

DEEP LEARNING PARTNERSHIPS @HOME

Play. Play. Play

During this COVID 19 crisis, many parents are scrambling to put in place learning structures that can substitute for school. Krystal, a Deep Learning educator and mother of three has very different advice: let them play. Play after all, is very serious stuff. It's a healthy part of brain development. It enables children to develop necessary competencies such as collaboration, creativity, communication and character. These competencies are not only important for learning, they're important for life.

Krystal thought this time at home with her three boys (Ages 5, 7, and 9) was going to be a real challenge because they are "full-on speed all the time." However, they have quickly settled into a loose routine that has a bit of a plan but the children's curiosity can easily take the day on a different tack. For example, for the last few days, the routine has been like this: they wake up and do some fun yoga. Krystal thinks it would be good to head outside to walk and notice spring's arrival. With their dump trucks and other cars in tow, they build roads, bridges, tunnels and small cities in the thawing snow. Clearly, the boys had other plans!

Then, they're back inside. Krystal has found some provocative apps that get their attention and the kids run with their own play from there. For example, a local amusement park has put some roller coaster rides on Youtube. The three boys dig out their Lego and build their own roller coasters. While constructing they tweak, ask questions and problem solve together. One of the boys salvages the device from his remote control car to apply to a ferris wheel. He is intrigued by the mechanics of it. Meanwhile, the other son has more of a marketing angle, thinking about how to name and promote the ride. The youngest is interested in building the tallest ride he can.

Krystal says it's fun to watch them, "It doesn't look like they're collaborating but they are! **They are free to explore and be creative, while I get some work done.** I am not worried because I know they are learning as they play." Here's the best part. The kids are having a blast while the world sits on pins and needles.



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