

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE OVERVIEW | 2025 National Conference on the Value of Play: Create | Explore | Inspire! April 15-17, 2025

| T U E S D A Y | VENUES | Frangipani | Dogwood | Oak | Walnut | Maple | Special Track (meet in Solarium) | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | 8:30am | Registration desk opens in the East Lounge (near the "Tree Suites"). Posters set-up in Solarium begins (continues through celebration lunch on Thursday). Coffee and Morning Snacks in Tree Suite Commons. | | | | | | |
| | 10:00-10:45am | Part I of 2-Part Session! Froebel's Gifts I: Building Blocks for Play-based Education from Early Childhood to Graduate Degrees - Maron-Puntarelli | Designing YES Spaces: Embrace the Power of Play in Child-Centered Environments - Ward | Got Game? Professors Who Play! - Roehl, Kirkdorffer & Zingoni-Phielipp | Playful Learning Takes Flight for Kindergarten Students - McKeehan & O'Callahan | Anji Play: A innovative approach from China - Chen | | |
| | 11:00-11:45am | Part 2 of 2-Part Session! Froebel's Gifts II: Building Blocks for Play-based Education from Early Childhood to Graduate Degrees - Maron-Puntarelli | Computational Thinking in a Box - Friend | Cringe! Exploring adult discomfort in children's play - Bishop | Reimagining Play, Movement, and Sport as a Tool for Health & Well-Being - Ortega | Playing from Scratch - Hemphill | | |
| | 12:00pm-1:30pm | Lunch & "Create, EXPLORE, Inspire" Keynote – Cas Holman, award winning toy designer and founder & principal at Heroes Will Rise | | | | | | |
| | 1:45pm-2:30pm | Using LEGO® SERIOUS PLAY® To Explore Collaboration, Creativity and Problem-Solving - DeSalle | Research Featured Session Watch and Learn: Observing Children's Development in Play - Gold | An Assessment Tool for Play Promotion Practices Implementation in Early Childhood Classrooms - Rendon & Little | Use Your Imagination: Play, Autism, and Sensory Friendly Experiences - Edelstein | | | |
| | 2:45-3:30pm | Beyond Accessibility: Promoting Participation in Recess for Students with Disabilities - Sullivan | Wild Play: How Forest Schooling Shapes Social Skills... - Crenshaw | Nurturing Play and Creativity as Keys to Lifelong Well-being - McMullen & Ponella | Systems changing the face of play: transforming asphalt to nature - De Melo & Stephens | | | Redefining Fitness: Transforming Exercise into Enjoyable, Sustainable Movement Through Play - Edwards |
| | 3:30pm-4:00pm | POP UP Play Break (Commemorative Garden/Tree Suites Lounge) – practice what you preach...and grab a snack! | | | | | | |
| | 4:00pm-4:45pm | Reflections on an Infant-Toddler Outdoor Playground Collaborative Project - Wisneski, Lisiecki & Johnson | Failing Forward with Improv - DeSalle | The Power of Adult Play: Discover Your Play Personality to Boost Creativity and Productivity - Saggar & Ward | Exploring creative play for all ages: A comparison of indoor and outdoor play and a call to action - Vigil, Rogers, Heath, Jeffords & West | | | Playful Connections: Art, Nature, and the Path to Wellness - TestaAvila, Schneider, Milton & Korte |
| | 5:00-5:30pm | Newcomer Social (Solarium) | | | | | | |
| 5:00-7:00pm | Break Dinner on Your Own | | | | | | | |
| 7:00-9:00pm | A Night of Wonder! Evening Social at Wonderlab Science Museum Travel on your own (<1 a mile) or meet at IMU circle drive for bus shuttle (departs 6:45pm) | | | | | | | |

