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Play does not have to
connect directly
to a literacy-based activity,
to support literacy.

Sissy Bengt, The Whole Child Alphabet

4

In fact, a child cannot play
without building skills
that will support them
when it comes to
reading and writing.

Sissy Bengt, The Whole Child Alphabet

5

instead of

6



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Literacy begins with
embracing the whole child,
not introducing reading and
writing instruction
at an early age.

Stacy Bengt, The Whole Child Alphabet

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cornerstones of
language & literacy

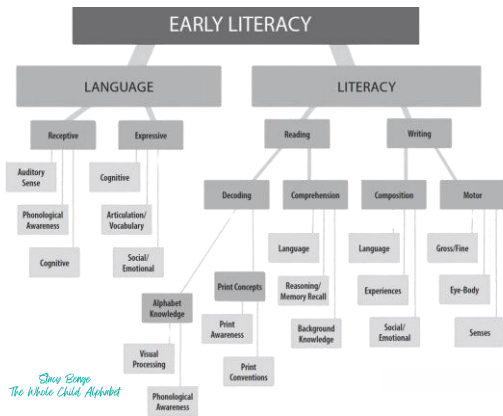
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literacy

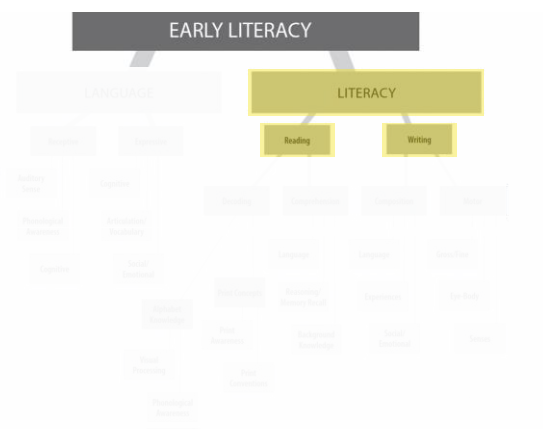
It is not a matter of teaching;
rather,
it is a matter of developing.

