

Active Play Active Learning

Find places in your neighbourhood that you might not have thought about as places to play. There are places close to home that will give your children opportunities to learn through active play.

Active Play _Active Learning is a series of play ideas that will encourage parents and children of all ages to be active in local community spaces. EarlyEd's therapists and educators will show you some great ways to help your child develop and use their skills to play, explore and learn.

Collecting and Sorting

Children love being collectors. "Look what I found!" A burst of colour on a grey day.

Collecting is a great way to motivate a child to go for a walk. Take something to collect things in. A small bag, bucket or basket is best so your child can carry it themselves.

Encouraging collecting helps your child to look more closely at their surroundings. You both might notice things about your neighbourhood that you have never seen before! This leads to so much learning. You can introduce new descriptive words when you find things that are "rough" and "prickly". Draw your child's attention to similarities and differences and develop early maths skills, like numbers, quantity, size and shape.

Motivate little tired legs to walk back home, by being excited about sorting out your "treasures" when you get home. Maybe take a different route, think of something to look for and collect even more!

Your own measurement tool

Collecting sticks is a great way to explore length. Order different sized sticks from shortest to longest. Extend this learning opportunity by making one of them a "measuring stick" in the park. Use it to measure different things. "Let's see many sticks long that seat is." This supports counting too!

Learning more than numbers

Build early numeracy skills. Count as you put each item you collected down. Take one away and count again. Add one and count again. Do more than count things. Comparative words, like "more", can open up opportunities for rich conversations.

"I have more than you. Do you want more?"

Images taken at parks in Willoughby City Council area . Parks, reserves and playgrounds Willoughby City Council (nsw.gov.au)



Sorting and classifying activities helps to build foundations for problem solving.

SORTING: Sort objects you find into piles based on similar attributes. Look for things that are similar. "Can you find another one like this, with yellow spots?" Talking about similarities and differences between items builds your child's mathematical vocabulary by using words such as bigger, longer, more, less, heavy and light etc.

MATCHING: Children can match objects for a certain attribute, such as colour, shape or size. This builds reasoning skills. Ask your child, "Why did you chose that one?" You can also use questions like "How are they the same?" "What is different about this one?"



For more information go to www.earlyed.com.au/startstrongplay/ or phone (02) 9923 2727 or follow us on Facebook and Instagram

Registered NDIS provider. ARBN: 648 016 531 ABN: 42 096 307 200 CFN: 10570 Early Education (EarlyEd) Inc.

Learn to Play _Play to Learn **Reconnect with local play spaces:** funded through Willoughby City Council ClubGRANTS 2020 Referencing the 3 principles of "Everyone Can Play" of creative, inclusive play spaces. <https://everyonecanplay.nsw.gov.au/>