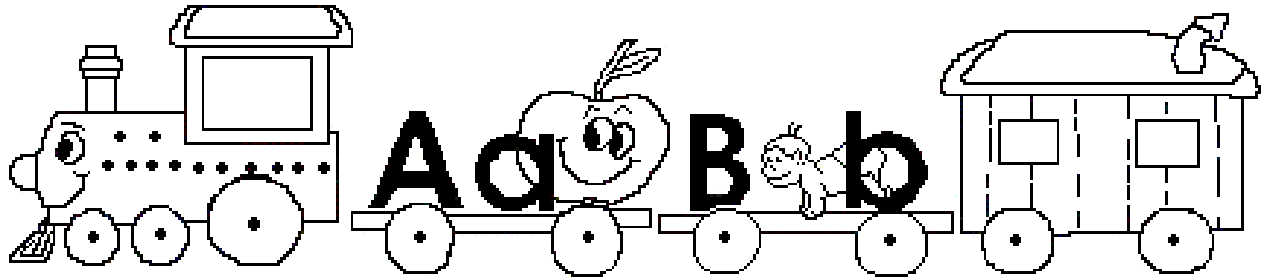


# Learning Train News



## Training Opportunity

### 1.5 Hours self-instructional training in each issue

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## Games We Play

Objectives -- Participants will be able to:

- Explain the roll of play..
  - Describe games children play at different ages.
- 

## Games We Play

Have you ever watch kittens at play? One day, I took the time to watch kittens at the local pet shop. What I found were kittens engaged in developmentally appropriate (appropriate for kittens) learning through play. There was one yellow kitten, who was as motionless as a rock (except for the tip of his tail). He stood there with his ears laid back and careful watch two other kittens. They were involved in a rough

and tumble wrestling match. The two kittens rolled about their area biting and scratching. They seemed to be pretending that they were lock in mortal combat with a great foe.

The little yellow kitten remained watching, motionless (except for that tail of his), waiting for the perfect moment. Then, without warning, he pounced! He jumped into the middle of the wrestling match. The three kittens formed a



massive ball of fur, paws, fur, teeth and claws lock in writhing play. Across their area they tumbled and with a loud thump crashed into the front window and broke apart. Each kitten appeared to claim victory over the others.

Kittens play games that help them learn to control their world. The games the kittens play will teach them to one day catch their own food or fend off the attack of a neighborhood dog. The kittens' games are developmentally appropriate (for kittens) to help them learn skills to survive and control their world.

The games our children play are much different for those of these rough and tumble kittens. Although the games are much different, children play games for the same reasons, that is to help them learn to control their world.

Our children begin with the first games of motor skills. As infants, children bat at objects that adults dangle in front of them and shaking



the rattles that are placed in their hands. Slowly these early motor games may turn into more formal game like tennis or base ball.

As children grow other game teach skills that will lead to the development

# A P H C A

## **Allied Professional Home Child care Association**

**Our purpose is to help providers receive  
recognition as professionals;  
to upgrade standards in  
home child care;  
to gain benefit as an organized group;  
and to establish a communication network  
among caregivers.**

**Come Join Us!**

**We meet at the  
First Presbyterian  
Church of Sugar Land,  
502 Eldridge Road,  
on the 4th Monday  
of each month at 7:00 P.M.**

**Questions?**

**Call: 281-494-6841**

of language, math, social skills and more.

## **So, what is a game?**

A game can be any activity that has a formal or informal set of rules. It can be played in groups or individually and it usually has an objective. The most important element of a game is that it should be fun!

As the adult and infant play together, the infant has the objective of hitting the plastic keys which are dangled just within reach. The rules are that the adult shakes the keys and the infant swings his arm in an effort to hit them. The object to the game is for the child hit the object and by doing so, to learn

about his world.

By the time children 4, 5, and 6 years of age, they are playing games in formal groups with formal rules. Base ball and soccer are popular games.

Let us consider games that preschool children can play to develop their eye, ear, and hand skills.

When playing games, it is important to remember to keep it fun. That may mean that you keep it short. It is time to bring the game to a happy ending when children loose interest.

Here are some examples of games that are short and can be played to help children move from one activity to another.

### **Eye and Memory Game**

EYE GAMES -- NO PEAKING

Tell your child to close his eyes. With his eyes closed can he tell you the color of your shirt or the position of your hands. If not, tell him to open his eyes and take another look. After a few seconds, have him close his eyes and try again.



### **PARTY PAIRS**

Draw a line down the center of a sheet of paper. Draw a picture on each side. Show the pictures to the child. Can he tell if the pictures are the same or different? Give longer flash looks until the child can tell if the pictures are the same or different. The younger the child the simpler the pictures, longer the look, more common the object in the picture.

### **Hand and Eye Game**

SHOPPING WITH MS SADIE

Draw your house on a piece of paper. Randomly make dots or write numbers on the paper to represent stores. With a pencil or crayon, start at the house and go from store to store until you have been to them all. Then see if you can find a way home. The trick is that you can not cross any line. One to five dots or numbers will be pretty easy. Younger children use dots not numbers. As children get mature you can increase the number of dots and then change to numbers.