Stacy Bengt, The Whole Child Alphabet

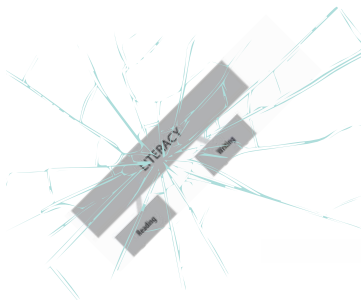
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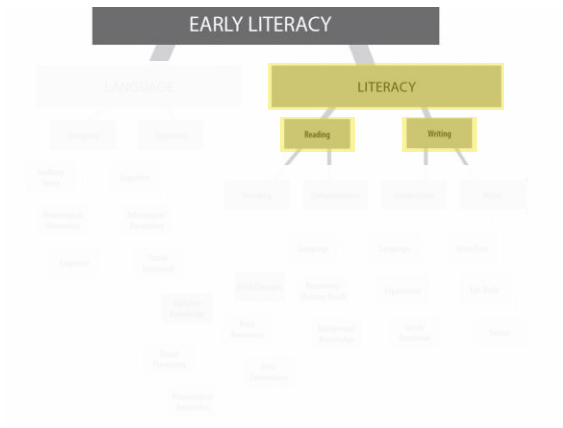
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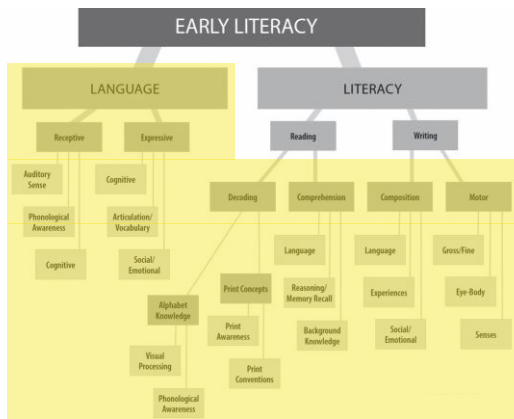
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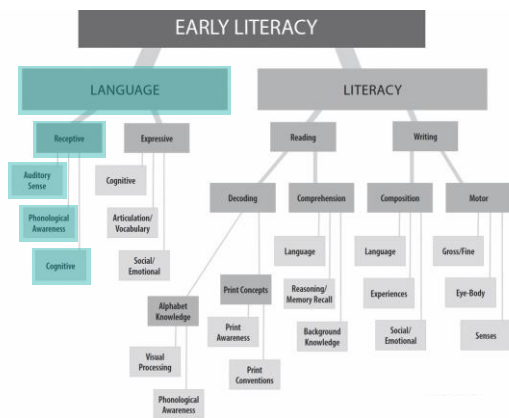
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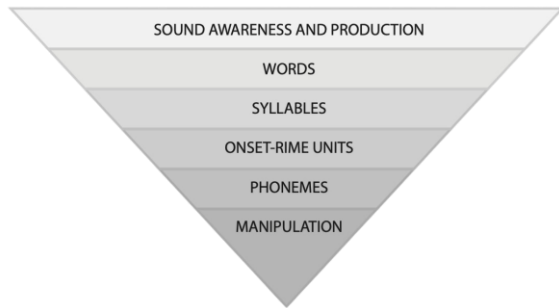
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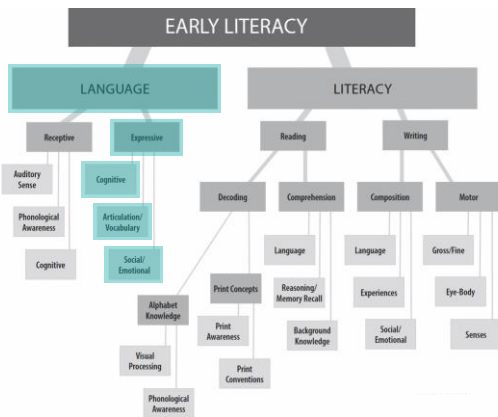
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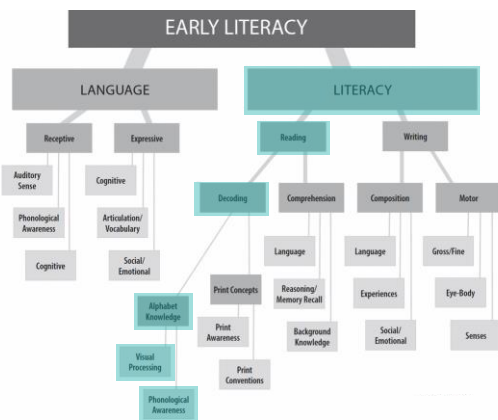
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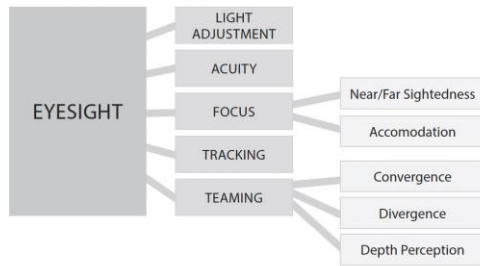
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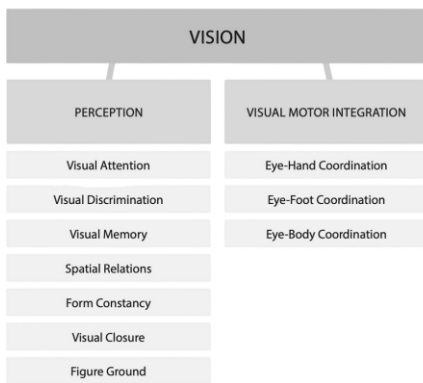
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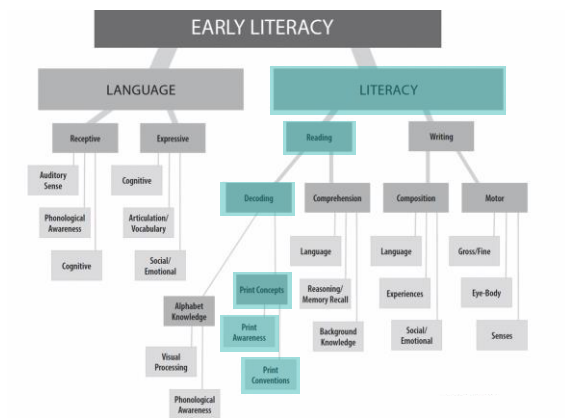
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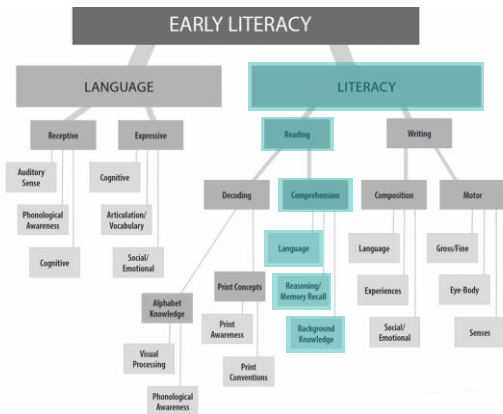
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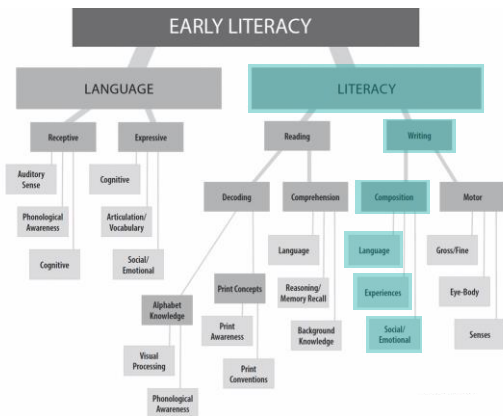
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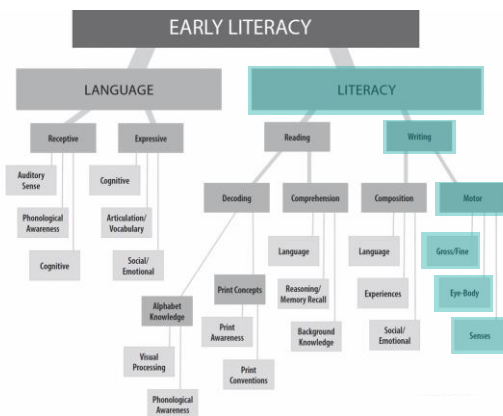
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physical development

