

Just Playing

By Anita Wadley © 1979

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 combining 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.

