Moving Beyond Empty and Fill to Deep Investigations
What is play?
- Voluntary
- Meaningful
- Symbolic
- Rule-governed
- Pleasurable
- Episodic
The role of play in learning
Cognitive development and play
SEAL

Stimulus (any sensory provocation)

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Emotion (positive or negative)

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Attention (positive emotions drive executive functions—negative emotions drive survival)

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Learning (the response to the attentional variant)

(adapted from Robert Sylwester’s A Biological Brain in a Cultural Classroom)
Projects
Science in the world of the very young
Technology tools
Everyday engineering
Math all around
Choice and self-regulation
Materials and multisensory learning
Making connections
Discovery and divergent learning
High challenge and low threat
Novelty
Social situation
Manipulatives
Inquiry
Environment appealing and stimulating
Classroom set up
Resiliency and success
Putting it all together
Questions
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