



# The Science of Play Part 2:

Making it Work - Applying the Framework for Learning through Play

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**Amanda Morgan, MS**  
*Not Just Cute*  
notjustcute.com  
*Not Just Cute, The Podcast*  
Insta: amanda\_notjustcute

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why  
we  
play

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## Play is...

...essential for **mental health** and wellness.

...ideal for promoting **learning** and **brain** development.

...full of golden opportunities for **soft skill** development.

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## PLAY = Joy + Agency

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## PLAY = Joy + Agency

## Learning = Joy + Agency

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Parable of the Swing



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Play is Not Just Cute.

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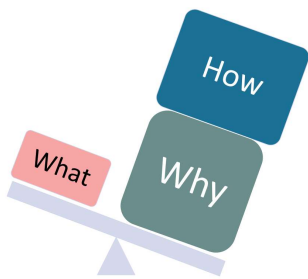
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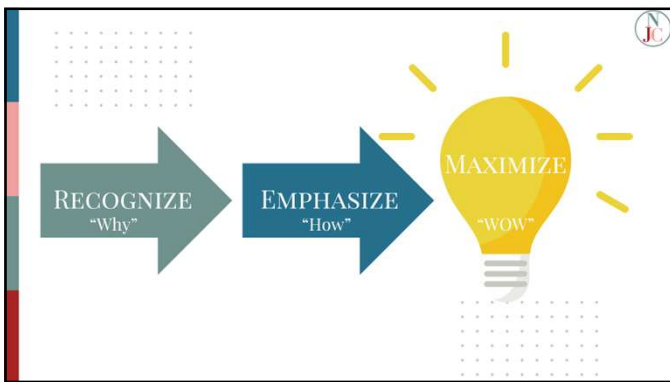
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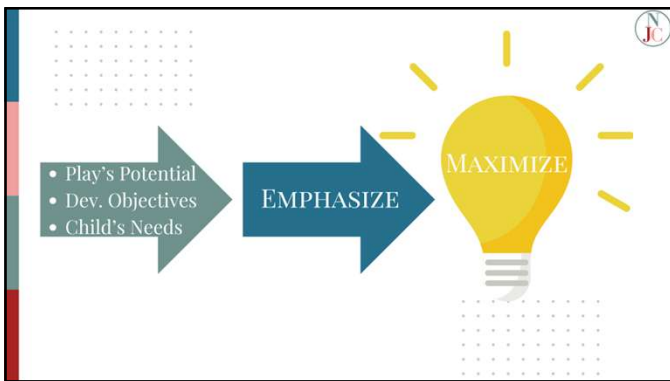
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**POLL**

What are you recognizing about play's potential?

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**POLL**

What are you recognizing about play's potential?

- a. Children are more interested and engaged.
- b. Children discover things beyond what I had planned.
- c. I'm enjoying teaching more in a playful environment.
- d. I'm new to play and excited to see its potential.

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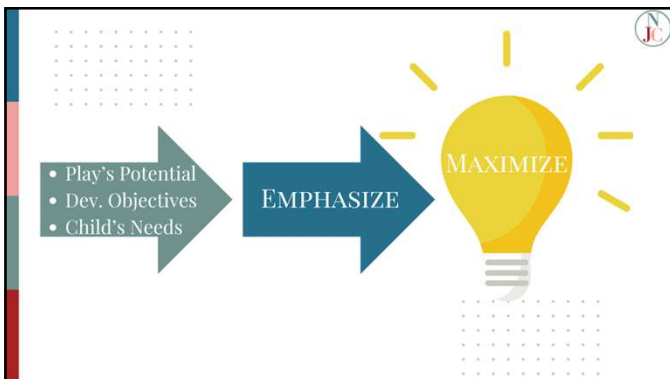
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**WHAT:** Playdough    **WHY:**




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**WHAT:** Playdough    **WHY: Dev. Objectives?**

**Fine Motor Development**  
 "Child shows control of tasks that require small-muscle strength and control." (Texas)  
 "Develop hand strength and dexterity." (Colorado)

