Unplugged Play

Future Ready

"Play is essential for children's learning. Children work hard at play—yet they don't consider it work, since they chose it. The motivation to play comes from within. Through play they learn the powerful lessons of being self-directed and pursuing their original ideas."

ALLIANCE FOR CHILDHOOD

Joan Almon and Edward Miller





RESPOND to the quote by discussing how it pertains to your play experiences. What types of play do you enjoy that are self-directed and use your original ideas?



CONNECT the term *unplugged play* with being *future ready*. Consider what skills you need to prepare yourself for the future. Did you include the pillars of creativity: being curious, coming up with new ideas, keeping an open mind, and seeking new experiences? While that might include experimenting with technology it does not include relying on technology to shape your thoughts or tell you what to do. Why is *unplugged play* (which means playing without any plugged-in or battery-operated device) important in preparing everyone for the future?



CREATE a scene of yourself enjoying *unplugged play*. Next to your sketch write the skills and mindsets this activity is helping you build so that you are *future ready*.

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PRESENT your sketch and list as you discuss what helps you become future ready. Compare your list of skills and mindsets with others' lists of unplugged play's benefits. How are these play experiences important for developing language, social, emotional, physical, and cognitive skills?

