



## THE VALUE OF CENTER TIME ACTIVITIES

### PLAY IS LEARNING...

#### WHEN YOUR CHILD BUILDS WITH BLOCKS:

- She learns to use her imagination to create something from her own thinking
- She has the satisfaction of being able to make something
- She learns about sizes and shapes, weights and balances, height and depth, smoothness and roughness
- She is exercising her body
- She learns to play with others

#### WHEN YOUR CHILD PAINTS:

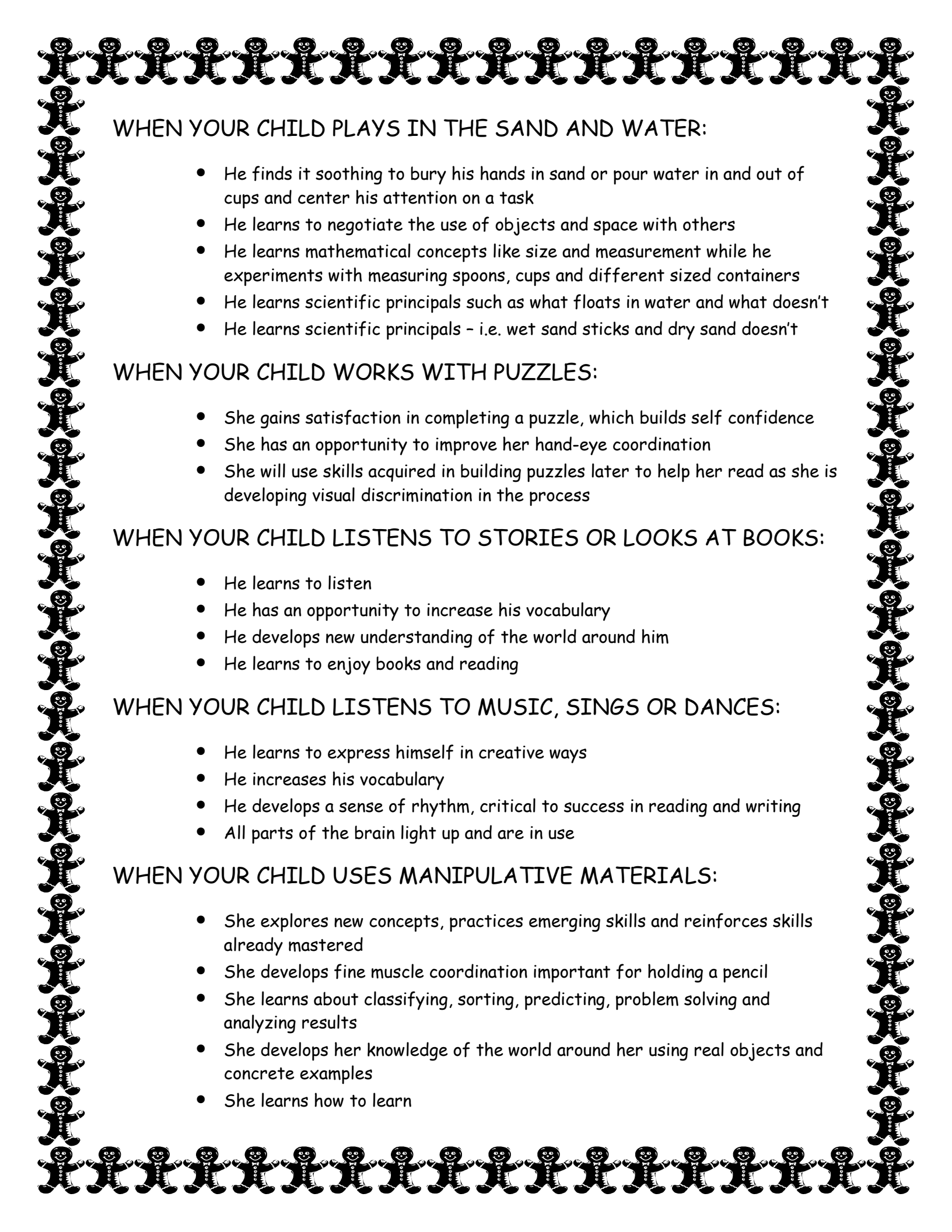
- He is more concerned with the process he is going through than the product (This is how it should be for his stage of development)
- He learns about colours and how he can use them
- He learns to use his imagination and transfers his ideas to paper
- He gets emotional satisfaction from being able to express himself
- He learns how to use his small muscles to handle a brush
- He learns to make choices and decisions

#### WHEN YOUR CHILD PLAYS IN THE HOUSE CENTER:

- He learns what the roles of mothers and fathers and children are
- He learns to take new perspectives by playing at being someone else
- He learns to use his imagination
- He learns to cooperate with other children
- He is able to verbalize his feelings using words
- He can begin to understand the feelings of others

#### WHEN YOUR CHILD MAKES A GIFT OUT OF PAPER AND GLUE:

- She learns about doing things for others
- She learns how to use materials like scissors and glue
- She learns to use her imagination to make the kind of present she has in mind - again, the process, not the finished product, is important to her
- She learns about shapes, sizes, colours and textures



## WHEN YOUR CHILD PLAYS IN THE SAND AND WATER:

- He finds it soothing to bury his hands in sand or pour water in and out of cups and center his attention on a task
- He learns to negotiate the use of objects and space with others
- He learns mathematical concepts like size and measurement while he experiments with measuring spoons, cups and different sized containers
- He learns scientific principals such as what floats in water and what doesn't
- He learns scientific principals - i.e. wet sand sticks and dry sand doesn't

## WHEN YOUR CHILD WORKS WITH PUZZLES:

- She gains satisfaction in completing a puzzle, which builds self confidence
- She has an opportunity to improve her hand-eye coordination
- She will use skills acquired in building puzzles later to help her read as she is developing visual discrimination in the process

## WHEN YOUR CHILD LISTENS TO STORIES OR LOOKS AT BOOKS:

- He learns to listen
- He has an opportunity to increase his vocabulary
- He develops new understanding of the world around him
- He learns to enjoy books and reading

## WHEN YOUR CHILD LISTENS TO MUSIC, SINGS OR DANCES:

- He learns to express himself in creative ways
- He increases his vocabulary
- He develops a sense of rhythm, critical to success in reading and writing
- All parts of the brain light up and are in use

## WHEN YOUR CHILD USES MANIPULATIVE MATERIALS:

- She explores new concepts, practices emerging skills and reinforces skills already mastered
- She develops fine muscle coordination important for holding a pencil
- She learns about classifying, sorting, predicting, problem solving and analyzing results
- She develops her knowledge of the world around her using real objects and concrete examples
- She learns how to learn