TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME ........................................................................................................ 5
KEYNOTE SPEAKER .......................................................................................... 7
HEALTH AND PLAY INSTITUTE ...................................................................... 7
KEYNOTE PANEL .......................................................................................... 9
FEATURED SESSIONS .................................................................................. 10
SPECIAL PROGRAMS ................................................................................ 12
RESEARCH, EDUCATION & POSTER SESSIONS ....................................... 13
2023 CONFERENCE DATES .......................................................................... 13
IN MEMORIAM ............................................................................................ 14
SESSION THEMES ....................................................................................... 15
SCHEDULE .................................................................................................. 16
SESSIONS BY THEME ................................................................................ 22
SESSIONS BY SPEAKER’S NAME ............................................................... 30
US PLAY COALITION STEERING COMMITTEE ........................................... 38
GIVING THANKS .......................................................................................... 39
#WEPLAYCHAT ............................................................................................ 39
SPONSORS AND PLAY COLLABORATORS .................................................. 43
Founded in 2009, the US Play Coalition is a partnership that promotes the value of play throughout life. We are an international network of individuals and organizations that recognize play as a valuable and necessary part of a healthy and productive life.

Housed in Clemson University’s Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management department, part of the College of Behavioral, Social and Health Sciences, the coalition hosts conferences and educational trainings, encourages and conducts research and provides avenues of communication about the value of play worldwide.

Our membership comes from a cross-section of industries and professions – 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.

Learn more about us and get involved at usplaycoalition.org.

CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS (CEU)

Clemson University awards up to 1.5 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for your participation in Play Conference sessions. If you would like to request CEUs from Clemson University for your participation, be sure to grab a CEU form to be filled out before and after each session you attend and turn in the completed form at the end of the conference. Your CEU request will be reviewed and the number of credits submitted to Clemson University for approval.

Once approved by the university, you will receive a separate email with payment details (there is a $12 CEU processing fee). You will receive a PDF of your CEUs. Please allow 4-6 weeks for processing.
As your hosts for our 2022 IN PERSON Conference on the Value of Play, we are excited to welcome you BACK HOME TO CLEMSON for the main event!! Whether this is your first or thirteenth 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.

As we kickoff for our first IN PERSON Play Conference since 2019, there is 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.

This year, our theme is “THE NATURE OF PLAY.” It is a PLAY on words, allowing for broad interpretation by presenters! As always, the play conference will explore play across the lifespan, play in the workplace, play in the classroom, play in NATURE and address universal issues of access, equity, inclusion and more.

We continue to incorporate phenomenal speakers and resources with unique opportunities for learning through play! 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 70 headliners, educational sessions, and research symposium presentations, 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 2022 Play Conference attendees to help you connect with PLAY colleagues, share resources and engage around the VALUE of play year-round!!!

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

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
March 16, 2022

Dear conference attendees:

On behalf of Clemson University, welcome back to campus for the annual Conference on the Value of Play! We are so happy to have you WITH US again.

I am proud of Clemson’s continued leadership role in research and education on the very important topic of play and thank you for choosing to spend a few days with us to focus on the amazing work of the U.S. Play Coalition.

This year’s “THE NATURE OF PLAY” theme resonates with me because I am fortunate to live and work at a university that provides so many opportunities to remain active and engaged - AND out in nature. We all benefit from the important work you do, so I hope you will be enriched by this conference, its renowned speakers, and the networking and professional development opportunities it offers.

Enjoy your time on campus and in the greater Clemson community, and thanks again for all that you do as researchers, educators and facilitators!

Sincerely,

James P. Clements, Ph.D.
President
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

J. DREW LANHAM, PhD

“PASSION AS PLAYTIME — WHY LOVING WHAT WE DO CAN SAVE US”

Alumni Distinguished Professor of Wildlife Ecology, Master Teacher and Certified Wildlife Biologist – Forestry and Environmental Conservation Department. Clemson University

His published writings — “The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man’s Love Affair with Nature,” “Sparrow Envy: Field Guide to Birds and Lesser Beasts,” and numerous essays and articles — chronicle his experience as a Black man raised in South Carolina with a fascination for wild places and the feathered creatures that inhabit them.

HEALTH AND PLAY INSTITUTE

The 2022 Health & PLAY Institute is a half-day series featuring leading health professionals and researchers from across the country. The institute is part of the 2022 IN PERSON Conference on the Value of Play: THE NATURE OF PLAY.

Building on the inaugural Online Health & PLAY Institute, the second annual Health & PLAY Institute (HAPI22) kicks off with lunch on Monday, April 4.

This year, we will examine the synergies between play and health through the lens of the conference theme, THE NATURE OF PLAY.

The Therapeutic Benefit of Nature PLAY in Acute and Chronic Pain

Michael Suk, MD, JD, MPH, MBA, Chief Physician Officer, Geisinger System Services

Distraction means shifting or moving your attention away. It does not mean that the pain is no longer there. It just means that you use your brain to focus your attention onto something else. You can put your pain in the background and focus instead on playing games, counting, using breathing techniques and many other activities. Learn how we merge technology and techniques in the management of acute and chronic pain in orthopaedic conditions.