### **Ear Game**

WHAT DID I SAY?

This is a game my girl plays with me all the time. She'll tell me a story while I'm

trying to write or work. Then she'll stop and say, "Mom, are you listening? What did I just say?" Most of the time I can tell her....

When you read, tell a story, or give directions ask the child to tell you what was said. Can you tell me, what color was the kitten in the story at the beginning of this article?

### SOUNDS LIKE GAME

I See Something that Sounds Like.....

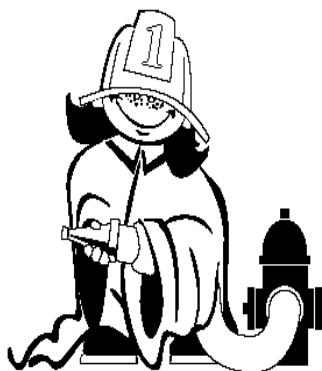
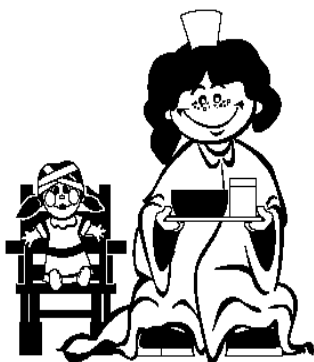
In this game players take turns saying words broken down into syllables or sounds. The first player says, "I see something that sounds like /c/,/ar/." The second player tries to put the word together and guess what the first one sees. Below are some examples of how words can be broken down into sounds or syllables for this game.

Word	Sounds
car	c-ar
boy	b-oy
boat	b-o-t or b-oat
hat	h-a-t or h-at
table	t-a-b-l or ta-bl

### Social Skill Game

#### DRESS UP

Dress up or dramatic play offers children a safe environment for children to recall life's experiences and recreate their understanding of



the world in play. Children can take on the rolls to the adults in their lives and examine experiences and relationships. These roll play recreations allow children to

process what they know about the world and develop new understandings of relationships and social interactions.

### Modifying Games

Typically children first learn to listen, then speak. Children will be able to understand more language than they can communicate in conversation. In addition, children do not all learn at the same rate. What is appropriate for one child will not be for another.

Activities should be modified to each child's developmental level. For example when the "SOUNDS LIKE GAME" game the provider should be aware that younger children may be able to put words together but not take them apart. In those cases the provider should take words apart and ask children to only guess the name of the object. If an activity is too difficult or frustrating for a child, that activity should wait until it is developmentally ready for that activity.



## Games We Play

### Training Opportunity -- 1 1/2 Clock Hours

Self-instructional training clock hours will apply to annual director training, child development or early childhood education (code 4), annual staff training, licensed facilities(code 5), and annual care giver training, registered family homes(code 7).

\_\_\_\_\_ **Yes, I want a training certificate and have enclosed \$6.00.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

To receive a child care training certificate, you need to read and work through the activities. Then carefully answer the questions (you must pass with a score of at least 70% to receive a certificate) and send your answers and proper training fee to:

**Heart Works Educational Services**

**15810 Crystal Grove**

**Houston, Tx 77082**

**Questions?? Call 281-870-0028**

We will check your test and send a training certificate (70%+ score for certificate).

**Training fee** -- prices are **\$6.00/certificate** (\$5.00/training fee +\$1.00 s&h).

1. True or False? Children play games that help them learn to control their world.
2. True or False? Children are not ready for games with formal rules until they are 8 or 9 years old.
3. True or False? Games should not be fun.
4. What is a game? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. True or False? The games our children play are much different than those of rough and tumble kittens.
6. Describe a game infants play. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Play one of the games in this article with a child. How did the child responds? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Describe a game for preschool children. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Name three skills children can practice by playing the games in this article. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. True or False? Play is a waste of time because children are not learning when they are playing.

# Learning Train

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karen@thepotters.com • <http://www.thepotters.com/ltrain.html>

## Receive Learning Train News.....

**Please complete the below section if this is your first copy of the "Learning Train News" and you wish receive future mailings.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

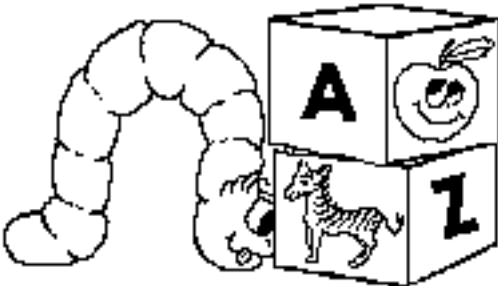
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"Learning Train News" is published quarterly in the Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. Each issue contains 1 1/2 hours of self-instructional child care training. Providers may receive up to 6 clock hour of self-instructional training from "Learning Train News" each year. There is a \$6.00 fee (\$5.00 = \$1.00 P&H) for each 1 1/2 hour self-instructional training certificate.

Make check or money order payable to: Learning Train • U.S. dollars only  
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Coming Soon



## "Building Blocks to Reading"

Down Load 10 (TEN) Clock hour of  
self-instructional child care training  
from Heart Works Educational Services.