

## *What is Playful Learning?*

Playful learning is the idea that children can acquire knowledge and skills while in a playful state of mind. Very often, when children are playing they become absorbed in the activity. Their minds are active and engaged. These mindsets are what make learning through play the perfect combination for students to practice familiar skills and acquire new learning concepts. While taking part in LEGO activities at school, students are engaging in playful learning.



## Teaching 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills

21<sup>st</sup> century skills refer to the ability to collaborate, problem solve, persevere, and think creatively. With the same importance as teaching the academic curriculum, we recognize the importance of teaching these skills to pave the way for success in today's world. LEGO learning is a perfect time for students to practice these skills.

**Growth Mindset** lessons focus on teaching students the importance of persevering when things get hard. We teach children that they have the self-strength to change a mindset from "I can't" or "It's too hard" to "I can" and "I will keep trying." Students engage in building activities that are challenging, but find that by focusing on positive self-talk they can reach success.

**Accountable Talk** refers to talk that is respectful, thoughtful, and knowledgeable. We teach students that all ideas need to be heard and explained with examples and evidence. Students listen to and learn from each other. Through this kind of communication, students can also strengthen conversation skills and vocabulary.

**Collaboration** enriches student learning through social interactions. Students often work with a partner or in groups on building activities. We teach the value of working together toward a common goal. Students are given opportunities to learn from each other, as well as from teachers. This encourages self-direction and empowers students as they help each other through the learning process.

