



Just Playing

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 the 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 a
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's 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
playing." 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 "play." 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." For, you see,
I'm learning as I play. 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 played." Please
don't misunderstand me. For, you see,
I'm learning as I play. I'm learning to enjoy
and be successful in work. I'm preparing for
tomorrow. Today, I'm a child and my work
is play.

By **Anita Wadley**

From Chicken Soup for the Unsinkable Soul
by Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen
Copyright 1999