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Welcome from the US Play Coalition!

As your hosts for our first ever ONLINE Conference on the Value of Play, we are excited to welcome you to the main event. Whether this is your first or eleventh conference, we are glad you have joined us on our journey to promote the value of play for people of all ages and abilities, anywhere and everywhere. Thank you for engaging with us virtually this year, in the interest of public health, wellness, safety and education!!!

This year, our theme is “PLAY FOR ALL.” We are thrilled with the many sessions that will reframe the way we think about play through the sharing of knowledge and experience in the field. With more than 50 headliners, educational sessions and research symposium presentations and weekly networking socials on Zoom, we are confident you will gain new knowledge and build meaningful connections with your peers. We also invite you to join our closed LinkedIn and Facebook groups for 2020 ONLINE Conference attendees to help you connect with PLAY colleagues, share resources and engage around the VALUE of play year-round!!!

We are honored to be among the first of many organizations to have successfully made the transition from an in-person conference to an online platform. Our team worked tirelessly for 6 weeks to secure content, build community, and transform what had been developed over the course of many months to create our first ever online Play Conference. We are so proud of the tremendous efforts made to bring this conference to you. We feel strongly that our conference takes on a new importance at times like these. Play is a valuable tool people can use to help address anxious times, and it is a necessary release when isolated at home.

We continue to advance play with our great sponsors and partners. Collaboration is the key to our success, and we are excited that play has creatively united so many of our individual efforts.

We are inspired to leap into our second decade with a renewed intensity to connect play advocates, educate our national and global community, support play research and publications, and truly fulfill our mission to promote the VALUE of play throughout life.

Thanks to our sponsors, partners, planning team, steering committee, volunteers and everyone who has played a role in making this event a reality.

Of course, our conference would not be possible without YOU. You are the heart and soul of the modern play movement. Thank YOU for being with us.

Let’s PLAY!

Stephanie Garst
Executive Director

Fran Mainella
Chair Emeritus

Brett Wright
Chair
Since our 2019 conference, our coalition has experienced two great losses - Joan Almon on July 14, 2019, and Dr. Joe L. Frost on February 17, 2020.

We were honored to have Joan Almon as one of our founders and champions for the last decade – and blessed that she and her husband Clopper were with us for the 10th Anniversary Conference in 2019.

Dr. Joe Frost was influential in the creation of the US Play Coalition and served as honorary chair of our Play Conference for the first ten years. We were blessed to have Joe and Betty with us in 2017 when we awarded Joe our inaugural research award named in his honor (photos attached).

In our grief, we find inspiration in the work and the wisdom about play that Joan and Joe gave us all.
SESSION THEMES

Accessible & Inclusive Play: Play should be accessible, available, and open to all. Advance the field for play for all abilities, all shapes, all sizes, all colors.

Designing for Play: Landscape architects, architects, designers, city planners, and civic groups are invaluable experts, practitioners and resources for PLAY. Many of these sessions have received LACES and AIA CEU approval.

Education & Play: Play is a vital part of the learning equation, both in and out of the classroom. The faces of those learning while at play are some of the most engaging! Consider play as a vehicle for learning through both traditional and nontraditional settings including schools, camps, afterschool programs, museums, zoos, aquariums, parks & recreation departments, faith-based spaces, and more.

Emerging Trends in Play: Play is changing! The Play movement is growing! Explore the latest in play- technology, social media, politics, policies, and more.

Health, Recreation & Play: Play is a building block for healthy living. Examine health and physical activity trends related to play, healthy benefits of play, and the intersection of health and recreation to insure a healthy face of play.

International/Global Play: Play looks very different around the world. Share play practices, history, and culture from countries across the globe.

Multi/Intergenerational & Adults at Play: Promoting play throughout life is our mission. Explore how adults (college-aged to retirees) play and how adults share and benefit from play with children.

Nature Based & Outdoor Play: The faces of play are often wet, muddy, and sun-glistened from hours spent outdoors. Focus on play in nearby and far away nature--backyards, parks, creeks, lakes, trails, wetlands, and beyond.

Nuts & Bolts: From play basics to play essentials. Share tips, trainings, techniques and tools for PLAY.

Mark your calendars for our 2021 conference!

March 28-31, 2021
Clemson University
Clemson, SC
Lise Aangeenbrug has been in service of protecting land and wildlife habitat, building parks and trails, and connecting communities to the outdoors. She currently serves as the Executive Director of the Outdoor Industry Association, a membership-driven trade organization for the outdoor industry. They are a force for the industry in recreation and trade policy, sustainable business innovation and increasing outdoor participation. Until a few weeks ago, Lise was the executive director of the OIA’s charitable arm, the Outdoor Foundation (and she continues to serve as its president).

Upon taking the helm of the Outdoor Foundation in 2018, Lise said that she looked forward to working with her stakeholders “to collectively inspire the next generation to PLAY in and love the outdoors.” In her new role with the Outdoor Industry Association, her focus broadens to “build thriving businesses, thriving people and a thriving planet.”

Lise also participated in a special roundtable on Women in Leadership for Clemson University students.

Michael Hynes is an educator, scholar and thought leader. As a superintendent of public schools on Long Island, New York, it is his mission to spread the importance of a holistic approach to educating children. Dr. Hynes is also an Associate Professor at Long Island University/Post and Stony Brook University, teaching courses in School Law, Curriculum and Instruction and School Leadership and has published numerous articles and podcasts on school leadership and his belief in public education. His article on “Play, Recess and Mental Health” was #1 for 2018 in EDUCATION WEEK.

Dr. Hynes is proud to be a Fulbright Specialist, TEDx speaker and author of the newly released best-selling book “Staying Grounded: 12 Principles to Transform School Leader Effectiveness.”

Dr. Hynes will speak on “Creating a School Vision of Play and Wellness: The Importance of a Balanced Approach to Education,” addressing how schools can create a vision and mission that embody a balanced approach to education with play and wellness as its main driver.

Special Note: Dr. Hynes will also be leading a virtual roundtable for school administrators registered for the 2020 Online Play Conference.
Bringing Play to the World of Education

**Scott Bedley and Eric Saibel, Co-Founders, Global School Play Day**

Global School Play Day (GSPD) launched in ad-hoc fashion and in February 2015, with 65,000 students participated on six continents. In February 2020, the number of participants grew to over 530,000 in 75 nations. Despite this incredible growth, they believe we are still not at our “tipping point” of asserting the role of play in the context of school. In this session, Scott Bedley and Eric Saibel provide a glimpse into the history of GSPD and engage in myth-busting around play as a central tenet to dynamic, rigorous learning for all children – not to mention adults too!!

Changing the 2020 World of Play

**Yvonne Overmaat, president, YALP, Inc. (Netherlands)**

The time in which we were only able to use traditional equipment is a thing of the past. How the usage of movement detection, radar technology, LEDs and audio actually adds to play value. Can you imagine learning binary counting with your grandma outside? Or tracking your own soccer skills?

