

# The benefits of meaningful experiences

Meaningful practices are ones that mean something to the children. A number of popular experiences are based on rote learning and adult directed, skill focused tasks such as colour sorting. Meaningful experiences are play based, interest driven and individualised for the child.



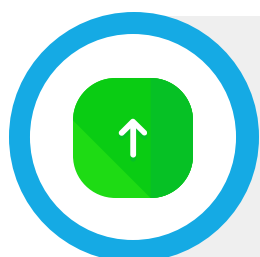
## Engaging

When experiences have meaning for the child, the children are more likely to spend more time and be more engaged with the experiences. This allows you to see more of their abilities, learning more about their interests and ideas, and understand how each child learns.



## Holistic learning opportunities

Meaningful experiences are usually open-ended experiences as this allows children to make their own meaning based on their interests and knowledge. This also allows for a range of learning opportunities such as social skills, problem solving, motor development, creativity, language as the child plays.



## Maximised learning opportunities

When there are a lot of adult-directed/structured experiences in the routine then they often are over quicker meaning there are few long blocks of play in the routine, if any. Meaningful experiences allow for maximised learning as the longer children have to play the more ideas they have.



## Allow for responsive teaching and scaffolding

If you don't have a lot of meaningful experiences in your curriculum and most experiences are based on single skill assessment, this means that the educator has to guide and direct children's play all day. When the curriculum is more meaningful your role becomes that of responding to the children.



## Allow for more accurate assessment and planning

If you don't really enjoy doing something but know that you have to you probably don't give the task your best ability. The same is for children, so their assessments of skills and knowledge may not be as accurate as they would be with meaningful experiences, impacting your planning cycle for that child.