

# CHANCY AND BRUCE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES, INC.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD** – the critical years for developing attitudes of self-worth. These years are best enhanced by a learning environment that offers developmental appropriate opportunities for children in the home as well as in the school. Each child needs to progress at his/her own pace and style of learning through the many various stages. Encourage, but do not pressure learning. Respect childhood and know that certain achievements must be met before a child will be ready to move ahead. Because all aspects of growth are interrelated, consider the child's cognitive, physical, social, and emotional development. Always Consider the **WHOLE CHILD!**

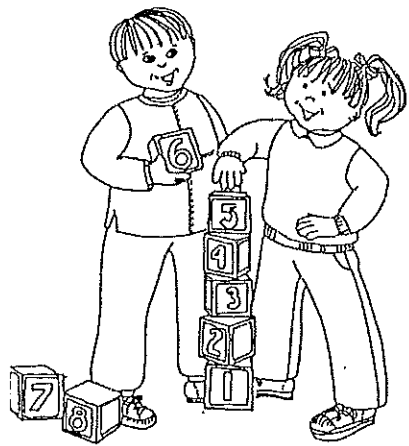
Early childhood programs should provide curriculum through educational play activities. These activities help to promote brain development and create neural highways in an appropriate manner. The following list indicates why educational play is critical and important. Helping to build the "structure of the intellect" appropriately comes through play and not workbooks and work pages.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATIONAL PLAY IN EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

Understanding the importance of educational play in guiding young children's learning.

1. A chance to transform materials into meaningful symbols.
2. A chance to develop an inquiring mind and explore personal feelings.
3. A chance to work through who they are and what they are.
4. A chance to develop curiosity; to create, imagine, and experiment.
5. A chance to express and to reveal themselves, develop a self-image, and make an impression on the world of materials.
6. A chance to understand and enjoy the world of meanings.
7. A chance to solve problems.
8. A chance to learn how to make friends with children and adults.
9. A chance to learn to work with groups – large and small.
10. A chance to respect the rights of others.
11. A chance to learn to cope with disappointment.
12. A chance to learn about others' feelings.

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13. A chance to assert themselves and to be important.
14. A chance to develop hobbies and broaden their interests.
15. A chance to develop the foundation for formal learning.
16. A chance to develop the mind, consolidate experience, rehearse life, and widen horizons.