

The importance of play is very important, mind and very very good for the individual. I just saw a YouTube video about children speaking about the importance of play and it touched my heart and it is so true what the teacher said at the end of the video she said it is "essential and it is vital " and it actually helps the child's development for the future. I agree with the teacher from the video, because when I was younger I remember I played with dolls, I watched TV or ran around around outside with my friends, but the one thing that stood out the most with me was actually playing games where I actually had to make a tent for us to live in we always made hearts or I'd like to make like obstacle courses out of things in the apartment to run around and to play with. Its funny how that memory stood out to me the most from every childhood memory that I had. I really enjoyed creating those homemade tents, sheets, pillows, using chairs to hold the sheets together. The obstacle courses were made from toys that we had: a tunnel toy, the sofas and of course the wall climb. We used to watch double Dare and how they made those obstacle courses and all the families had fun even if they lost. The experience was fun and would be memorable I'm sure. I tried to recreate that in my home, it wasn't as fun as the one I saw on TV but it was fine just trying to recreate that at home.

I would play like we had our own room. It would be me and my sister, my brother and sometimes at my friends house, they had long hallways and it was a lot more fun there. I don't really remember if I played those games with my relatives when they came to visit but I know for sure my brother my sister we played, and making tents with chairs and blankets on the floor and I will put the chairs around us and then we would lay the sheet on top and crawl into the little space left, with some kind of yummy snack of course, and we would hang out in there for hours, awww good times. Doing so we felt invisible to everyone else, in my world was inside that tent and creating things in the house to have fun. We didn't really get to go outside much because my mom being a single mom we weren't really allowed out so inside the house became the place where I was able to create a fun atmosphere for myself and my brother and my sister and it was fun.

I would say Creativity happened when I was younger and in my adulthood I was starting to see it grow. I had to use my imagination when I was building these tents and then as I got older and did it for my children the same thing just to see them enjoying something that I enjoyed when I was younger really meant a lot to me. Years later that creative mind that was being groomed, oh should I say being groomed back then carried over to what it is that I do now. Before I started my early childhood degree I became a Sunday school teacher and I reached children about the love of Jesus Christ. We serve children from ages three and fours, and as we are teaching our Bible lessons, the lessons are not just as spoken we do skits. The volunteers all have a part to play and a line to speak. At that age the children remember more not from just hearing but also from seeing. They are such visualist and they are so engaged. I remember one year we were doing a lesson about Sarah and Abraham and they wanted to make a tent, and I remember instantly I said I can do that because this was something that I did when I was younger, but now I have more materials to mess with. I got some pillows. I took some different materials and I got four stands. I don't know their name but it's what you use when you're online and they connect them to each other to form a line for people to stay in line. I used four of those. I then took the sheets and I threw them over gently and I put the pillows on

the inside and then I took a nice purple drape with sequins and draped it over the front to make it look nice. On Sunday after service my Director walked in and she said who made that, I said me, and she said really that's good, and said I want to talk to you after the service and I said okay. Then she said we are trying to divide responsibilities to help those who are extremely busy and we have a role for you, we are trying something new called the production manager. You would be the person who's going to be in charge of setting the stage, getting the characters in order and dressed. I said okay because that was something I'd like to do and to be honest I didn't know all this time that the Lord was grooming me and preparing me so one day I can take the creativity that I learned and now uses to serve him in ministry and serve those little ones and to bring the Bible to life. Now he has moved me into Early childhood education to help the little ones with their education and I get to use my creativity to help me to do so. I would end on this note. Play is important, because it helps stimulate the mind and you start to develop all your gifts and talents that have been deposited in you.