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What do each of the Theorists contribute to your understanding of the importance of play? Write a summary paragraph outlining **why play is important? And how the theorists support the view.**

Importance of play

Play is a fundamental part of a child's learning it involves make believe, having fun and enjoying. Play encourages scientific thinking and it plays a active part in children's holistic development (Skokholm, 2019), **Piaget** believes that different stages of play can be linked to different stages of cognitive development, he states that practice play begins from birth to 2 years where children are curious, symbolic play is from 2-7 years where children attach meaning, and then social play is formed around 7-11 years, whereby games have more rules. (Gray and McBlain, 2012). **Freud** expresses that play is important in the emotional development of children as it allows them to express how they are feeling. (Freud Museum, 2017) **Erikson** states that conflict can have a detrimental effect on children's play and development, for example if we are successful when dealing with conflict, we remain strong and if we fail to manage conflict as children, we may not develop that strong sense of one's self. (Malone et al., 2016).

Vygotsky and Brunner both believe that the role of the adult is important in children's play to support learning and development. (McInnes et al. 2013) **Parten 1933** developed a theory of six stages of play it included solitary play, spectator play, parallel play, associative play and cooperative play, this indicates that children play differently at each age and stage of development. (Parten, 1933)