

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.
Who knows, I may be an architect someday.

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 "she'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
"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 Play**.
For, you see, I'm learning as I play.
I'm learning to follow directions and see differences.
I may be a cook 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 did 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 work.
I'm preparing for tomorrow.

Today, I'm a child and my work is play.

