

Subsidiary Learning Opportunities for the Sustainability of Early Child Development

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Dear Sir / Madam

In our fast-paced, ever-changing world, the key to a sustainable future is increasingly recognized as nurturing the potential of the youngest members of society¹. New estimates are that 250 million children (43%) younger than 5 years in low-income and middle-income countries are at risk of not reaching their developmental potential². Early child development is the cornerstone upon which a sustainable future is built.³

Subsidiary learning opportunities are found in the way a caregiver engages in conversation during mealtime, play, bedtime stories, and the wonder of discovering nature in a walk-through park.⁴

Key Points

1. **Holistic Development:** It fosters well-rounded children by encompassing cognitive, physical, social, and emotional development, ensuring they are academically proficient and possess crucial life skills like problem-solving, empathy, and resilience.⁵.
2. **Early Exposure to Sustainability:** this introduces children to sustainability, conservation, and responsible living through activities like gardening, recycling, and exploring nature, fostering an early appreciation for the environment.
3. **Cultural and Social Awareness:** A global perspective fosters tolerance, understanding, and

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empathy towards different cultures and backgrounds.

4. **Parental Engagement:** Subsidiary learning opportunities strengthen the bond to provide a stable, nurturing environment for their children's growth, contributing to their overall development.
5. **Lifelong Learning:** Children who are encouraged to explore and ask questions during these years are more likely to become curious, self-motivated learners throughout their lives.

In conclusion, subsidiary learning opportunities are the unsung heroes of early child development, laying the groundwork for sustainable futures.

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