

Lesleyann Martinez
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Importance of Play

A memory of a play where it was child-directed was when I used to role play with my cousins. We would be many different characters, like princesses, cops and robbers, singers performing on stage, chefs or even reporters. We would play in the house, or outside in front of the house, in the park, wherever we were we would think of some story to act out. A perfect time was when we decided to play cops and robbers. It was me and my two other cousins, Alexis and Ruben. We were in the park in the jungle gym area. We would play rock paper scissors to see who would be the cop then the other two would be the robbers.

Once we figure out who is who, the cop would then give the robbers a ten second countdown to pretend to rob something and then the robbers would run around the jungle gym as the cop runs after the robbers to try to catch them. We would run on and off the jungle gym, slide down the slide or the pole or even run around the whole playground out of breath until we got caught. Once we were captured by the cop, the cop would take the robber to a bench which was considered the jail and we would have to sit there until all the robbers were caught unless the robber was able to break out the other robber by tapping on them three times in jail without getting caught by the cop. The game will end when all robbers are in jail, then it will start all over again starting with rock paper scissors to determine who was the cop in the new game. Now if someone dedicated they wanted to be the cop then they would be able to so we wouldn't have to play rock paper scissors. When it came to me being the cop, at times I would get mad when I felt like they were cheating or it took forever for me to catch them and when I was robber It was exciting to out run the cop or see how hard it was for them to try to capture on of us that we would often taunt them, yelling out "your so slow", "you'll never catch me", "Na Na Boo Boo, i'm over here" and other things. When we play we take breaks just to catch our breaths, go drink water or go to the store and get snacks to munch on before we resume or start again.

This reflection makes me think that the role of play is very important in the lives of children as much as it was important in my life, it helps create creativity in imagination during play and many more things like connections (creating friendships or different types of bonds), works on communication, etc. From what I've experienced I can apply what I learned into my work by letting children have play time, pretend time and lend

them a hand in building on their own creativity, give them a story and they go about it the same way me and my cousins did. They have full control rather than me directing everything.