**Language & Literacy Development**  
 "Increased fine motor strength in writing." (Virginia)  
 "Use words to describe actions." (Washington)

**Social-Emotional / Approaches to Play & Learning**  
 "Demonstrate creativity in thinking and use of materials." (Massachusetts)  
 "Take turns using materials in learning centers" / "Wait for desired materials" / "Help clean up play areas" (Nevada)

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**WHAT:** Playdough    **WHY: Individual Children?**




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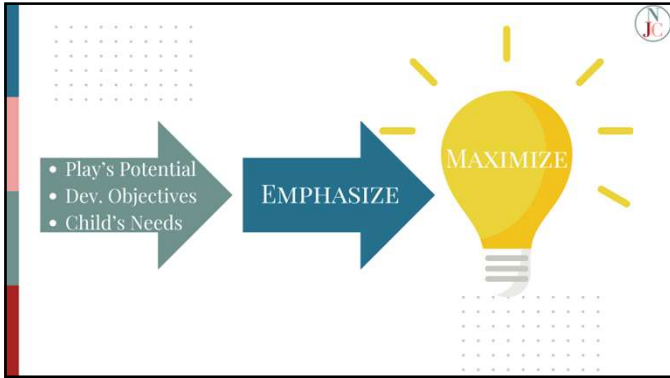
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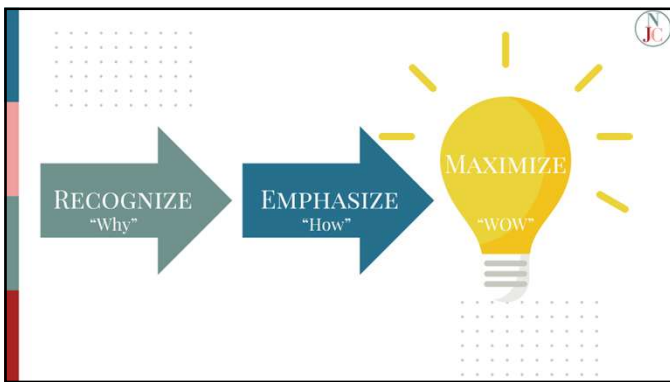
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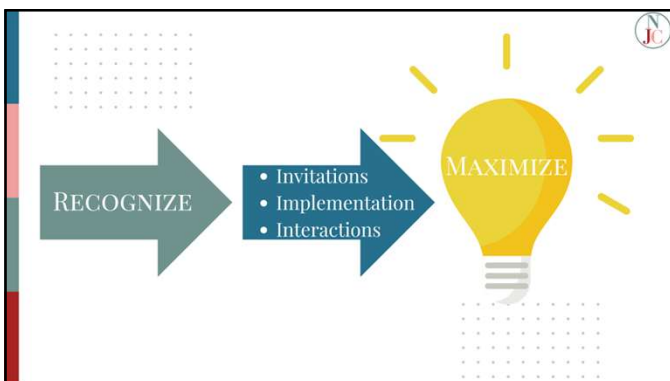
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Emphasize  
Invitations  
Implementation  
Interactions

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Come Play!  
YOU'RE OFFICIALLY INVITED!  
WHO: You    WHERE: Here    WHEN: Now

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Invitations to Play



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### Invitations to Play



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### Invitations to Play



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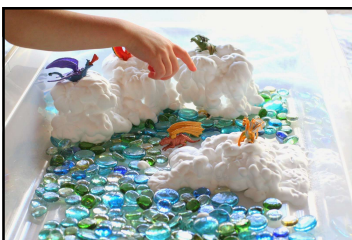
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### Fun at Home with Kids

"Simple Small Worlds: Dragon World"



### Invitations to Play

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How have you prepared invitations?

