

September 2023

Dear Berry Patch Families,

The school year is in full swing at The Berry Patch! At the center of all we do is **PLAY**. Why? Because play is the most effective and creative instruction method for young children.

The Berry Patch School's play-based program incorporates intentional and systematic learning experiences. Four characteristics define our comprehensive program.

1. *Active, rather than passive participation.*
2. *Meaningful experiences, relating to learner outcomes.*
3. *Engaging stations and activities to encourage children to be attentive.*
4. *Socially interactive allowing children to work together to improve relational skills.*

Specific learning objectives are taught in direct instructional methods with the teacher leading the learning. Children then move into guided play and free play to practice and learn skills and concepts. Specific outcomes are associated with both guided play (adult coached) and free play (independent) activities in the classroom relating to overall learning objectives.

At home, make time for play each day! Download these Berry Patch Parent Tip Sheets to assist you in guiding your child in developmentally appropriate play.

- [Play](#)
- [Benchmarks in Child Development for Two-Year-Olds](#)
- [Benchmarks in Child Development for Three-Year-Olds](#)
- [Benchmarks in Child Development for Four-Year-Olds](#)

The Berry Patch staff is here to support your family. Parent and Family Education is part of the program. You are welcome to contact me with questions or to set up a time to discuss anything related to parenting and family life.

Fondly,

Becky

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Licensed Parent & Family Educator

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