

# Quick Guide to the Early Learning website

The Early Learning website is where teachers, parents, early childhood and other education professionals create and support play-based learning.

**The website is organized into four sections. Information in each section can be explored by clicking on the links in the green menu bar found on the left-hand side of the screen.**

**Welcome:** This section serves as an introduction to the site. Play is an essential childhood experience and the most important skills one needs for success in life are developed through play. Videos and downloads explain play-based learning. There is also information on how children and babies learn.

**Parents:** This section is dedicated to parents and caregivers who want to extend their child's learning without interfering with free play. There is also advice and tips on what to look for in an early learning classroom. Videos, links and downloads offer practical advice and insight on play-based learning for both parents and caregivers.

**Professionals:** The best early childhood programs are clearly focused on intellectual, social, emotional and physical growth. This section offers research-based, practical advice and ideas for designing a learning environment that supports this growth, and also allows for self-initiated play.

**Research:** This section contains the research supporting the play-based theories and practices throughout the site. Here, you can find biographies, web links and articles from leading educators, researchers and psychologists. The PDF Downloads page is where you can find one-page tip sheets on facilitating children's play, and infusing play into math and language activities.

## How to use the Early Learning site:

**Search:** The search button, located at the top of the page below the early learning logo, is the best way to find specific information. The search function will find everything within the Early Learning site - from articles, to videos, to expert biographies. The site map is another way to look for information. It offers a complete list of all pages on the Early Learning site.

**Videos:** Alberta's top neuroscience researchers, early childhood educators and child development experts share their findings on the benefits of play-based learning. Other videos take you inside the classroom, where effective teaching and learning is caught in action.

To view, simply click on the Play button in the centre of the video image. Videos are found on most pages within the Early Learning site. The Video Collection page in the Research section of the site is a one-stop place where all videos are housed.

**PDF Downloads:** These one-page documents can be printed, emailed and shared with others. (see the About this Site page in the Welcome section for conditions on this). Facilitating play, math and literacy are some of the topics that can be downloaded. They can be found at the bottom of most of the web pages on the site. If you want to view all the documents together, visit the PDF Download page in the Research section.

Depending on your web browser, the pdfs may open automatically by clicking on the title, or a box may appear, asking you to choose to open the document immediately. You may choose to save it on your computer and open it from there.