A Community Within: Black Child Play as Response and Protest

**Ariana Brazier, Founder and CEO of ATL Parent Like A Boss, Inc.**  
**Julia Brazier, mentor for Auburn University Family Child Care Partnerships**

This informative and interactive session explores the different ways that play contributes to childhood growth, focusing on the ways that Black children living in poverty play. Participants will learn to identify and analyze the racialized and classed ways in which play is deprived as Black children age and grow.
Do They Even Know About Play? Ways to Help Young Adults Reconnect with Play
Heather VonBank, PhD, Associate Professor of Child Development Family Studies, Minnesota State University - Mankato
Brad Putman, PhD, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies for the College of Engineering, Computing and Applied Sciences
Erica Walker, PhD, Assistant Professor in the Department of Graphic Communications, Clemson University
Pam Davis, Director of Campus Activities & Events in Student Affairs, Clemson University

When educators use inventive and playful pedagogies, students can develop a deeper understanding of theories, systems, and effective ways to work with others. In this panel discussion, four educators will discuss ways they help their students playfully explore arts education, graphic communication, engineering, construction, and recreational activities.

Engaging State Policymakers with Outdoor Play: Youth Outdoor Policy Playbook
Martin LeBlanc, Principal at LBC Action
Robyn Paulekas, senior mediator and program manager, Meridian Institute
Dylan McDowell, Deputy Director for the National Caucus or Environmental Legislators
Jayni Rasmussen, Senior Campaign Manager for the Outdoors Alliance for Kids (OAK) and Youth for the Sierra Club
James E. King Jr., MAED, researcher, environmental activist, and cultural responsiveness facilitator

Our session will highlight the Youth Outdoor Policy Playbook, a coalition effort, which is working to empower grassroots and grasstoppers leaders to work with State Legislators across the country to pass legislation to give more youth and families the opportunity to have outdoor opportunities.
FEATURED SESSIONS - RECORDED LIVE ON ZOOM

Magic of Play and Play Workshops
Yesim Kunter, play expert and futurist (England)
What is the state of Play? Explore the worldwide changes that are shaping the Future of Play and ‘Play Workshops’ that create a lens into the understanding of our playful minds.

National Study of Playgrounds
Meghan Talarowski, MLA, CPSI, Founder and Director, Studio Ludo
The National Study of Playgrounds (NSP), a joint research project of Studio Ludo and Dr. Deborah Cohen, is the first observational study of playgrounds to compare the impacts of playground design on play behavior and physical activity across gender, age group, and socio-economic status.

The Playful Classroom: Teachable Moments on a Playful Walkabout
Julie P. Jones, PhD, Associate Professor of Education, Converse College
Jed Dearybury, Director of Creativity at www.mrdearybury.com
Learning must be meaningful. Learning must be relevant. Learning must be fun. We believe play is the key to make all that makes that magic happen regardless of the setting, regardless of the student, regardless of the content. Play constantly teaches us life skills so why not bring that same experience into every area of learning? In this session, Jed and Julie will take you on a playful walkabout outside to show how you can find unstructured playful LEARNING experiences all around us that can be used in your own classroom. They will also give an overview of their work, “The Playful Classroom: The Power of Play for ALL Ages.”

Playing Through Metaphor and Storytelling
Megan Oteri, Founder/CEO, Brick Scholars
In this hands-on, minds-on playful learning STEAM workshop, participants will experience the power of using metaphors and storytelling. Participants will create models of playful learning and what it means to them, tell the story of the model they created, and connect and discuss connections between other models in the group.
The Relationship Between Play and Relationships
Rusty Keeler, natural playscape designer and author at Earthplay
Claude Stephens, Facilitator of Outreach and Regenerative Design at Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest in Clermont, Kentucky
Megan Dickerson, Director of Exhibitions at the New Children’s Museum in San Diego, California
Holding space for play in our communities is built upon developing relationships and then continuously working to improve them. That isn’t always straight forward work and it doesn’t always go as planned. This session will explore how the concept of emergent strategies supports relationship development and what might spring from that. Plan on being part of the conversation.

Ta Dah! Circus as a Teaching Tool
Jessica Hentoff, Artistic/Executive Director, Circus Harmony
The best way to educate is to be entertaining and the best way to entertain is to be educational! For many children, sitting still while learning is difficult. Experiential and fun learning has been proven to be more effective. Circus arts works across ages, backgrounds, and school subjects! You do not have to be an acrobat or a tightrope walker yourself to apply this fun, fantastic, flexible art form!
SESSIONS BY THEME

Note: All sessions have two themes. The sessions in this list are sorted by their primary theme.

Accessible & Inclusive Play

Adapting Play for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities | Leigh Belmont
Adults with intellectual disabilities (Autism, Down’s Syndrome, etc.) can struggle to find meaningful recreational activities after turning 21. This session will discuss how play is different for adults with intellectual disabilities, and how playmakers can change or incorporate play activities to be more inclusive for all who wish to participate.

"As a parent, if I can...": Parents’ Perception and Design of Children’s Out of School Time | Bengi Sullu
Research reveals three major forces in how New York City parents’ shape their perceptions and practices regarding children’s free time 1) involvement of institutions and actors 2) values and beliefs 3) spatial, geographical, material and temporal aspects. Play advocacy facilitates parent accounts of facilitators supporting and barriers against free play.

A Community Within: Black Child Play as Response and Protest | Ariana Brazier & Julia Brazier
This informative and interactive session explores the different ways that play contributes to childhood growth, focusing on the ways that Black children living in poverty play. Participants will learn to identify and analyze the racialized and classed ways in which play is deprived as Black children age and grow.

Empowering LGBTQ+ Youth Through Meaningful Play and Recreation Opportunities | Stephen Lewis
This session provides an overview of how play and recreation spaces can serve as both affirmative and dangerous contexts in the development of LGBTQ+ youth. Participants will explore concrete strategies to support youth in navigating constraints so that they can engage in meaningful activities promoting health, wellness, and authentic community membership.

Joining In: Parent Perspectives on Specially Designed Inclusive Play | Rachel Lott
Providing inclusive services for children with disabilities, Foundations Pediatric Therapy works with children in a natural recreational environment of the world's largest kids sporting facility. This presentation will highlight a study of the impact of these inclusive services from a parent/caregiver’s perspective.

Play Ranging with the Hidden Children: Notes from the Field | Susan Caruso & Simon Chin
Susan Caruso and Simone Chin from Sunflower Creative Arts talk about establishing a relationship of trust and play with the invisible children of South Florida’s immigrant community. Through Sunflower’s Build and Play After School program, the children and adults have evolved from feared outsiders to trusted, joyful partners in Play.

Designing for Play

Designing Successful Play Partnerships: PlayBuild + Tulane University | Angela Kyle
PlayBuild is a neighborhood non-profit, providing play-based learning to low-income kids in New Orleans. For 7 years, PlayBuild has leveraged partnerships to drive growth. This session will define the key ingredients of a successful strategic partnership through the lens of PlayBuild’s collaboration with Tulane University’s Taylor Center for Design Thinking.

