

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 Network: Since 2009, we have grown to an international network of individuals, organizations and businesses that promote the value of play throughout life. Our membership is diverse – including play researchers, educators, park and recreation professionals, health scientists, architects, landscape architects, designers, planners, business and community leaders, psychologists, physicians, parents and 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 8 countries, spanning 4 continents.

Research

- **Grant funding** - We are proud to have awarded \$47,000 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 and spread the message of the value of play.
- **"From the Playground" Blog** – News, stories and helpful resources from our staff, members and ambassadors.
- **Playgrounding Podcast** - Providing a new take on the world of play – approaching it as an adult looking to reclaim and re-explore what we had in our youth.
- **PLAY Events** – We love to share our love of play locally and encourage others to do the same. Our favorite PLAY event is the annual Clemson Community Play Day hosted as part of Nickelodeon's Worldwide Day of Play.

How to Get Involved: To receive newsletters and updates, visit our website and click "Get Involved" to join. Find us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and Pinterest. Visit usplaycoalition.org often to keep up with the latest news, research & events!