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| 8:00am | Registration desk opens in the East Lounge (near the "Tree Suites"). Coffee and Morning Snacks in Tree Suite Commons. | | | | | |
| 9:00-9:45am | What does it do? - Bringing the Power of Open Play Back to Toy Design - Hamilton | Children and Families Talk about Why They Like Nature Playgrounds - Quinn & Understanding the Effects of Free Play on Elementary School Students: A Systematic Review - Nehring, Flaspohler & Spangler Copenbaker | Purposeful Play: Asking Thought-Provoking Questions to Maintain Engagement and Deepen Learning - Markavage & Schaben | A New Horizon for Children: Establishing Play and Growth Spaces in East Africa - Kennedy | | |
| 10am-10:45am | All Ages, All Abilities, All the Time - Moore White | The Value of Play and Accessing the 'Inner Child' for Creativity, Inspiration & Design Innov - Davies & Mermaids' Concert Hall: Inspiring Creativity... - Yang | Tots, Teens and the Young at Heart: The role of play in the city for all ages - Zwart, Wershof & Mongiat | The Neuroscience of Active Play: Enhancing Cognitive & Emotional Resilience Across the Lifespan - Edwards | | Up the River With a Playful Paddle: Creating Psychological Freedom... - Kimiecik, Kimiecik, Dunn & Storey |
| 10:45-11:15am | Play Break! | | | | | |
| 11:15am-12:00pm | Part I of 2-Part Session! Breaking Barriers to Creativity thru Loose Parts Explorations Part I: Adult Play & Development - Roussos & Nelson | Playing with Sound - Ponella & Peace Education Practice in Play - Gursel-Bilgin & Castner | Integrating Education Through Play: The Play360 Approach - Racek | GOAL: Empowering kids and families to learn to play as part of a healthy lifestyle - Kilmark, Barnes, Drake, Sherwood-Laughlin & Gloyeske | Legislating Play in Early Childhood Classrooms: How Connecticut Passed a Play Law and What's Next - Oliveira | Rediscover Your Wildhood - Finding Joy, Connection and Healing in Nature - Reader |
| 12:15-1:45pm | Lunch & "Create, EXPLORE, Inspire" Keynote – Rick Erwin, Creative Director & Curator at City Museum in St. Louis | | | | | |
| 2:00-2:45pm | Part 2 of 2-Part Session! Breaking Barriers to Creativity thru Loose Parts Exploration Part II: Child-Led Loose Parts Play - Roussos & Nelson | Through a Pedagogy of Play: Teachers' Professional Identity, Self-Efficacy, and Well-Being - Berube & Let's Go Pla(y)ces: Bringing Community into the Classroom through Play - Saggar | Imaginary Adventures: Rediscovering Creativity Through Adult Pretend Play - DePaulis | Beyond the Floor: Rethinking Play in Everyday Life - O'Neill & Hargreaves | The Play Business - Stine & Bishop | |
| 3:00-3:45pm | Health & Play Institute Wild at Heart: Prescribing Play and Nature for Inspired Well-being - Suk | Playful Failure: A Reflection on "Ready-Go!" a Master's Thesis - Moreland & The Houston Adventure Playground Association: A History - Sutterby & Kharod | Finding Flow Through Laughter: A Playful Exploration of Positive Psychology - Bucholz | Structured Freedom: The Magic of Guided Play in Early Education - Hall & Ballard | | |
| 4:00-4:45pm | Health & Play Institute Artfully Well: Trauma-Informed Leadership and the Healing Power of Play - Buckley | Healthy Balance of Learning and Play in School: Follow the Data - Rhea In Their Own Words: Conceptualizing the Transition to First Grade in a Shifting Social Context - Sanchez | Play at Work: Exploring Participatory Design Models for Children's Play Spaces - Metz | Multi-Year Play Conference Attendees Share Valuable Play Connections - Rumbaugh, Edwards, Jones | Playful Interventions for Enjoyable Learning Processes - Giri | Deconstructive Play - Gull |
| 5:00pm-7:00pm | Break & Dinner on Your Own & Special Invitation! <i>6:00pm You're Invited!</i> Conference attendees are invited to "Kurt Vonnegut's GHQ: The Lost Board Game," a talk by Geoffrey Engelstein at the Lilly Library. Presented by IU's Granfalloon Festival. | | | | | |
| 7:00pm-9:00pm | Evening Social Bowling & Billiards! | | | | | |

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| | 8-8:30am | Morning Yoga Stretch Session in the Solarium | | | | | | |
| | 8:45-9:30am | Library Forum: Words & Wiggles: Using Creative Mvmt as a Vehicle for Early Literacy - Hyde | A New Horizon for Children: Establishing Play and Growth Spaces in East Africa - Kennedy | The Playful Advocate: Create, Explore, and Inspire Change through Lifelong Play Practices - Calderon | "Blessed Be The Tie That Binds": Wool and Fiber Crafts Creating Resilience-Producing Peaceful Play - Addison | Risk-Failure-Mastery, On the Playground - Cable & Roeder | Yoga Follow Up! The Power of Yoga and Mindfulness: Best Practices for Engaging Children & Adolescents in Playful Yoga - Garner & Davis | |
| | 9:45-10:30am | Library Forum: Using Mechanical Puzzles in the Univ Classroom & in Outreach - Rhoda | Recess Research: Gathering Information, Telling the Story, Advocating for Change - Von Bank, Ramstetter & Woodham Brickman | Interactive Playgrounds promote active learning through active play - Flanigan | Let's Explore: How Children Develop Cognition While Engaging in Purposeful Play - Adams | Playing For Keeps - A Look at the Barron Park Playschool Approach - Adams | Part 1 of 2-Part Session! Applied Improvisation: Communicating, collaborating, and learning through play - Ansaldo | |
| | 10:45-11:30am | Lilly Library Tour: Puzzles & Play! | Play as a creative and restorative process: Evidence from neuroscience research - Bailey & Zwart | Developing Creative Innovation through Guided Play - Berube | Integrating Language and STEM Learning Through Dramatic Inquiry Play: An Activity Theory Analysis - Kim | The Art of Imagination: Making Time for Unstructured Creative Play - Johnson | Part 2 of 2-Part Session! Applied Improvisation continued - Ansaldo | |
| | 11:45am-12:30pm | Market-PLAY-ce of Ideas (Poster Reception, Marketplace, 360 Photo Booth & Fun!) | | | | | | |
| | 12:30-1:30pm | INSPIRE Celebration Lunch with Special Honors & more! | | | | | | |
| | 1:45-2:45pm | Library Lightning Talks! Friedericks, Boone & Sisson; Kirschner; Payne | Promoting Belonging and Inclusivity in Hospital Programming Through Interdepartmental Collaboration - Lercher, Palmer & Ledford | Story, Camera, Imagination: Creative and Collaborative Play Beyond the Screen - Yang | The Schule of Drag: Play My Queen, Play! - Mehay | | | |
| | 3:00-3:45pm | Library Forum: Playing in Public Libraries: A Model for the Primary Prevention of Child Maltreatment - Benham & Cucar | The Pla(y)ce of Possibility: How making space for play makes room for creativity and productivity - Hanna | Let's talk about play as the antidote for "The Anxious Generation" - Ramstetter & Brickman | Connecting Children to Nature Through Volunteerism & Play - Phillips | | | |

COLOR KEY:

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| SPECIAL SESSION |
| RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM SESSION |
| LIBRARIES, LEARNING & PLAY FORUM |
| OUTDOOR SESSION |