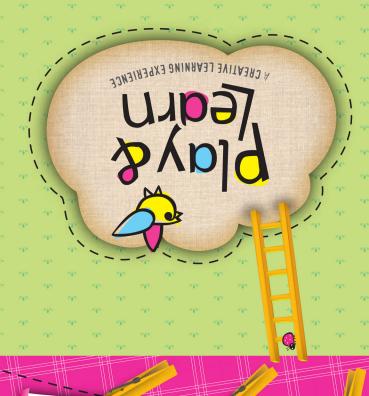
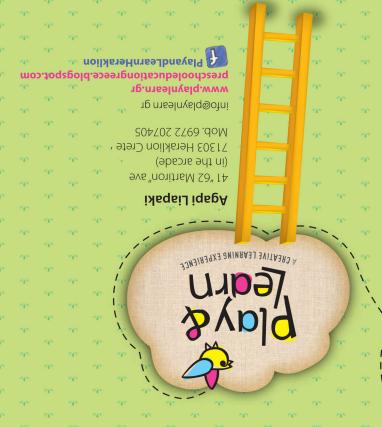
A Multicultural Creative Place for Children





[From Copple, C. and S. Bredekamp. 2005. Basics of Developmentally Appropriate Practice: An Introduction to Teachers of Children 3 to 6. Washington, DC: NAEYC. 17–18.]

Active, hands-on involvement. Young children learn best when they are actively involved. As they play, explore, experiment, and interact with people and objects, children are always trying to make sense of those experiences. Though abstract ideas are not totally beyond them, children under age 7 are most comfortable in the concrete world they see, smell, hear, taste, and touch. Although hands-on learning opportunities suit preschoolers to a tee, equally important is for activities to be "mind-on," that is, to engage children's thinking processes and encourage them to investigate, question, and ponder problems. Meaningful experiences. Children learn best when they can relate new knowledge to what they have already encountered, to what is already important to them. Then they can weave new threads into the fabric of their previous knowledge and experiences. For example, books about babies or new siblings are likely to be of interest to preschoolers, many of whom have younger sisters, brothers, or cousins. And children can visualize and learn about wolves by thinking about the dogs they've been around. Constructing their understanding of the world. Young children are mentally active learners who are always "constructing" their knowledge or understanding of the world. That is, they are continually working to figure things out on their own terms. Although this is true of adult learners as well, young children have so much to try to make sense of in the world around them...







About the director:

Agapi Liapaki is a Kindergarten Teacher. She finished her BA from the University of Crete and her Master's Degree in Arts in Music Education from the Institute of Education at the University of London. She has finished 2 of the 3 levels from the Orff-Schulwerk music education program and the Director's Certificate for Early Childhood Programs in CA, USA. She has worked with children up to 12 years old in various educational settings such as Montessori, Academic, Reggio Emilia and Greek-American schools. She was the Director of the Preschool Program at Bright Horizons (Bristol-Myer Squibb campus, NJ) and a Training Associate for the Head Start Centers of Learning (University of Memphis, TN). Moving back to Greece she worked at the "Mikro (University of Memphis, TN). Moving back to Greece she was awarded by the World Ergastiri", Child Development Center. In 2010 she was awarded by the World Organization of Early Childhood Education (OMEP) in Sustainable Education in Early Childhood Education and her project about social inclusion was also awarded by the E-twinning (Community for schools in Europe).

She works at Play & Learn where she continues to learn, take risks and make her dreams come true!

