



A partnership to promote the VALUE OF PLAY throughout life

Fact Sheet

Our Mission: To promote the value of PLAY throughout life.

Our Vision: Play will become a valued and integral part of the lives of people of all ages and abilities.

Our Beliefs:

- Play is a basic human need and provides the foundation of strong intellectual, physical, and emotional development.
- Play is essential to a person reaching their full potential.
- A culture that encourages playfulness in daily life is healthier in mind and body.
- Playful experiences, whether physical or cognitive, help people adjust and adapt to political, economic, and social change and make these institutions stronger.
- Equal access to all forms and types of play opportunities for people of all ages and abilities is essential to enhancing the quality of life for all and building stronger communities.
- With an erosion of the *value* of play in modern society, we are seeing the subsequent negative impacts manifested in greater incidences of obesity, attention deficit disorder, and limited creativity, to name a few.

Our Network:

Since 2009, we have grown to an international network of individuals and organizations that promote the value of play throughout life. Our membership is diverse – including educators, playworkers, physicians, health scientists, park and recreation professionals, psychologists, landscape architects, playground manufacturers, parents and many more. Membership is free, and simply requires a declaration of shared commitment to the value of play through our website.

Our Work:

Education

- **Conference on the Value of Play** - the latest research and practices in the field of play are presented at our annual conference, which brings together hundreds of leaders, educators, practitioners and advocates from diverse fields.
- **Regional Educational Events** – Smaller scaled, single themed events like the inaugural **2016 Midwest Play Conference**
- **Play Facilitation Training** (online) – this Certificate of Completion training is an introductory training designed to meet the needs of seasonal, part-time, and temporary workers at camps, playgrounds, and after-school programs.
- **#WePlayChat** - our monthly Twitter chat for anyone seeking to gain knowledge around the wide open field of play. Launched in 2016, our #WePlayChat participants come from 7 countries, spanning 4 continents.

Research

- **Grant funding** - We are proud to have awarded \$41,000 in grants to date in both Action and Research Grants for playmakers and researchers whose work has the potential to improve and expand the Play Movement.
- **Play Research Team at Clemson University** – We have brought together a cross-section of faculty across all disciplines to approach play research from a variety of perspectives.

Communication

- **White Papers** - We have published two white papers, which are available as free downloads on our website. Topics include, **“A Research-Based Case for Recess”** (2013) and **“The Critical Place of Play in Education”** (2015).
- **“Play Pulse”** - In Spring 2015, we launched our first “Play Pulse,” a biannual publication that explores play indicators and trends. All editions of the “Play Pulse” are available as free downloads on our website under Communications.
- **Play Ambassador Network** – a nationwide network of leaders who engage communities in play-based events, disseminate research, build professional learning communities around play and spread the message of the value of play.

How to Get Involved:

To receive newsletters and updates, visit our website and click “Get Involved” to join. You can also find us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest. Visit <http://usplaycoalition.org> often to keep up with the latest news, research & events!