CHAPTER 2 - Understanding Play: Its Importance in Developmentally Appropriate Practice

TRUE/FALSE

1. Specific forms of play differ across cultures.
ANS: T

2. Functional play is also called representational play.
ANS: F

3. Piaget and Erikson are the two main theorists on cognitive development and play.
ANS: F

4. Sociodramatic play involves cooperation with other children.
ANS: T

5. Most parents and administrators value play in the preschool.
ANS: F

6. It is NOT possible to meet state early learning standards and have a play-based curriculum.
ANS: F

7. Research finds that play effectively develops foundational skills for academic learning.
ANS: T

8. There is no connection between children's abilities to fully participate in make-believe play and later in academic learning.
ANS: F

9. One teacher role that supports play is creating an environment with an abundance of “loose parts.”
ANS: T

10. Teachers should never intervene in children’s play.
ANS: F

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Constructive play is
a. only engaged in by school-aged children.
b. only engaged in by boys.
c. when children use objects or materials to make other things.
d. appropriate only for preschool children.
ANS: C
2. Solitary play is  
a. a sign of a problem.  
b. only done by toddlers.  
c. to be discouraged.  
d. one way that children may work out their own ideas.  
ANS: D

3. The theorist who talked about social construction of knowledge was  
a. Piaget.  
b. Vygotsky.  
c. Smilansky.  
d. Erikson.  
ANS: B

4. One condition that supports play is  
a. a physical environment that offers space and open-ended materials.  
b. blocks of time in the schedule.  
c. adults nearby who indicate approval.  
d. All of these answers.  
ANS: D

5. Choose the best completion: School aged children  
a. never engage in pretend play.  
b. don’t have time for play.  
c. often engage in games with rules.  
d. play violently.  
ANS: C

6. Back-tracking allows teachers to  
a. analyze play activities to see how the standards have been met.  
b. re-write lesson plans after changes in activities have been made.  
c. reflect on activities at the end of the day.  
d. All of these answers.  
ANS: A

7. Smilansky’s system of analyzing children’s play includes watching for  
a. aggression.  
b. ability to use props.  
c. gender-biased actions.  
d. All of these answers.  
ANS: B

8. Play is the most appropriate learning method for  
a. boys.  
b. children with disabilities.  
c. children whose first language is not English.
d. All of these answers.
ANS: D

9. Parten’s theory describes
a. social stages of play.
b. language related to play.
c. symbolic development in play.
d. None of these answers
ANS: A

10. Vygotsky felt that one of the crucial abilities developed through play is
a. symbolic representation.
b. self-regulation.
c. egocentrism.
d. motor skills.
ANS: A

11. Which is one thing NOT characteristic of play?
a. Play is intrinsically motivated.
b. Play is assigned by teachers.
c. Play involves symbolic activity.
d. Play is pleasurable
ANS: B

12. Which idea about play is least true?
a. Play interferes with academic learning
b. Play provides for all developmental domains.
c. Play allows for differences in ability or interest.
d. Play promotes self-regulation.
ANS: A.

13. Families can be helped to understand the importance of play by
a. documentation.
b. articles and information.
c. observing in the classroom.
d. All of the above.
ANS: D

14. An unhelpful approach to dealing with violent play is
a. to discuss with families.
b. to ignore it until it stops.
c. to allow the play but ask questions about it.
d. to limit the play and violent toys.
ANS: B

15. Select the most accurate statement
a. Children of all cultures play the same.
b. Cultural influences in children’s play are due to media.
c. Boys and girls often play in different ways.
d. American children don’t play any more.
ANS: C

16. Which of the following terms is NOT associated with Piaget?
   a. assimilation
   b. schema
   c. equilibrium
   d. ZPD
   ANS: D

17. The ability to transform objects into something different than reality shows is
   a. the from a good imagination.
   b. too much time watching television.
   c. the beginnings of representational thought.
   d. the maturing special relationships.
   ANS: C

18. Who said play is a major source of development?
   a. Piaget
   b. Smilansky
   c. Vygotsky
   d. Bruner
   ANS: C

19. According to Vygosky, private speech is
   a. something that children don’t want others to overhear.
   b. for the purpose of self-regulation.
   c. a sign of disturbance in a child.
   d. a window into a child’s thought process.
   ANS: B

20. Play is threatened for modern American children because of
   a. technology.
   b. concerns about lack of supervision.
   c. the over-structuring of children’s lives.
   d. All of the above.
   ANS: D

21. Children with special needs
   a. should be discouraged from spending time in play.
   b. should have modified environments and materials to facilitate play.
   c. have to be taught how to play.
   d. can only play after therapy is completed.
ANS: B

**SHORT ANSWER**

1. When children are engaged in pretend play, this shows their ability for ____.
   **ANS**: representation

2. Play is ____.
   **ANS**: Flexible, motivated internally, symbolic, pleasurable, etc.

3. How can adults teach children play skills?
   **ANS**: Modeling, helping them focus their play, etc.

4. Children need many play materials that are ____.
   **ANS**: open-ended

5. How can teachers support the play of children with special needs?
   **ANS**: Make adaptations, plan the environment, convey positive attitudes.

6. Most state early learning standards have requirements for ____.
   **ANS**: literacy and mathematics

**ESSAY**

1. Provide a complete rationale for play as the primary vehicle for learning in early childhood education. Be specific, with at least four different reasons, and use examples.
   **ANS**: None provided; see discussion in text.

2. Discuss several teacher roles in supporting play, with examples for each.
   **ANS**: None provided; see discussion in text.

3. Describe the social stages of play identified by Parten, with several examples for each.
   **ANS**: None provided; see discussion in text.

4. Describe the kinds of play discussed by Piaget, with several examples for each.
   **ANS**: None provided; see discussion in text.

5. Identify ONE issue currently discussed regarding play, and write a commentary on this issue, including at least THREE important points.
   **ANS**: None provided; see discussion in text.