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Murphy's "Lisa Murphy on play: The foundation of children's learning" (Book Review)

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Book Reviews



Murphy, Lisa. (2017). *Lisa Murphy on play: The foundation of children's learning*. St. Paul, MN: Redleaf Press. 192pp. \$24.95. ISBN 9781605544410

Lisa Murphy's passion for the importance of play in early childhood education is infectious in *Lisa Murphy on Play*. Murphy has been involved in early childhood education for over twenty years and advocates that "play is the foundation of children's learning" upon which later learning and success is built. This book is the second edition to her earlier work, *Play*, with updated research, terminology, and added content.

The pressure for "school readiness" at an early age often leads to pushing children into activities before they are developmentally ready. Instead, Murphy encourages building a strong foundation of play that will inspire children to learn for the rest of their lives. "We must make time each day for children to create, move, sing, discuss, observe, and read all while remembering that this foundation is held together by that which we call play." As Murphy describes each of these seven things, she offers ways to integrate them into your student's day and links them to domains of developmentally appropriate practice.

The author's conversational writing style weaves together her personal, and sometimes humorous, experiences with strong research. She includes a rich bibliography and suggested reading list. *Lisa Murphy on Play* is a must-read for early childhood educators and will be helpful and enjoyable for parents, grandparents, church leaders, anyone with a child in their life.

Reviewer

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