cephalocaudal/ proximodistal

mobility on stability

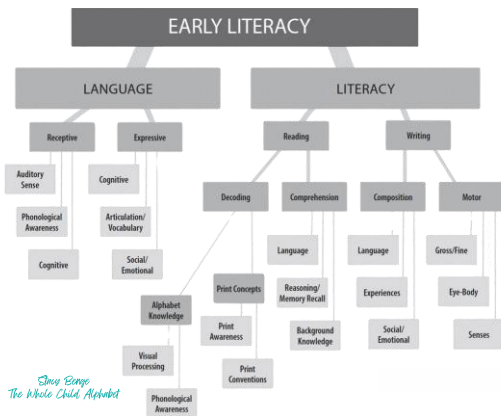
fine motor development

separation of hand/ fine motor strength

midline development

vestibular/ proprioception

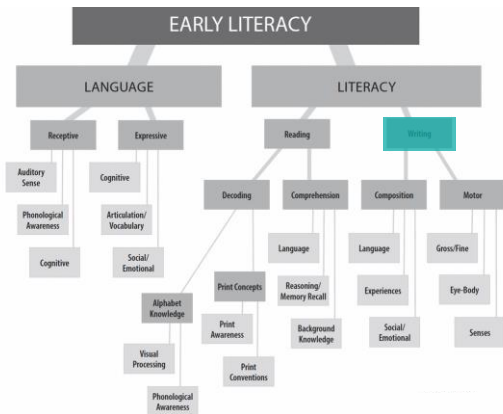
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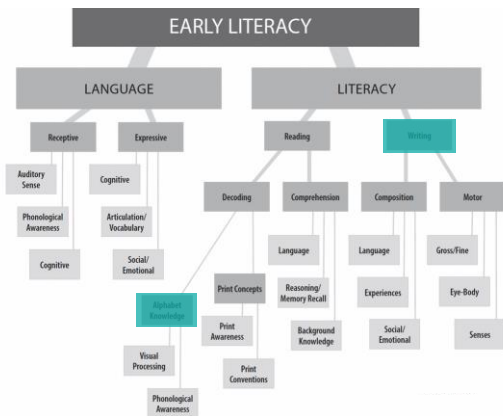
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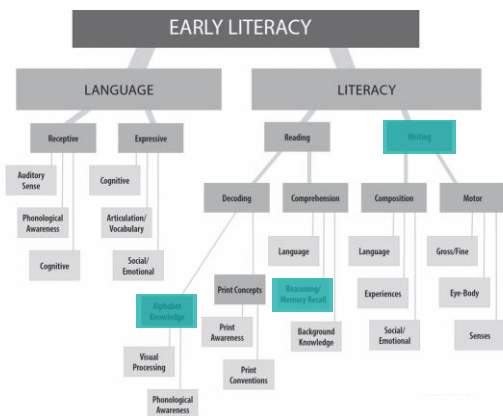
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EARLY LITERACY