Free Aquatic Play in a Controlled World | Melinda Pearson
Reframe the current ideologies of structured play and show how with the right aquatic play features and a thoughtful layout, kids can find the freedom they need for discovery within the safe environment they deserve.
Local Sources for Play Space Materials and Labor: It’s the Design That Counts | Trevor Zahara
A Consultancy Approach to Playground Development. This is the story of 4 Projects that are either repurposing what they have and adding to it or utilizing local building materials to build their own natural materials playgrounds. Thinking outside the box and not buying off the shelf.

National Study of Playgrounds | Meghan Talarowski
The National Study of Playgrounds (NSP), a joint research project of Studio Ludo and Dr. Deborah Cohen, is the first observational study of playgrounds to compare the impacts of playground design on play behavior and physical activity across gender, age group, and socio-economic status.

Education & Play

The All New Voice of Play Website: How to Maximize This Exciting New Resource | Tom Norquist & Deanna Tomaselli
Join IPEMA’s Voice of Play team: president and founder Tom Norquist, marketing committee chair Brian Johnson and PR representative Deanna Tomaselli as they take you through the all-new Voice of Play website and Facebook group, and how you can use it to learn, share and engage with fellow play experts and enthusiasts.

Bringing Play to the World of Education | Scott Bedley & Eric Saibel
Global School Play Day (GSPD) launched in ad-hoc fashion and in February 2015, with 65,000 students participated on six continents. In February 2020, the number of participants grew to over 530,000 in 75 nations. In this session, Scott Bedley and Eric Saibel provide a glimpse into the history of GSPD and engage in myth-busting around play as a central tenet to dynamic, rigorous learning for all children – and adults too!!

Creating a School Vision of Play and Wellness: The Importance of a Balanced Approach to Education | Michael Hynes
As schools, we are remiss if we don’t ensure that children, especially our youngest, are learning in ways that create emotional health, because, in fact, a strong emotional basis is the groundwork for the academics that will follow. The question becomes, how do we create a vision and mission that embody a balanced approach to education with play and wellness as its main driver?

Creativity and Outdoor Play – The Recipe for all Children | Laura Maler & Debbie Rhea
Across the country, many children are limited in their play opportunities which inhibits their creativity skills. This session will explore how multiple outdoor play breaks daily allow students to embrace and explore creativity, as well as share ideas for promoting creative unstructured play across different types and sizes of playgrounds and landscapes.

Do They Even Know About Play?: Ways to Help Young Adults Reconnect with Play | Heather VonBank, Brad Putman, Erica Walker & Pam Davis
When educators use inventive and playful pedagogies, students can develop a deeper understanding of theories, systems, and effective ways to work with others. In this panel discussion, four educators will discuss ways they help their students playfully explore arts education, graphic communication, engineering, construction, and recreational activities.

Documenting Children’s Play: Including the Child’s Voice | Christine McLean
What happens when children are asked to co-construct documentation about play? In this study, educators invited children to reflect upon their play and then document their interpretations of the events. The findings underscored children’s ability to be thoughtful and reflective about their own play experiences and the play of others.
Examining the Link Between Recess Quality and Classroom Behavior in Elementary School Children | William Massey, Alexandra Szarabajko, Janelle Thalken, Laura Neilson & John Geldhof

The purpose of the current study was to examine the relationship between recess quality and teacher reported behavioral outcomes in children. Recess quality significantly predicted adaptive behaviors ($b= 0.321$, $p=.030$) which consisted of social skills, adaptability, leadership, study skills, and functional communication. Implications of the findings will be discussed.

How Principles in Play Connect to Pedagogy in Gifted Education and Talent Development | Angela Novak & Sylvan Taylor

Gifted learners need appropriate academic challenge, and teachers work tirelessly to meet students’ needs. But don’t forget to play! This session will share how play overlaps with innovation, creativity, talent development, and gifted education. Participants will leave with an understanding of how to align playwork principles with classroom pedagogy.

Is Your Recess Toolbelt Equipped? | Lynn Campanella & Tom Norquist

Research has established that problem solving, communication, resiliency, self-regulation and fundamental movements competencies are some of the skills or ‘tools’ gathered when children play. We will dynamically discuss activities to support conflict resolution, foster excellent socials skills and develop physical literacy, all leading to a strong school community.

In Defense of Play, Again | Colette Ryan

Why is play not valued? When did we forget that we all need to play? This presentation will discuss the definition of play, the benefits of play, the types of play and how play benefits learning.

Listening to Children: Exploring the Legacy of Vivian Paley | Vivien Geneser & Shelley Harris

Early childhood professionals and play therapists regard the work of MacArthur Fellowship recipient, Vivian Paley, as a quintessential source of insight into the conversations of children. In this session, the presenters will portray the ways that her astute revelations of their inner worlds align with the principles of play therapy.

Messy, Muddy, and Marvelous: Forest Schools, Education and Play | Tracey Hunter-Doniger, Lucy Davis, Lily Doniger & Danielle Lovelace

Forest Schools have been an alternative option to traditional learning in Europe for years. This session will discuss Forest Schools and the research behind the creativity, autonomy, and play found in the woods. Researchers and practitioners with varying backgrounds will present their findings.

Movement & Learning: What’s the Connection? | Debbie Smith

The purpose of this presentation will be to present evidence regarding the link between physical activity and academic success. This presentation will provide the play advocates with irrefutable evidence as to the importance of physical activity and it’s the connection to learning.

Playful Reading: Literacy Through Play | Nichole Myles & Starr Jordan

Literacy skills are a key indicator of future success for young children. This session will explore the many options for using play-based methods to enhance literacy while engaging young children and supporting curricular outcomes in or out of the classroom.

Playing the Eduspeak Speak Game: Tips on Aligning Lessons with Play Principles | Angela Novak

Does “learning through play” raise eyebrows at your school? Despite research on the benefits of play, there can be a disconnect between research and administrative expectations. This session reinforces the importance of play, through educational strategies and activities that utilize both play principles and eduspeak that appeals to various stakeholders.
Playing Through Metaphor and Storytelling | Megan Oteri
In this hands-on, minds-on playful learning STEAM workshop, participants will experience the power of using metaphors and storytelling. Participants will create models of playful learning and what it means to them, tell the story of the model they created, and connect and discuss connections between other models in the group.

PlaySchool: How to Infuse Play into K12 Education | Doug Smith
PlaySchool will explore ideas and strategies on how to infuse play into the whole school environment. Participants will look at different times during the day that play can be infused such as morning announcements, during instruction, recess, physical education, movement interventions, and after school events.

Same Game, Different Play | Emily Claypool Offord & Cathy Moore
In this educational session, participants will identify the global elements of play through participation in cultural variations of a familiar game. Through the experience, participants will process the need for safe spaces for human relationships to develop. Participants will gain concrete take-aways concerning ways that play elevates unity among children.

Ta Dah! Circus as a Teaching Tool | Jessica Hentoff
The best way to educate is to be entertaining and the best way to entertain is to be educational! For many children, sitting still while learning is difficult. Experiential and fun learning has been proven to be more effective. Circus arts works across ages, backgrounds, and school subjects! You do not have to be an acrobat or a tightrope walker yourself to apply this fun, fantastic, flexible art form!

