

Play Pattern in Preschool Setting

Rajni Dhingra, Sarika Manhas and Anita Raina

*P.G. Department of Home Science, University of Jammu, Jammu 180 004,
Jammu and Kashmir, India*

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ABSTRACT The present study was conducted to assess the play pattern of children in the preschool setting. The aspects covered included studying the play equipments available to these children, the nature and content of their play activities and the adult supervision available. The sample consisted of 40 play sessions comprising of children in the age group of 2-5 years, studying in 20 preschools across Jammu city. The adults present were also observed for their direct or indirect participation. A combination of random and event sampling was used for sample selection. The tools used included non-participant observations and interviews. The results revealed that the play behaviour of the children did not undergo any alterations in the preschool setting. Opportunities for free play and outdoor activities were available at all the preschools. The play activities underwent alterations due to availability of space and play equipments. The children indulged in pretend, associative and constructive play in a number of play sessions. They also exhibited cooperative, solitary and onlooker play but to slightly lesser extent. Gender and age differences were noted in the play behaviour of the children and were especially evident in homogenous groups. Presence of teachers helped in making the play activities more organized and stimulating.