

Alberta 

Freedom To Create. Spirit To Achieve.

Success in the Early Years

Building a Foundation for the Future

**CASS/ Alberta Education
Learning Symposium 2011**

Presented by Natalie Prytuluk & Amy Park

Government of Alberta 
Education

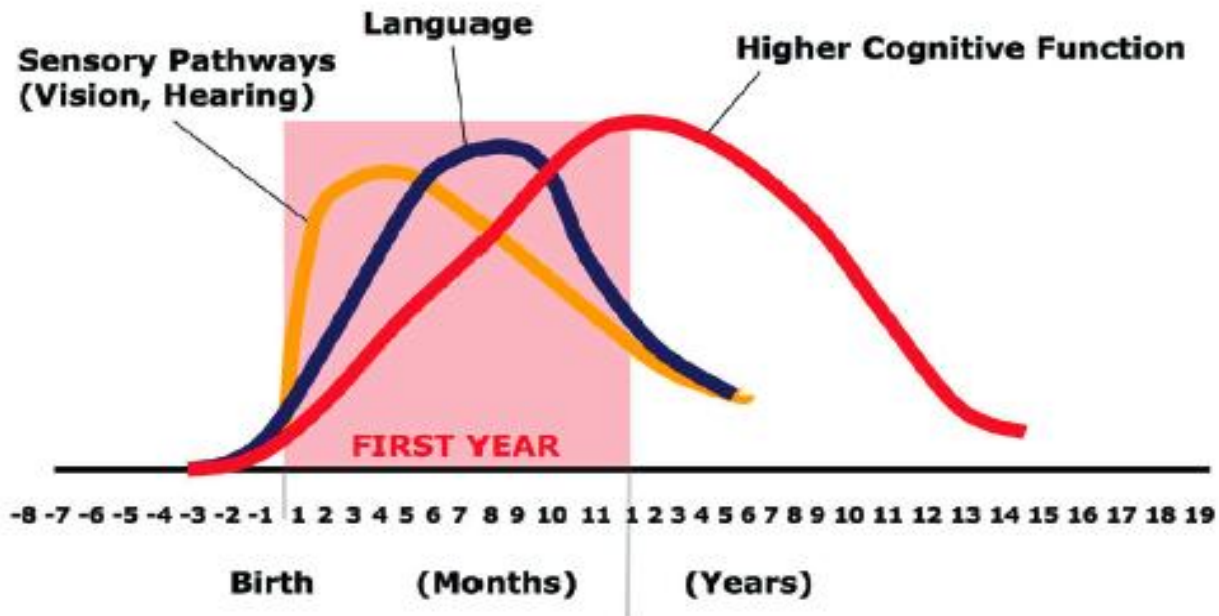
Brains are Built from the Bottom Up



Center on the Developing Child
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Human Brain Development

Neural Connections for Different Functions Develop Sequentially



Source: C. Nelson (2000)



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Cognitive, Emotional, and Social Capacities are Intertwined

- ASKs not KSAs
 - Learning, behaviour, and physical and mental health are inter-related over the life course



- What is Optimal Learning for young children?

Brain Architecture is built through “Serve and Return”

- Scientists now know a major ingredient in this developmental process is the “serve and return” relationship between children and their parents and other caregivers in the family or community.

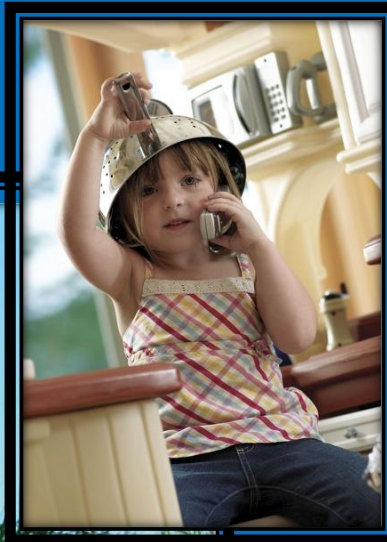


Executive Function

- The ability to *self-regulate* social, emotional and cognitive behaviors.

- Executive Function – has stronger association with academic achievement than IQ or entry-level reading or math skills.

- Developed through rough and tumble play



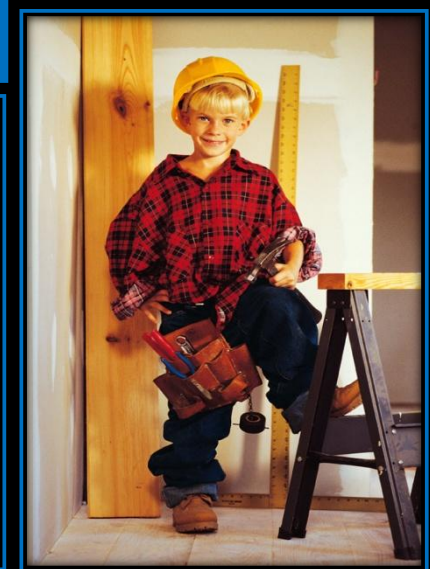
Brown, Diamond, Pellis & Pellis

Play

- Play nourishes every aspect of children’s development—it forms the foundation of intellectual, social, physical, and emotional skills necessary for success in school and in life. Play “paves the way for learning.”