Yes, And: The Power of Teaching With Improvisational Play | Jennifer McGinnis
Applied Improv is a growing international movement and is being used in hundreds of applications. This session will discuss what Applied Improv is, how it is being used, engage the audience using applied improv techniques, and overall discuss the power of teaching utilizing the power of play and laughter.

Emerging Trends in Play

Advocating for Risky Play | Debra Lawrence
Teacher and administrator fears are interfering with children’s development across all domains, but most significantly in the large motor domain. This session explores these fears and provides an alternative approach to engaging children in challenging physical play that is supervised and supported through intentional teacher interactions.

The American Association for Promoting the Child’s Right to Play - IPA USA Information Session | Debra Lawrence
IPA USA is an Affiliate of IPA World, a nonprofit organization focused on advocating for the child’s right to play. This session will introduce you to IPA USA and provide you with information on the resources and tools that can assist you in advocating for playful learning.

Changing the 2020 World of Play | Yvonne Overmaat
The time in which we were only able to use traditional equipment is a thing of the past. How the usage of movement detection, radar technology, LEDs and audio actually adds to play value. Can you imagine learning binary counting with your grandma outside? Or tracking your own soccer skills?
Encouraging Time Outdoors in Naturalized Learning Environments in S. Carolina Childcare Facilities | Robin Moore, Daniel Jost & Misty Pearson
Learn about a multi-pronged effort to promote physical activity, healthy eating, and learning by improving the design and management of outdoor environments at South Carolina childcare facilities. We’ll discuss training resources developed, pilot projects completed, and a review of how childcare licensing regulations support time outdoors in naturalized learning environments.

Lost Opportunities: How Teaching Interferes with Learning | Debra Lawrence
The purpose of early childhood education is to provide opportunities for children to acquire the dispositions of learning required for all aspects of success. This session brings to light the unintended consequences of teaching and provides strategies for increasing learning in your classroom.

The Relationship Between Play and Relationships | Rusty Keeler, Claude Stephens & Megan Dickerson
Holding space for play in our communities is built upon developing relationships and then continuously working to improve them. That isn’t always straight forward work and it doesn’t always go as planned. This session will explore how the concept of emergent strategies supports relationship development and what might spring from that. Plan on being part of the conversation.

#WePlayChat: How to Use Social Media to Drive the Value of Play in a Virtual World | Ryan Fahey
This session is designed to share insights and information surrounding the what, how and why of the US Play Coalition #WePlayChat learning opportunities. #WePlayChat is the longest running monthly play-based Twitter chat in the world. In this session, participants will also learn about ways they can get involved in future chats and explore the future of knowledge exchange within the US Play Coalition.

Child Play Network Influences on Physical Literacy in Mexican-Heritage Colonias | Tyler Prochnow, Haley Delgado, Megan Patterson, Joseph Sharkey & M. Renée Umstattd Meyer
Does a child’s perception of who they play with impact their physical literacy? This study aims to understand associations between child play networks and self-reported physical literacy scores among a sample of Mexican-heritage children living in colonias along the Texas-Mexico border.

Determining Obesity Rates in Children with Multiple Play Breaks in Schools Daily | Dave Farbo & Debbie Rhea
Body mass index (BMI) is typically used to determine childhood overweight and obesity. The flaw is no differentiation between muscle mass and fat mass. Bioelectrical impedance analysis (BIA) may be the better measure in children and especially in those who are more physically active. This session will present grades K-5 BMI and BIA results and discuss the use of each in children.

Green Schoolyards: Neighborhood Amenity to National Necessity | Heidi Cohen, Tiffany Briery, & Sadiya Muqeeth
The Green Schoolyards movement is taking hold in communities across the country as a means of addressing climate, equity, and health challenges. Learn how The Trust for Public Land provides underserved communities with access to green schoolyards as a hub for climate resiliency, improved health and education, and community empowerment.

Health, Recreation & Play
Guide to Implementing Play Streets in Rural Communities: A Tool to Increase Active Play | M. Renée Umstattd Meyer, Micah Holcombe, Tyler Prochnow, Keshia Pollack Porter

Play Streets is one solution to create safe, free opportunities for active play. The “Guide to Implementing Play Streets in Rural Communities” provides recommendations to community groups on how to plan and implement Play Streets in rural communities based on first-hand experiences from diverse community partners.

Movement in Middle School – Application of the Transtheoretical Model for Physical Activity | Laura Rolke, Kerry Howard, Sarah Griffin, Tracy Waters & Kerry Sease

The transtheoretical model is a commonly used public health model to determine intervention readiness for behavior change. In this study, we applied it to middle school students to understand physical activity attainment, intention, and self-efficacy, but it can be adapted and used for other health behaviors.

Pedaling to Safe Play: Factors Related to Youth Self-Efficacy for Injury Prevention Bicycle Skills | Kerry Howard, Sarah Griffin, Laura Rolke, Joy Venable & Kerry Sease

Bicycling is a common play activity, but with injury risk. It is important to understand factors related to injury prevention. Self-efficacy predicts injury prevention behaviors. We examined factors that predict self-efficacy for prevention skills in 9-11-year-olds. The findings can aid administrators in targeting areas to promote confidence for injury prevention.

Play, Dementia & Alzheimers: Life and Fun Following Diagnosis | Delfina Newton

Dementia and Alzheimer’s are not new but they are becoming an ever increasing population that require play to help improve and maintain functional skills necessary for daily living. These individuals and their caregivers need play in order to sustain self on daily basis and thrive physically, mentally, and spiritually.

Unstructured Play in Schools is Linked to Positive Health Benefits for Teachers | Debbie Rhea, Laura Maler & Dave Farbo

Much of our energy as adults is focused on increasing unstructured play opportunities in schools for children. We never stop to think how teachers might benefit from these unstructured play breaks also. This presentation will outline how four unstructured play breaks daily can be as beneficial for teachers as children.

Multi/Intergenerational & Adults at Play

Bourbon and Bots: Educating Older Adults About Play | Nichole Myles & Starr Jordan

This session will demonstrate to attendees a method for reaching older adults through a curated (and delicious!) approach to play. Using CML’s Bourbon and Bots event as a model, this presentation outlines unique models for engaging older adults and improving their vernacular for play, technology and the latest research on why it all matters.

Furnishing for Adult Play: Developing a Social Play Space for a Multidisciplinary Research Community | Katriina Heljakka & Annika Blomberg

This study explores play-oriented design for adults in the academic workspace. The main contribution of the study is to illustrate how to combine playful attitudes with the design of a socially shared play environment and how material objects within this space can cater for play as a multidimensional activity.

Leisure & Late Adulthood: Examining the Benefits of Participation During Retirement | Thomas Sweeney & Jennifer Zorotovich

This research examines the recreation and leisure habits of older adults and determine their influence on contemporary aging. Specifically, researchers sought information on the influence of recreation and leisure on personal and social identity development, formation of social groups and quality of life during the transition from the workforce to retirement.
Family recreation is an important part of family life and a crucial part of healthy communities. This session will outline challenges of and opportunities for developing programs focused on the entire family. The aim of this session is to explore ways to create healthier and stronger families through family recreation.

