

"JUST PLAYING"

BY ANITA WADLEY

When I'm building in the block room
Please don't say I'm "just playing,"
For, you see, I'm learning as I play,
About balance and shapes.



When I'm getting all dressed up,
Setting the table, caring for babies,
Don't get the idea I'm "just playing,"
For, you see, I'm learning as I play:
I may be a **mother** or **father** someday.

When you see me up
to my elbows in paint,
Or standing at an easel,
Or molding and shaping clay,
Please don't let me hear you say,
"he is just playing."



For, you see, I'm learning as I play.
I'm expressing myself and being creative.
I may be an **artist** or an **inventor** someday.

When you see me sitting in a chair
"Reading" to an imaginary audience
Please don't laugh and think
I'm "just playing,"



For, you see, I'm learning as I play.
I may be a **teacher** someday.

When you see me combing the bushes
for bugs,
Or packing my pockets with choice
things I find,

Don't pass it off as "just play,"
For, you see, I'm learning as I play.
I may be a **scientist** someday.



When you see me engrossed in a puzzle,
Or some "plaything" at my school,
Please don't feel the time is
wasted in "play."

For, you see, I'm learning as I play.
I'm learning to solve problems
and concentrate.
I may be in **business** someday.



When you see me cooking or
tasting foods,
Please don't think that because I enjoy it,
it is "just playing."

I'm learning to follow directions
and see differences.
I may be a **chef** someday.



When you see me learning to skip, hop,
run and move my body,
Please don't say I'm "just playing."
I'm learning how my body works
I may be a **doctor, nurse or
athlete** someday.



When you ask me what I've done
at school today,
And I say, "I just played."

Please don't misunderstand me.
For, you see, I'm learning as I play.
I'm learning to enjoy and be successful
in my work.

I'm preparing for tomorrow.
**Today, I am a child,
and my work is play.**

