

Why is Stop-n-Play important?



Stop-n-Play provides a setting for all parents to ask questions, support each other, and celebrate their children's accomplishments. It provides an opportunity for people to meet each other. Parents meet other parents and children meet other children. It is also a way for parents to become familiar with other programs in the community.

Parents gain an opportunity to interact with their child in a setting away from home. Because parents are children's first teachers, Stop-n-Play activities focus on many areas of children's development. Through Stop-n-Play, parents can try different strategies to help their child learn.

Parents and children will sing, listen to stories, use social skills, independent and self-care skills. Both fine and gross motor skill activities are planned. Language is strongly emphasized at each playgroup.



What is Stop-n-Play?



Stop-n-Play is a planned, scheduled, and supervised activity that provides an opportunity for parents and children to join together in an informal learning environment.

Stop-n-Play is designed for parents and their children, prenatal through age five. There will be group activities for everyone to join in together. There will also be stations for different age groups. Parents participate in all activities with their children.

Since we have an age span of infants to preschool children, parents must provide supervision of their child or children at all times. We want Stop-n-Play to provide a valuable learning experience that is safe, healthy, and productive.



Parent and Caregiver's Role

*Please arrive on time in order to avoid missing an activity.

*We ask that you stay with your child at all times.

*Engaging with your child creates memory making-experiences that will extend beyond the walls of Stop-n-Play.

*Your direct interaction as the first and most important teacher in your child's life will encourage an attitude of lifelong learning.

*Unsafe behavior threatens the well-being and health of your child as well as the children around them. If your child is behaving in an unsafe way or not following routine, we ask that you take your child aside and discuss the behavior. Ask for help from your parent educator if needed.

*If your child is ill, we ask that you refrain from attending Stop-n-Play in order to protect other from illness. (Children can show no signs or indication of fever or communicable diseases.)

*Children that attend must be ages Birth through Pre-Kindergarten to participate.

*Let us know how you like Stop-n-Play. We would like your feedback. Please fill out an evaluation located at the "Welcome" and "Parent Resource" table.



Parent Educator Role

*Stop-n-Play is organized by trained Parent Educators. They have many years of experience in the areas of child development and parenting skills.

*The Parent Educators plan age-appropriate activities for you and your child to interact together. This is a time for you and your child to “PLAY” together as they learn.

*There are books, music and developmental activities provided to assist parents in their role as their children’s first and most important teacher.

*The Parent Educators can answer your questions related to development, parenting and community resources. They will assist you in finding resources or support services within the Lincoln community.

*If you have any individual questions or needs, a Parent Educator will be available before or after Stop-n-Play to schedule an appointment.



What will my child be learning at the different learning centers?

Reading and Listening Center

- Encourages exploration of words and all other forms of communication.
- Develops language skills.
- Develops positive attitudes towards caring for and using books.
- Enhances listening skills.
- Promotes a love of reading.



Art Center

- Promotes creativity and individualism.
- Encourages free expression.
- Develops small muscle control.
- Encourages independent work.
- Facilitates exploration of a variety of textures, objects, and materials.



Dramatic Play

- Encourages social interaction.
- Develops language.
- Encourages imaginative play.
- Fosters cooperation.
- Encourages emotional growth.



Sand and Water Table

- Provides tactile experiences.
- Facilitates exploration of a variety of materials.
- Encourages the exploration of measurements and change.
- Encourages problem solving skills.

Snack Table

- Encourages cooperation.
- Promotes social development.
- Develops eye-hand coordination.
- Fosters fine motor development.



Block Corner

- Facilitates experimentation with size relationships, matching, sorting, and balancing.
- Provides opportunities for problem solving.
- Encourages creativity.
- Requires cooperation.

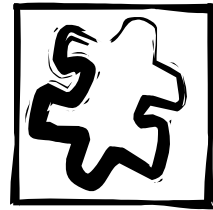
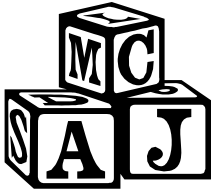


Table Toys

- Develops hand-eye coordination.
- Provides problem solving opportunities.
- Teaches specific concepts such as color, shape and size.
- Encourages exploration of words and all forms of communication.