Seniors and Preschoolers Design Toys Together: An Intergenerational Play Project in Finland | Katriina Keljakka

This presentation outlines an exploratory study based on Do-It-Yourself toy making, character creation and intergenerational play between preschoolers (5-6 years) and seniors (80+ years) based in Finnish Kindergarten. The study illustrates how play memories become intertwined with contemporary play practices through shared experiences of childhood, materiality and togetherness in toy-making.

Nature Based & Outdoor Play

Building an Outdoor Classroom Anywhere | Farrah Zweig

Every environment can be an outdoor classroom and any material can be the vehicle to enhance the student’s experience from preschoolers to graduates. Explore the six factors furthering learning environments: sunshine, physical activity, executive functioning, risk taking and safe play, socialization, as well as appreciation and interconnectedness with nature.


Our session will highlight the Youth Outdoor Policy Playbook, a coalition effort, which is working to empower grassroots and grasstops leaders to work with State Legislators across the country to pass legislation to give more youth and families the opportunity to have outdoor opportunities.

The Influence of Preschool Educators’ Beliefs About Play-Based Learning on Instructional Delivery | Abigail Stephan, Abigail Baker & Amanda Bennett

An unexplored, implicit finding from a previous study demonstrated that preschool instructors’ conceptions of play-based learning varied, leading to differences in instruction. Following this thread in the current presentation, we are interested in understanding how clearly defined conceptions of play-based learning impact preschool educators’ long-term changes in instruction.

The Playful Classroom: Teachable Moments on a Playful Walkabout | Julie P. Jones & Jed Dearybury

Learning must be meaningful, relevant and fun. We believe play is the key to making magic happen regardless of the setting, regardless of the student, regardless of the content. Play constantly teaches us life skills, so why not bring that same experience into every area of learning?

Raptors & Ruderals: What do We Mean by ‘Nature Play’ in an Urban Environment? | Suzanne Quinn and Jennifer Smith

With over 80% of the US population living in urban areas, we are seeing a trend toward designing and programming urban parks and playgrounds to support experiences with nature, which is a wonderful opportunity to look deeper at the meanings of, and relationships between, nature and play. These meanings and relationships are not straightforward. In this session we will share perspectives from Burnside Park in Providence, RI. We will discuss theoretical concepts and practical examples that will inspire productive critique about nature-play in urban environments. This session is suitable for anyone interested in questioning and supporting nature and play, especially designers, parks professionals, and play theorists.
Wilding Nature Play for Children and Families | Son Truong & Kumara Ward
The Ian Potter Children's WILD PLAY Garden is located in Sydney, Australia's Centennial Park, giving families an opportunity to immerse themselves in nature play. This presentation focuses on a mixed-method study on the benefits of the garden for multiple stakeholders, and its impact on children’s development and connection with nature.

Nuts & Bolts

Applying a Task-Person-Environment Approach to Designing Play Studies | Alexia Metz
We will discuss how "playing" is an interaction between "play", a fun, flexible, non-instrumental task; a "player", an individual with inherent characteristics, health, and playfulness; and "playthings" and/or "playmates" in a "playspace", creating a dynamic, instantaneous performance. When studying play, how can these elements be defined? measured? isolated?

Keeping the Recess in Indoor Recess: Creating Playable Spaces Anywhere! | Susan Caruso
How can teachers, parents and children transform a standard classroom or neglected outside area into a playable space full of exploration, satisfying collaborations, laughter and pure fun? Join a lively discussion exploring the possibilities with Susan Caruso of Sunflower Creative Arts. Leave with optimism, tools and your creative juices bubbling!

Magic of Play and Play Workshops | Yesim Kunter
What is the state of Play? Explore the worldwide changes that are shaping the Future of Play and ‘Play Workshops’ that create a lens into the understanding of our playful minds.
Bringing Play to the World of Education | Scott Bedley & Eric Saibel
Global School Play Day (GSPD) launched in ad-hoc fashion and in February 2015, with 65,000 students participated on six continents. In February 2020, the number of participants grew to over 530,000 in 75 nations. In this session, Scott Bedley and Eric Saibel provide a glimpse into the history of GSPD and engage in myth-busting around play as a central tenet to dynamic, rigorous learning for all children – and adults too!!

Adapting Play for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities | Leigh Belmont
Adults with intellectual disabilities (Autism, Down’s Syndrome, etc.) can struggle to find meaningful recreational activities after turning 21. This session will discuss how play is different for adults with intellectual disabilities, and how playmakers can change or incorporate play activities to be more inclusive for all who wish to participate.

A Community Within: Black Child Play as Response and Protest | Ariana Brazier & Julia Brazier
This informative and interactive session explores the different ways that play contributes to childhood growth, focusing on the ways that Black children living in poverty play. Participants will learn to identify and analyze the racialized and classed ways in which play is deprived as Black children age and grow.

Is Your Recess Toolbelt Equipped? | Lynn Campanella & Tom Norquist
Research has established that problem solving, communication, resiliency, self-regulation and fundamental movements competencies are some of the skills or ‘tools’ gathered when children play. We will dynamically discuss activities to support conflict resolution, foster excellent socials skills and develop physical literacy, all leading to a strong school community.

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Play Ranging with the Hidden Children: Notes from the Field | Susan Caruso & Simon Chin
Susan Caruso and Simone Chin from Sunflower Creative Arts talk about establishing a relationship of trust and play with the invisible children of South Florida’s immigrant community. Through Sunflower’s Build and Play After School program, the children and adults have evolved from feared outsiders to trusted, joyful partners in Play.

Same Game, Different Play | Emily Claypool Offord & Cathy Moore
In this educational session, participants will identify the global elements of play through participation in cultural variations of a familiar game. Through the experience, participants will process the need for safe spaces for human relationships to develop. Participants will gain concrete take-aways concerning ways that play elevates unity among children.

Green Schoolyards: Neighborhood Amenity to National Necessity | Heidi Cohen, Tiffany Briery & Sadiya Muqeeth
The Green Schoolyards movement is taking hold in communities across the country as a means of addressing climate, equity, and health challenges. Learn how The Trust for Public Land provides underserved communities with access to green schoolyards as a hub for climate resiliency, improved health and education, and community empowerment.
#WePlayChat: How to Use Social Media to Drive the Value of Play in a Virtual World | Ryan Fahey

This session is designed to share insights and information surrounding the what, how and why of the US Play Coalition #WePlayChat learning opportunities. #WePlayChat is the longest running monthly play-based Twitter chat in the world. In this session, participants will also learn about ways they can get involved in future chats and explore the future of knowledge exchange within the US Play Coalition.