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Emphasize  
Invitations  
**Implementation**  
Interactions

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Implementation



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Implementation



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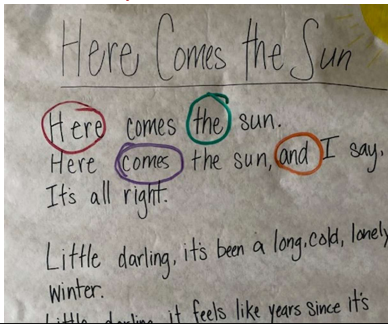
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Implementation



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Emphasize  
Invitations  
Implementation  
Interactions

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Human  
Development  
*happens within  
the context of*  
Human  
Relationships

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# Interaction OR Interruption?

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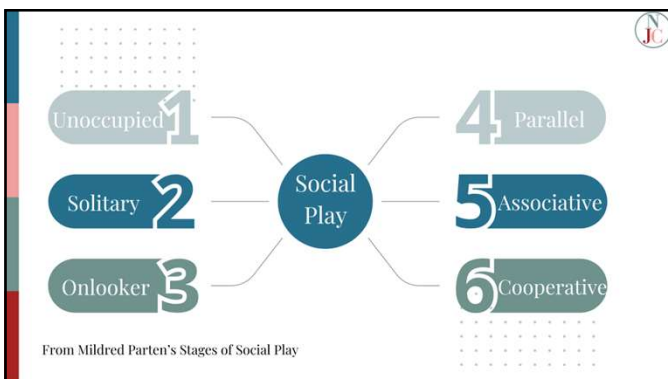
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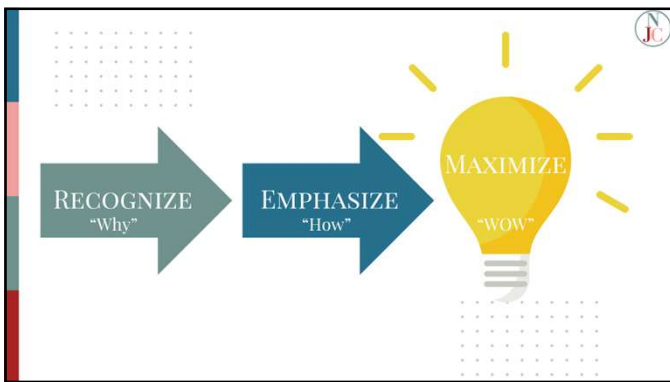
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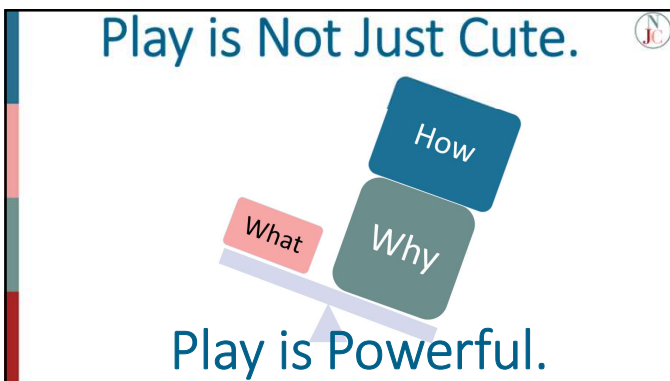
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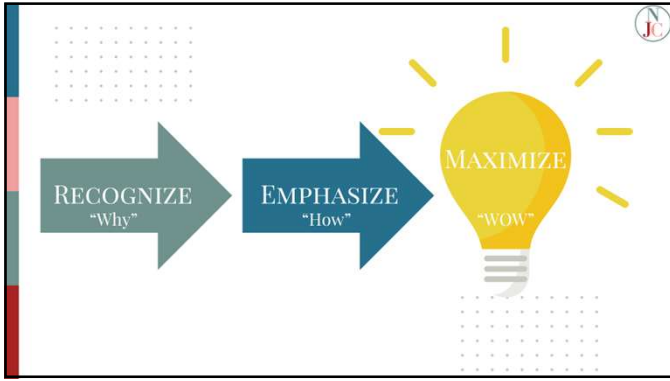
