Great idea!

Sometimes just providing the materials and suggestions for a new type of play is all it takes to spark your child's interest in taking on a whole new world. Here is a list of items you might already have that your child can use in their pretend play! How many more items can you think of that your child could use?!

Household Materials for Dramatic Play:

- * Storage Boxes or Empty Shoe Boxes
- * Laundry Baskets
- * Pots, Pans, and Wooden Spoons
- * Scraps of Materials or Wood
- * Paper Grocery Bags
- * Paper, Markers, and Glue
- * Ribbon, String, and Yarn
- * Hats, Scarfs, and Gloves
- * Old Bed Sheets and Pillows



Inspirational Websites:

- ✓ [Scholastic](#)
- ✓ [Pre-K Pages](#)
- ✓ [Play to Learn Preschool](#)
- ✓ [Life as Mama](#)
- ✓ [Kids Play Box](#)

Curriculum Enrichment - Activities & Tips

Magnetic Pictures:

- ✓ Photos of Family & Friends
- ✓ Thin Flat Magnets
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Glue

With your child, cut out the photos and glue magnets to the backs. This will help your child learn about their family members and friends. To change it up, cut out pictures from magazines or have your child draw pictures to add to your collection. Help your child arrange the pictures to create a story.



Discs for Babies:

- ✓ Baby Food Jar Lids
- ✓ Plastic Containers or Empty Tissue Boxes

Collect the lids from the baby food jars, wash them well. Give your baby a pile of lids and empty plastic containers. Allow your child to explore the items and sort them as he/she wants.

You may build your child's vocabulary by talking about what you see your baby doing. Even if your baby cannot answer, ask your baby questions and provide answer options.

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For a list of local Texas Rising Star Providers, visit our website: bvjobs.org/programs/childcare/



The Importance of Daily CCAA Card Attendance Reporting

The Child Care Automated Attendance (CCAA) system is a crucial part of the Child Care Subsidy program. Your parents should be swiping their CCAA card on a DAILY basis for all children in your care. You, as the Child Care Provider, are responsible for accessing and reviewing the CCAA system attendance and absence report.

Where Do I See CCAA Activity?

- ◇ [CCAA Texas Provider Portal](#)

When Should I Review CCAA Activity?

- ◇ At a minimum - **EVERY 3 DAYS**

What To Look For:

- ◇ "Z" - The red Z indicates that the parent failed to swipe for that day.

**CCS Provider
Specialist**

**(979) 595-2801
ext. 2243**

CCMS@bvcog.org

Why Should I Review CCAA Activity?

- ◇ To ensure that your parents are swiping properly to record child attendance.
- ◇ This system authorizes payments to you, the provider, for the child's attendance.
- ◇ Watch this short [informative video](#) on the CCAA Card for Providers.

It is imperative that your CCS parents swipe each of their children EVERY DAY. If they fail to swipe, they accumulate an absence that counts towards their yearly maximum. If a child reaches or surpasses his/her yearly maximum allowable absences (which include "z" days), they will not be allowed back into the program for a FULL YEAR!

This affects you and your business!! As well as your parents and your community.

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