Determining Obesity Rates in Children with Multiple Play Breaks in Schools Daily | Dave Farbo & Debbie Rhea

Body mass index (BMI) is typically used to determine childhood overweight and obesity. The flaw is no differentiation between muscle mass and fat mass. Bioelectrical impedance analysis (BIA) may be the better measure in children and especially in those who are more physically active. This session will present grades K-5 BMI and BIA results and discuss the use of each in children.

Listening to Children: Exploring the Legacy of Vivian Paley | Vivien Geneser & Shelley Harris

Early childhood professionals and play therapists regard the work of MacArthur Fellowship recipient, Vivian Paley, as a quintessential source of insight into the conversations of children. In this session, the presenters will portray the ways that her astute revelations of their inner worlds align with the principles of play therapy.

Furnishing for Adult Play: Developing a Social Play Space for a Multidisciplinary Research Community | Katriina Heljakka & Annika Blomberg

This study explores play-oriented design for adults in the academic workspace. The main contribution of the study is to illustrate how to combine playful attitudes with the design of a socially shared play environment and how material objects within this space can cater for play as a multidimensional activity.

Seniors and Preschoolers Design Toys Together: An Intergenerational Play Project in Finland | Katriina Heljakka

This presentation outlines an exploratory study based on Do-It-Yourself toy making, character creation and intergenerational play between preschoolers (5-6 years) and seniors (80+ years) based in Finnish Kindergarten. The study illustrates how play memories become intertwined with contemporary play practices through shared experiences of childhood, materiality and togetherness in toy-making.

Ta Dah! Circus as a Teaching Tool | Jessica Hentoff

The best way to educate is to be entertaining and the best way to entertain is to be educational! For many children, sitting still while learning is difficult. Experiential and fun learning has been proven to be more effective. Circus arts works across ages, backgrounds, and school subjects! You do not have to be an acrobat or a tightrope walker yourself to apply this fun, fantastic, flexible art form!

Pedaling to Safe Play: Factors Related to Youth Self-Efficacy for Injury Prevention Bicycle Skills | Kerry Howard, Sarah Griffin, Laura Rolke, Joy Venable & Kerry Sease

Bicycling is a common play activity, but with injury risk. It is important to understand factors related to injury prevention. Self-efficacy predicts injury prevention behaviors. We examined factors that predict self-efficacy for prevention skills in 9-11-year-olds. The findings can aid administrators in targeting areas to promote confidence for injury prevention.

Messy, Muddy, and Marvelous: Forest Schools, Education and Play | Tracey Hunter-Doniger, Lucy Davis, Lily Doniger & Danielle Lovelace

Forest Schools have been an alternative option to traditional learning in Europe for years. This session will discuss Forest Schools and the research behind the creativity, autonomy, and play found in the woods. Researchers and practitioners with varying backgrounds will present their findings.
Creating a School Vision of Play and Wellness: The Importance of a Balanced Approach to Education | Michael Hynes

As schools, we are remiss if we don't ensure that children, especially our youngest, are learning in ways that create emotional health, because, in fact, a strong emotional basis is the groundwork for the academics that will follow. The question becomes, how do we create a vision and mission that embody a balanced approach to education with play and wellness as its main driver?

The Playful Classroom: Teachable Moments on a Playful Walkabout | Julie P. Jones & Jed Dearybury

Learning must be meaningful, relevant and fun. We believe play is the key to making magic happen regardless of the setting, regardless of the student, regardless of the content. Play constantly teaches us life skills, so why not bring that same experience into every area of learning?

The Relationship Between Play and Relationships | Rusty Keeler, Claude Stephens & Megan Dickerson

Holding space for play in our communities is built upon developing relationships and then continuously working to improve them. That isn’t always straightforward work and it doesn’t always go as planned. This session will explore how the concept of emergent strategies supports relationship development and what might spring from that. Plan on being part of the conversation.

Magic of Play and Play Workshops | Yesim Kunter

What is the state of Play? Explore the worldwide changes that are shaping the Future of Play and ‘Play Workshops’ that create a lens into the understanding of our playful minds.

Designing Successful Play Partnerships: PlayBuild + Tulane University | Angela Kyle

PlayBuild is a neighborhood non-profit, providing play-based learning to low-income kids in New Orleans. For 7 years, PlayBuild has leveraged partnerships to drive growth. This session will define the key ingredients of a successful strategic partnership through the lens of PlayBuild’s collaboration with Tulane University’s Taylor Center for Design Thinking.

Advocating for Risky Play | Debra Lawrence

Teacher and administrator fears are interfering with children’s development across all domains, but most significantly in the large motor domain. This session explores these fears and provides an alternative approach to engaging children in challenging physical play that is supervised and supported through intentional teacher interactions.

The American Association for Promoting the Child’s Right to Play - IPA USA Information Session | Debra Lawrence

IPA USA is an Affiliate of IPA World, a nonprofit organization focused on advocating for the child’s right to play. This session will introduce you to IPA USA and provide you with information on the resources and tools that can assist you in advocating for playful learning.

Lost Opportunities: How Teaching Interferes with Learning | Debra Lawrence

The purpose of early childhood education is to provide opportunities for children to acquire the dispositions of learning required for all aspects of success. This session brings to light the unintended consequences of teaching and provides strategies for increasing learning in your classroom.


Our session will highlight the Youth Outdoor Policy Playbook, a coalition effort, which is working to empower grassroots and grassstoppers leaders to work with State Legislators across the country to pass legislation to give more youth and families the opportunity to have outdoor opportunities.
Empowering LGBTQ+ Youth Through Meaningful Play and Recreation Opportunities | Stephen Lewis
This session provides an overview of how play and recreation spaces can serve as both affirmative and dangerous contexts in the development of LGBTQ+ youth. Participants will explore concrete strategies to support youth in navigating constraints so that they can engage in meaningful activities promoting health, wellness, and authentic community membership.

Joining In: Parent Perspectives on Specially Designed Inclusive Play | Rachel Lott
Providing inclusive services for children with disabilities, Foundations Pediatric Therapy works with children in a natural recreational environment of the world’s largest kids sporting facility. This presentation will highlight a study of the impact of these inclusive services from a parent/caregiver’s perspective.

Creativity and Outdoor Play – The Recipe for all Children | Laura Maler & Debbie Rhea
Across the country, many children are limited in their play opportunities which inhibits their creativity skills. This session will explore how multiple outdoor play breaks daily allow students to embrace and explore creativity, as well as share ideas for promoting creative unstructured play across different types and sizes of playgrounds and landscapes.

Examining the Link Between Recess Quality and Classroom Behavior in Elementary School Children | William Massey, Alexandra Szarabajko, Janelle Thalken, Laura Neilson & John Geldhof
The purpose of the current study was to examine the relationship between recess quality and teacher reported behavioral outcomes in children. Recess quality significantly predicted adaptive behaviors (b= 0.321, p= .030) which consisted of social skills, adaptability, leadership, study skills, and functional communication. Implications of the findings will be discussed.

Yes, And: The Power of Teaching With Improvisational Play | Jennifer McGinnis
Applied Improv is a growing international movement and is being used in hundreds of applications. This session will discuss what Applied Improv is, how it is being used, engage the audience using applied improv techniques, and overall discuss the power of teaching utilizing the power of play and laughter.