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poll

Play can be (select one)

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Play is activity that is
 (1) self-chosen and self-directed;
 (2) intrinsically motivated;
 (3) guided by mental rules;
 (4) imaginative; and
 (5) conducted in an active, alert, but
 relatively non-stressed frame of mind.

Dr. Peter Gray, "Definitions of Play"



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child-led play

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Play is of the child.
If it is not of the child,
it is not play.

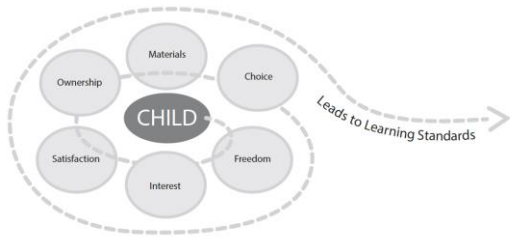
Stacy Bengt, The Whole Child Alphabet

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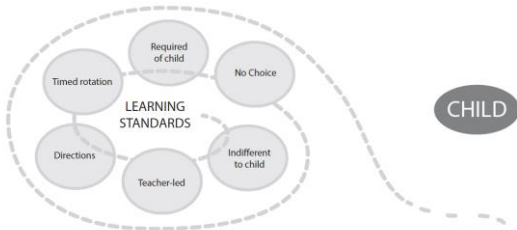
components of play



*Steve Benge
The Whole Child Alphabet*

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standards-based practice



*Steve Benge
The Whole Child Alphabet*

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*all child-led play
supports literacy*

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child-led play leads to early literacy

infant/ toddler play
construction play
dramatic play
creative arts play
sensory play
gross motor play

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infant/ toddler play



45

infant/ toddler play



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infant/ toddler play



47

infant/ toddler play



48

construction play



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construction play



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construction play



51

construction play

trunk/ shoulder/ wrist stability
midline development
vestibular/ proprioception



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dramatic play



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dramatic play



visual attention
eye-tracking
accommodation

54

dramatic play



55

dramatic play



56

creative arts play



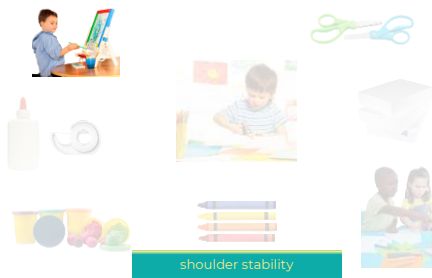
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creative arts play



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creative arts play



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creative arts play



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creative arts play



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sensory play



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sensory play



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sensory play



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sensory play



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gross motor play



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environments for play

plenty of space
materials of children's interest
chunks of uninterrupted time

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adult's role during play

get out of way
be available upon child's request
observe and document

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trust children and let them play

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EARLY LITERACY

child-led play

73

Play does not have to connect directly to a literacy-based activity, to support literacy.

Stacy Bengel, The Whole Child Alphabet

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poll

What barriers prevent child-led play in your learning environment? (check all that apply)

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sharing with
stakeholders

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sharing with stakeholders

- invite the conversation
- focus on child development
- be knowledgeable and confident
- advocate for child-led play
- make the difference

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change begins with us,
here and now

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StacyBenge.com

79




StacyBenge.com/5mistakes

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ExchangePress.com/abc

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