



the  
witty  
teacher

# CHARACTERISTICS OF PLAY



It is **fun**: play ultimate goal is to provide a feeling of leisure and enjoyment

It is **free**: play should not be forced on anyone, otherwise, it would lose its characteristic joyfulness



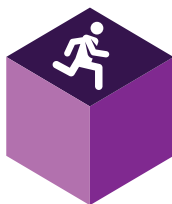
It is **jointly done**: play is performed under mutual agreements of all the involved parties.



There are **rules**: that must be followed, if not, the play is over.



It has **structure**: play is limited by its theme, it is developed with order. Each play has an objective which is achieved structure through the development of a coherent structure.



It is **autotelic**: children play for play sake, play in itself is its own purpose.

The goal of play is the full exercise of itself, for its own sake.



It is **fictitious**: play is a construct of reality in an imagery plane. It is a fantasy where the child will assume roles in spaces and situations created by him/her.

Play gives the child an objective to reach in a different time plane reproducing what he/she observes in the real world.

*Ask myself*: What is play? There is a great variety of definitions for this activity. Which to follow? Which should we consider to be the true one?

My common sense tells me: These are some of the common characteristics that play possesses:



## Answer

Play is an activity of vital importance for the healthy development of children.

Inspiration source:

"...play is a voluntary activity or occupation executed within certain fixed limits of time and place, according to rules freely accepted but absolutely binding, having its aim in itself and accompanied by a feeling of tension, joy and the consciousness that it is "different" from "ordinary life"."

Johan Huizinga (1957)

"Play is characterized by its intensity, separation from reality and power to evade. Most of all, play is an end in itself, something chosen freely which produces pleasure"

Ana Martin and others (1995)