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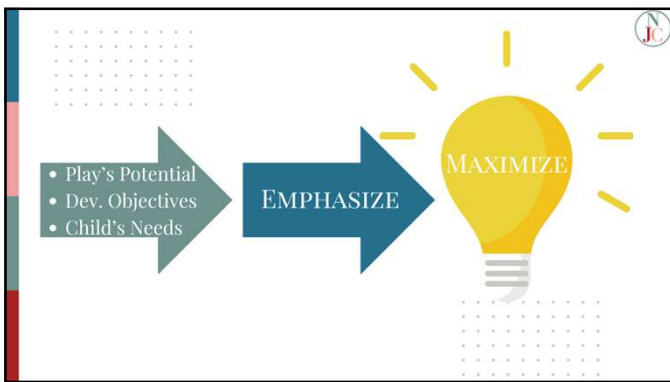
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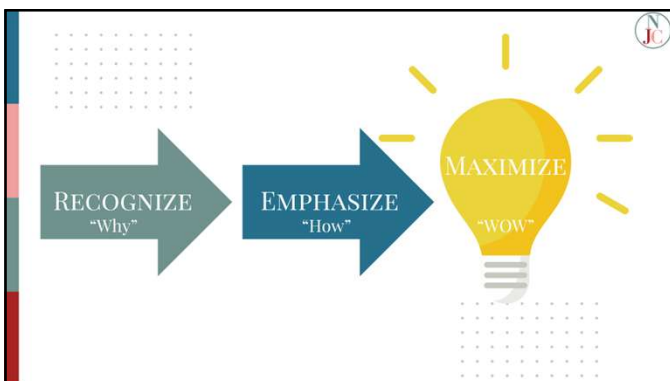
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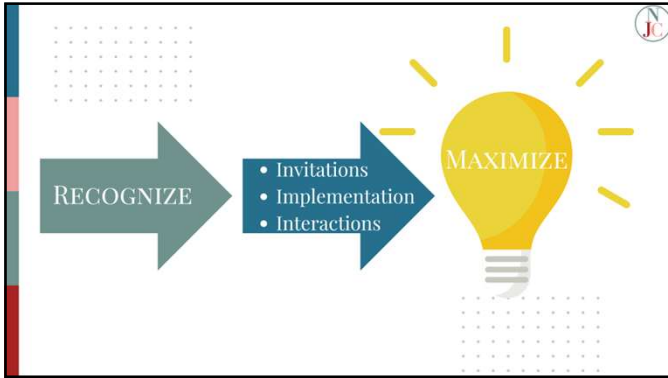
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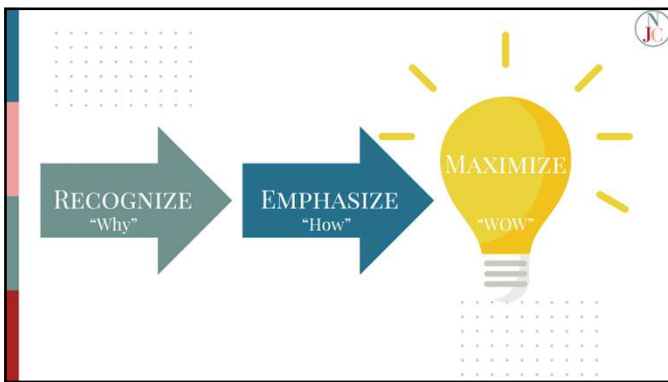
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**PLAY**  
is the method.

**LEARNING**  
is the outcome.

NOT JUST CUTE  
How Powerful Play Drives Development in Early Childhood  
AMANDA MILLER

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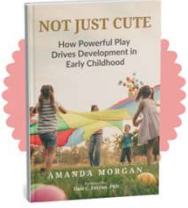
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## Take Your Team Deeper into PLAY:

Not Just Cute Book Study

notjustcute.com/book

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## Take Your Team Deeper into PLAY:




notjustcute.com/speaking

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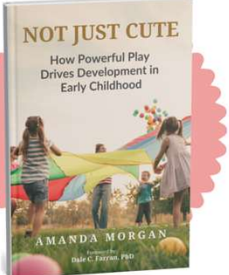
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