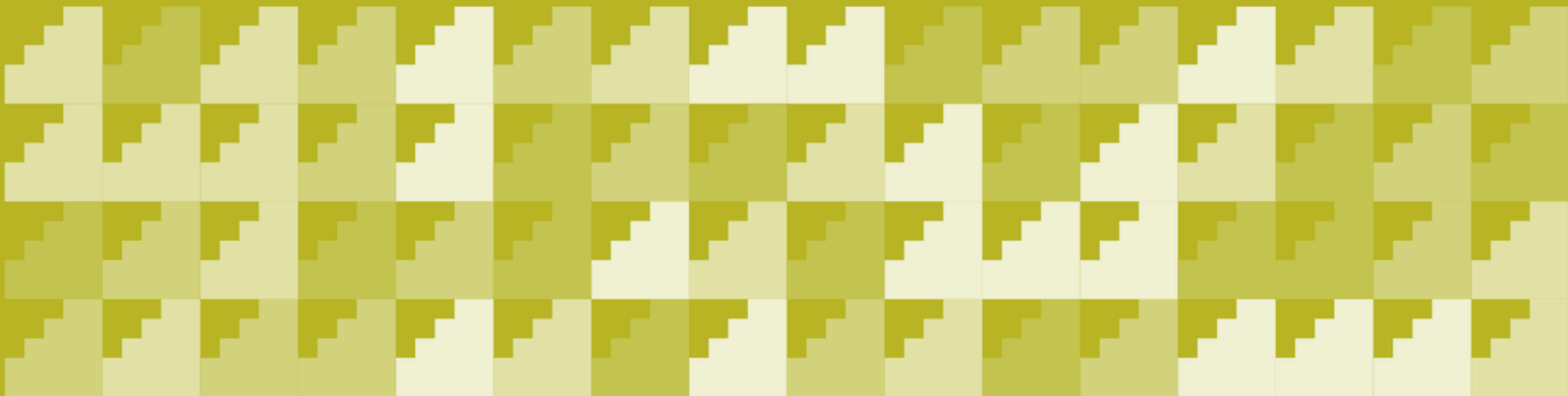


# **The Purpose of Play**

## **Printable slides**



# 1 Play comes from the child

- It needs to be meaningful to the child
- It needs to be something the child wants to do
- The child needs to be in control

**Watch your child play. This helps you learn about your child.**



# 2 Play is unique to every child

- It can be different at different times
- It's created by the child's interests and experiences
- It's built on what the child can already do

**Let your child know you are there. This helps your child feel safe to explore.**



# 3 Play is how children learn and experiment

- It builds the child's brain
- It gives a sense of achievement
- It can challenge the child and grow what they can do

**Offer your child help and new ideas. This helps your child try new things.**



A man and a young girl are playing with colorful string and beads. The man is in the background, looking at the girl. The girl is in the foreground, focused on her play. The background is a blurred indoor setting.

# 4 Play can have lots of different emotions

- It may look fun or it may look serious
- It helps children learn about feelings
- It helps children explore difficult thoughts and feelings

**Talk about what your child is doing and feeling. This helps your child learn to use words.**

# 5 Play can happen any time and anywhere

- It can be inside or outside and in any weather
- It can be with toys, with things they find, or with nothing
- It can be alone or with other people



# 6 Children need different kinds of play

- Different play builds different skills
- Sometimes children need to be quiet or loud, messy or clean, or somewhere in between
- All kinds of play help children get ready for school

**Help your child play in different ways and different places.**



A top-down view of two children sitting at a white table, focused on playing with colorful LEGO bricks. The child on the left is wearing a red top, and the child on the right is wearing a yellow top. The table is covered with various LEGO pieces, including bricks and connectors in red, blue, green, and yellow. The background is a light-colored wooden floor.

# 7 Play with people helps children understand other people

- Play helps children learn to share their attention and think about others
- Play helps children learn to negotiate and fix things that go wrong
- Play helps children learn to stand up for themselves and what they want

**Help your child play with different people. This helps your child learn about people.**



A photograph of a woman smiling as she washes a young child's hands in a sink. The child is holding a small, round, textured object. The scene is brightly lit, and the background is slightly blurred.

# 8 Play helps everyone learn about the child

- Play helps adults learn how each child is unique
- Play helps children learn what is safe and what they can do
- Play helps children learn to be independent and know when they need help

# 9 Play can help children use their voice



See GM's 10 Top Tips for Talking for more ideas



# 10

**Play can help  
children use their  
strength**



**See GM's 10 Top Tips for Moving and 10  
Top Tips for Thriving for more ideas.**