Why Play?



The Seven Patterns of Play

Brown (2009) “National Institute for Play”

1. Attunement Play
2. Body & Movement Play
3. Object Play
4. Imaginative Play
5. Social Play- Friendship/ Rough & Tumble
6. Storytelling & Narrative Play
7. Transformative-Integrative & Creative Play



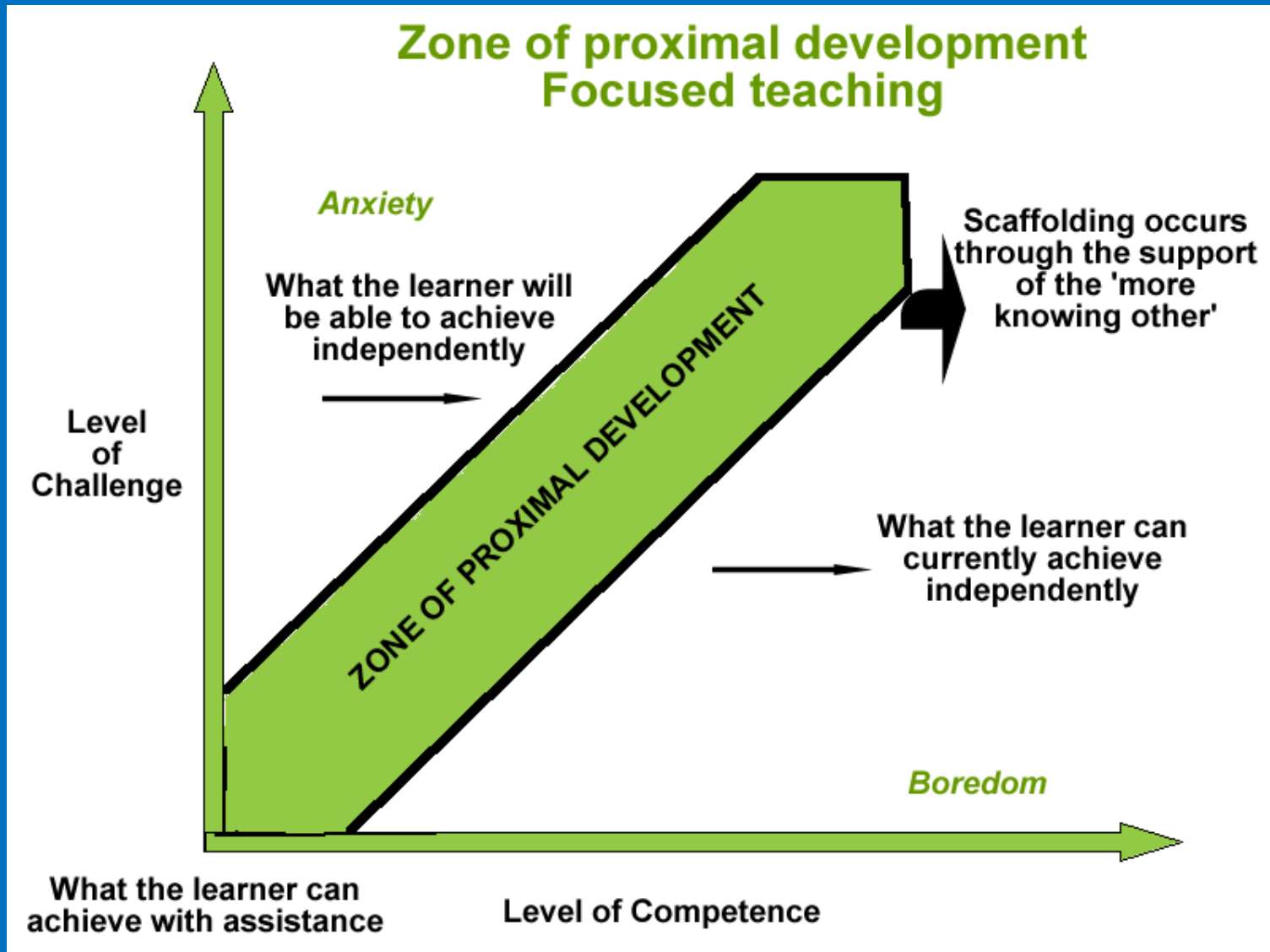
Effective Play-Based Learning Environments

- **Learning Space** – fosters a variety of play
- **Learning Design** – active, purposeful



- **Effective Assessment** – serve and return, learning is visible

Scaffolding is Important



Amy's Story



Welcome to 3P!

Welcome Blog Inuit Movies Movies Pictures
Wish List and Volunteers Important Dates

THIS IS OUR JOURNEY!

Focus Questions

1. What are your initial reactions to the information shared today? challenges? opportunities? (connections to Action on Inclusion/ Action on Curriculum)
2. What implications does play-based learning have for your school division? Staff? Parent community?
3. How can play-based learning be cultivated in the leadership community to support teachers and parents?
4. In what ways does play-based learning help ensure children are “ready” for later learning?



we envision
imagine

*“We don’t stop playing because
we grow old,
We grow old because we stop
playing”* *George Bernard Shaw*