Documenting Children’s Play: Including the Child’s Voice | Christine McLean
What happens when children are asked to co-construct documentation about play? In this study, educators invited children to reflect upon their play and then document their interpretations of the events. The findings underscored children’s ability to be thoughtful and reflective about their own play experiences and the play of others.

Applying a Task-Person-Environment Approach to Designing Play Studies | Alexia Metz
We will discuss how "playing" is an interaction between "play", a fun, flexible, non-instrumental task; a "player", an individual with inherent characteristics, health, and playfulness; and "playthings" and/or "playmates" in a "playspace", creating a dynamic, instantaneous performance. When studying play, how can these elements be defined? measured? isolated?

Encouraging Time Outdoors in Naturalized Learning Environments in S. Carolina Childcare Facilities | Robin Moore, Daniel Jost & Misty Pearson
Learn about a multi-pronged effort to promote physical activity, healthy eating, and learning by improving the design and management of outdoor environments at South Carolina childcare facilities. We’ll discuss training resources developed, pilot projects completed, and a review of how childcare licensing regulations support time outdoors in naturalized learning environments.
SESSIONS BY SPEAKER’S NAME, CONTINUED

**Playful Reading: Literacy Through Play | Nichole Myles & Starr Jordan**

Literacy skills are a key indicator of future success for young children. This session will explore the many options for using play-based methods to enhance literacy while engaging young children and supporting curricular outcomes in or out of the classroom.

**Bourbon and Bots: Educating Older Adults About Play | Nichole Myles & Starr Jordan**

This session will demonstrate to attendees a method for reaching older adults through a curated (and delicious!) approach to play. Using CML’s Bourbon and Bots event as a model, this presentation outlines unique models for engaging older adults and improving their vernacular for play, technology and the latest research on why it all matters.

**Play, Dementia & Alzheimers: Life and Fun Following Diagnosis | Delfina Newton**

Dementia and Alzheimer’s are not new but they are becoming an ever increasing population that require play to help improve and maintain functional skills necessary for daily living. These individuals and their caregivers need play in order to sustain self on daily basis and thrive physically, mentally, and spiritually.

**The All New Voice of Play Website: How to Maximize This Exciting New Resource | Tom Norquist & Deanna Tomaselli**

Join IPEMA’s Voice of Play team: president and founder Tom Norquist, marketing committee chair Brian Johnson and PR representative Deanna Tomaselli as they take you through the all-new Voice of Play website and Facebook group, and how you can use it to learn, share and engage with fellow play experts and enthusiasts.

**How Principles in Play Connect to Pedagogy in Gifted Education and Talent Development | Angela Novak & Sylvan Taylor**

Gifted learners need appropriate academic challenge, and teachers work tirelessly to meet students’ needs. But don’t forget to play! This session will share how play overlaps with innovation, creativity, talent development, and gifted education. Participants will leave with an understanding of how to align playwork principles with classroom pedagogy.

**Playing the Eduspeak Speak Game: Tips on Aligning Lessons with Play Principles | Angela Novak**

Does “learning through play” raise eyebrows at your school? Despite research on the benefits of play, there can be a disconnect between research and administrative expectations. This session reinforces the importance of play, through educational strategies and activities that utilize both play principles and eduspeak that appeals to various stakeholders.

**Playing Through Metaphor and Storytelling | Megan Oteri**

In this hands-on, minds-on playful learning STEAM workshop, participants will experience the power of using metaphors and storytelling. Participants will create models of playful learning and what it means to them, tell the story of the model they created, and connect and discuss connections between other models in the group.

**Changing the 2020 World of Play | Yvonne Overmaat**

The time in which we were only able to use traditional equipment is a thing of the past. How the usage of movement detection, radar technology, LEDs and audio actually adds to play value. Can you imagine learning binary counting with your grandma outside? Or tracking your own soccer skills?

**Free Aquatic Play in a Controlled World | Melinda Pearson**

Reframe the current ideologies of structured play and show how with the right aquatic play features and a thoughtful layout, kids can find the freedom they need for discovery within the safe environment they deserve.
Child Play Network Influences on Physical Literacy in Mexican-Heritage Colonias | Tyler Prochnow, Haley Delgado, Megan Patterson, Joseph Sharkey & M. Renée Umstattd Meyer
Does a child’s perception of who they play with impact their physical literacy? This study aims to understand associations between child play networks and self-reported physical literacy scores among a sample of Mexican-heritage children living in colonias along the Texas-Mexico border.

Raptors & Ruderals: What do We Mean by ‘Nature Play’ in an Urban Environment? | Suzanne Quinn and Jennifer Smith
With over 80% of the US population living in urban areas, we are seeing a trend toward designing and programming urban parks and playgrounds to support experiences with nature, which is a wonderful opportunity to look deeper at the meanings of, and relationships between, nature and play. These meanings and relationships are not straightforward. In this session we will share perspectives from Burnside Park in Providence, RI. We will discuss theoretical concepts and practical examples that will inspire productive critique about nature-play in urban environments. This session is suitable for anyone interested in questioning and supporting nature and play, especially designers, parks professionals, and play theorists.

Unstructured Play in Schools is Linked to Positive Health Benefits for Teachers | Debbie Rhea, Laura Maler & Dave Farbo
Much of our energy as adults is focused on increasing unstructured play opportunities in schools for children. We never stop to think how teachers might benefit from these unstructured play breaks also. This presentation will outline how four unstructured play breaks daily can be as beneficial for teachers as children.

Movement in Middle School – Application of the Transtheoretical Model for Physical Activity | Laura Rolke, Kerry Howard, Sarah Griffin, Tracy Waters & Kerry Sease
The transtheoretical model is a commonly used public health model to determine intervention readiness for behavior change. In this study, we applied it to middle school students to understand physical activity attainment, intention, and self-efficacy, but it can be adapted and used for other health behaviors.

In Defense of Play, Again | Colette Ryan
Why is play not valued? When did we forget that we all need to play? This presentation will discuss the definition of play, the benefits of play, the types of play and how play benefits learning.

Play and Family | Iryna Sharaievska & Bob Brookover
Family recreation is an important part of family life and a crucial part of healthy communities. This session will outline challenges of and opportunities for developing programs focused on the entire family. The aim of this session is to explore ways to create healthier and stronger families through family recreation.

Movement & Learning: What’s the Connection? | Debbie Smith
The purpose of this presentation will be to present evidence regarding the link between physical activity and academic success. This presentation will provide the play advocates with irrefutable evidence as to the importance of physical activity and it’s the connection to learning.

PlaySchool: How to Infuse Play into K12 Education | Doug Smith
PlaySchool will explore ideas and strategies on how to infuse play into the whole school environment. Participants will look at different times during the day that play can be infused such as morning announcements, during instruction, recess, physical education, movement interventions, and after school events.

