



EXPLORE THE PLAY AND LEARN ISLAND®!

What is a Play and Learn Island®?

Rancho Cucamonga Public Library Services is proud to present variations on the Play and Learn Island®: Big Build, Discovery Dig, IlluminArt, and Healthy Mind, Body & Earth! A Play and Learn Island® is a grant funded project designed to incorporate play into the library. A Play and Learn Island® has interactive toys, and related book materials to support the particular theme of each platform. The Play and Learn Island® is an interactive discovery space designed for children and their families to explore and enjoy.

"Play is the occupation of children. It is what allows them to grow emotionally, intellectually and socially" (Schaefer 2000.)

Why play in the library?

For children, play is a way of gaining knowledge (1). Libraries are committed to serving all members of our library community – from babies to adults. Play incorporates many of the basic skills that are essential building blocks for a child's overall development (2). Rancho Cucamonga Library Services developed the Play and Learn Island® to increase our services to children and their families. Children learn best when they are doing hands on, constructive activities (3). Play is a valuable way of learning for our youngest library members.

Children are having fun but also learning at the same time with the Play and Learn Island®. With play, children gain a better understanding of themselves and the world around them (1). Through play, children are learning in a fun and inviting environment. Play helps strengthen relationships with parents and peers by offering an opportunity to interact together in a shared activity (2).



The **Discovery Dig**'s interactive toys and materials will enhance a child's ability to:

- Problem solve
- Collect, sort and catalog
- Recognize letters, words and numbers
- Work with open-ended materials
- Share with others



The **Discovery Dig** gives children a chance to explore their world with sensory based activities. The **Discovery Dig** uses a variety of activities ranging from sand play, to sorting and collecting of materials. Sorting includes looking at color, shape, and textures. These careful observations lead to categorizing and organizing that can be the basis for science and other experiments that children will later use in school (4.) The **Discovery Dig** is an excellent way for children to have a great time searching, digging and having fun while learning!

Sources of information:

- (1) Berns, Roberta. *Child, Family, School, Community*. Wadsworth/Thomson Learning Publishing Company: Belmont, CA., 2003
 - (2) Ginsberg, Kenneth R. "The Importance of Play in Promoting Healthy Child Development and Maintaining Strong Parent-Child Bonds." *American Academy of Pediatrics*. January 2007. www.aap.org/pressroom/playFINAL.pdf. 23 February, 2010
 - (3) Herr, Judy, & Libby-Larson, Yvonne. *Creative Resources for the Early Childhood Classroom*. Clifton Park, NJ: Delmar Learning, 2003
 - (4) Schmidt, Laurel. *Seven Times Smarter: 50 activities, games, and projects to develop the seven intelligences of your child*. New York: Three Rivers Press, 2001
- Schaefer, Charles, & DiGeronimo, Theresa. "Ages and Stages." New York: John Wiley, 2000 (front quote)



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www.cityofrc.us/library

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