

PRESCHOOL TEACHERS OPINIONS ABOUT PLAY

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to determine preschool teachers' opinions and perceptions regarding play. The sample of the research consists of 63 preschool teachers working in kindergartens affiliated with Istanbul Province Ministry of National Education. The qualitative research design was used in the study. Data were collected with semi-structured interview method with preschool teachers in face to face manner. Semi-structured interview form was prepared by the researchers. Content analysis method was conducted to analyse the data.

According to the findings, the following six main themes were determined definitions of the teachers regarding to the play: Impact on learning and development, environment that child's reflect their potential and self freely, to be fun, preparation for life, everything done by children and be valuable for the child. Also, the findings showed that teachers think that, if children do not play, they have some negative emotions and developmental problems and do not improve their creativities.

Key Words: Play, teachers opinions, preschool, child.