The Influence of Preschool Educators’ Beliefs About Play-Based Learning on Instructional Delivery | Abigail Stephan, Abigail Baker & Amanda Bennett
An unexplored, implicit finding from a previous study demonstrated that preschool instructors’ conceptions of play-based learning varied, leading to differences in instruction. Following this thread in the current
"As a parent, if I can...": Parents' Perception and Design of Children’s Out of School Time | Bengi Sullu
Research reveals three major forces in how New York City parents’ shape their perceptions and practices regarding children’s free time 1) involvement of institutions and actors 2) values and beliefs 3) spatial, geographical, material and temporal aspects. Play advocacy facilitates parent accounts of facilitators supporting and barriers against free play.

Leisure & Late Adulthood: Examining the Benefits of Participation During Retirement | Thomas Sweeney & Jennifer Zorotovich
This research examines the recreation and leisure habits of older adults and determine their influence on contemporary aging. Specifically, researchers sought information on the influence of recreation and leisure on personal and social identity development, formation of social groups and quality of life during the transition from the workforce to retirement.

National Study of Playgrounds | Meghan Talarowski
The National Study of Playgrounds (NSP), a joint research project of Studio Ludo and Dr. Deborah Cohen, is the first observational study of playgrounds to compare the impacts of playground design on play behavior and physical activity across gender, age group, and socio-economic status.

Wilding Nature Play for Children and Families | Son Truong & Kumara Ward
The Ian Potter Children’s WILD PLAY Garden is located in Sydney, Australia’s Centennial Park, giving families an opportunity to immerse themselves in nature play. This presentation focuses on a mixed-method study on the benefits of the garden for multiple stakeholders, and its impact on children’s development and connection with nature.

Guide to Implementing Play Streets in Rural Communities: A Tool to Increase Active Play | M. Renée Umstattd Meyer, Micah Holcombe, Tyler Prochnow, Keshia Pollack Porter
Play Streets is one solution to create safe, free opportunities for active play. The “Guide to Implementing Play Streets in Rural Communities” provides recommendations to community groups on how to plan and implement Play Streets in rural communities based on first-hand experiences from diverse community partners.

Do They Even Know About Play?: Ways to Help Young Adults Reconnect with Play | Heather VonBank, Brad Putman, Erica Walker & Pam Davis
When educators use inventive and playful pedagogies, students can develop a deeper understanding of theories, systems, and effective ways to work with others. In this panel discussion, four educators will discuss ways they help their students playfully explore arts education, graphic communication, engineering, construction, and recreational activities.

Local Sources for Play Space Materials and Labor: It’s the Design That Counts | Trevor Zahara
A Consultancy Approach to Playground Development. This is the story of 4 Projects that are either repurposing what they have and adding to it or utilizing local building materials to build their own natural materials playgrounds. Thinking outside the box and not buying off the shelf.

Building an Outdoor Classroom Anywhere | Farrah Zweig
Every environment can be an outdoor classroom and any material can be the vehicle to enhance the student’s experience from preschoolers to graduates. Explore the six factors furthering learning environments: sunshine, physical activity, executive functioning, risk taking and safe play, socialization, as well as appreciation and interconnectedness with nature.
US PLAY COALITION STEERING COMMITTEE

Jodie Adams - NRPA Past President, Missouri State University Faculty, Retired Director of Springfield - Greene County Park Board

Lawrence Allen, PhD - Professor, Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management, Clemson University

Stephanie Garst - Executive Director, US Play Coalition (ex-officio)

Jeff Hallo - Interim Co-Chair of the US Play Coalition, Interim Chair & Professor of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management, Clemson University

Stephen Hamelin - President & CEO, Vortex Aquatic Structures

Teri Hendy - President, Site Masters Inc.

Ingrid Kanics - Kanics Inclusive Design Services LLC

Ken Kutska - Executive Director, International Playground Safety Institute, LLC

Martin LeBlanc - Principal at LBC Action, co-founder and VP emeritus for the board of the Children and Nature Network

Sarah Lisiecki - Marketing Communications Specialist, BCI Burke

Fran Mainella - Chair Emeritus of the US Play Coalition, Former National Park Service Director and Visiting Scholar Clemson University

Tony Malkusak - President and Landscape Architect for Abundant Playscapes, Inc.

Tom Norquist - Senior Vice President, Innovation and Business Development, PlayCore

Eric O'Brien - Chairman, O'Brien & Sons, Inc.

Lynn Pinoniemi - Director of Marketing, Landscape Structures

Linda Rhoads - Executive Director, Alliance for Childhood

Peggy Riggs - Co-Director of Brio2 Solutions, Retired Deputy Supt of Springfield Public Schools

Dolores Stegelin, PhD - Professor, Teacher Education, Eugene T. Moore School of Education, Clemson University

Michael Suk, MD - Chairman of Orthopaedic Surgery, Geisinger Health System, Danville, PA

Meghan Talarowski - Founder and Director, Studio Ludo

Heather Von Bank, PhD - Chair and Associate Professor of Family Consumer Science at Minnesota State University-Mankato

Brett Wright, PhD - Co-Chair of the US Play Coalition and Dean of the College of Behavioral, Social and Health Sciences at Clemson University
**HELLO FROM OUR SPONSORS**

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**PlayCore invites you to attend our complimentary webinars!**

- **May 25-29:** Playground Maintenance
- **June 1:** Scholarly Scoop: A Virtual Chat
- **June 15-19:** ADA Standards for Playgrounds

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**THE SCHOLARLY SCOOP**

Family and Youth Summertime Physical Activity during COVID-19

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**PLAYCORE SCHOLAR SERIES**

SESSION 1: Youth Advocacy for Better and Equitable Physical Activity Environments  
Thursday, June 13  
8:00 – 9:35 a.m. EDT

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May 25-29: *Outdoor Music*  
June 11: Scholar Series  
June 25: "Water Works for Everyone"

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A very special thank you is in order for so many who helped us plan, pivot, and pull off our first ever online Play Conference and others who helped to manage all the other tasks, programs, events, publications related to the work of the US Play Coalition this year:

Shawna Cass, Bianca Schuster, Lori Kinley, Ryan Fahey, Jennifer Garcia (2020 Marsha A. Ward Play Fellow), Laura Huff (2020 Brantley Fellow), Lindsey Watley, Haley Schueppert, Madison Wade, Fiona Kane, Aamir Simms, Allison Killinger, Hannah Snider, Annette Parker, Tonique Dennis, Marsha Ward, LK McCallum, Pamela Morgan, Sharon Franks, Angee Pearson, CU PRTM & so many more! Much gratitude to all our silent auction donors and patrons too!

Once a month, social media savvy play advocates meet in cyberspace to “chat” about a current issue or trend in play. Launched in January 2016, #WePlayChat is the longest running monthly play-related Twitter chat in the world! Our #WePlayChat has drawn participation from NINE COUNTRIES spanning 5 continents— and no one ever left the comforts of their home or office.

Join the conversations around the value of play during our #WePlayChat. This FREE professional learning opportunity is a great way to connect with fellow play enthusiasts, teachers and experts from the across the globe! Check out some of our past topics at http://bit.ly/WePlayChat and find us on Twitter @USPlayCoalition.
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