The Nature of Play

Stuart Brown, MD, Founder of the National Institute for Play

Looking at life itself through the lens of Nature, even single celled billion year old bacteria have the capacity to…cooperate together and thus better survive. And 500 million year old Octopi just may… play. So as we look at play precursors, and then play itself as it manifests itself most fully in our species. What messages does nature have to provide us as we view this long term vista of play?
Pushing Through a Fixed Notion of Play
Brooke Buckley, MD, FACS, Chief Medical Officer, Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital

We are good at making quick judgements. Those same judgements cause all-or-none thinking. Commonly adults perceive play as childish, unbecoming, or underserved. We will explore concepts of play and ways that we can evolve those concepts to unlock play’s true potential to bring on successful adulting.

National Study of Playgrounds
Deborah A. Cohen, MD, MPH, Research Scientist, Kaiser Permanente
Meghan Talarowski, PLA, ASLA, CPSI, Founder and Executive Director, Studio Ludo

In the summer of 2021, we used direct observation to collect play behavior data on almost 33,000 people in 60 playgrounds in 10 major US cities. The findings are part of the National Study of Playgrounds, a partnership between researchers at Studio Ludo, Kaiser Permanente, and the RAND Corporation.

Environmental Determinants of Emotional Intelligence: Role of Nature Play and Greenspace Exposure
Matthew Browning, PhD, Assistant Professor, Parks Recreation and Tourism Management & Director of the Virtual Reality & Nature Lab, Clemson University

We found evidence that emotional intelligence in young adults growing up in relatively lower-income areas was positively associated with cumulative neighborhood greenness around childhood homes. If research also finds salutary effects of greenness among general or specific populations – and if a causal link exists between nature exposure and emotional intelligence – then neighborhood greening might help children’s future personal and professional success through enhancing their ability to manage emotions.
KEYNOTE PANEL

POWER PLAYER PANEL: THE NATURE OF PLAY
Four incredible thought leaders tackle the 2022 theme, THE NATURE OF PLAY, for our annual Power PLAYer Panel.

FRAN MAINELLA
Chair Emeritus, US Play Coalition & Former National Park Service Director
Fran P. Mainella was the first woman Director of the United States National Park Service and served from 2001-2006. She is a Visiting Scholar at Clemson University in the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management and Co-Chair of the US Play Coalition. She also currently serves as Treasurer for the Children and Nature Network Board of Directors. She is also a board member for the National Park Trust and an international speaker on the Value of Play and Reconnecting with the Outdoors.

DEEPTI ADLAKHA, PhD
Director, Natural Learning Initiative
Deepti Adlakha, PhD, is Director of NLI and Professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning, working closely with co-founder Nilda Cosco, Ph.D., Director of Programs. Dr. Deepti Adlakha comes from the School of Natural and Built Environment, Queen's University Belfast, UK. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Architecture, a master’s in Urban Design, and a Ph.D. in Public Health from the Brown School, Washington University, St. Louis. Her interests lie at the intersection of relationships and disparities between the natural environment and human health.

SARAH MILLIGAN-TOFFLER
President & CEO, Children & Nature Network
Sarah Milligan-Toffler brings her passion for the healing power of nature to the Children & Nature Network. She works with the Board and staff to establish a vision and plan for improving equitable access to the benefits of nature across the U.S. Sarah is the recipient of the 2017 George B. Hartzog, Jr. Environmental Awards Program, Fran P. Mainella Award for sustained and innovative achievement by a woman in the management of North America’s natural, historic and cultural heritage. She earned a Bachelor of Philosophy with a minor in Women’s Studies from Miami University.

DEBORA B. WISNESKI, PhD
Early Childhood Education, University of Nebraska at Omaha & president of The Association for the Study of Play
Dr. Wisneski has taught for over 30 years at the preschool, kindergarten, and higher education levels. She is co-author/ co-editor of texts and journals such as the text Reconsidering the role of play in early childhood: Toward social justice and equity (2018) and The Developmental Benefits of Playgrounds (2004). Her research includes how educators can support children’s play in educational settings. Wisneski leads a team of teacher educators and researchers at the University of Nebraska Omaha on play and assisted in the creation of the UNO PLAY Lab.
FEATURED SESSIONS

Play is for a Lifetime, What is YOUR play personality?
Stuart Brown, MD & Tom Norquist
*Sunday, April 3rd, 2:15pm, Auditorium*
Are you activating your own play personality? This session will provide insights to identify spontaneous joy and deep engagement as your play personality. Learn from the animal worlds and from some 6000 play interviews that play personalities of kids, friends and family demonstrate some of the Nature of Play.

The Playful Life: The Power of Play in our Every Day | Julie Jones, PhD
Jed Dearybury
*Sunday, April 3rd, 3:45pm, Auditorium*
As play professionals, we create spaces, conduct meetings, teach students, & advocate for the power of play. But how much time do we dedicate for playful living in our own lives? Explore why we all need play and how play can occur anywhere, anytime, and with anything.

COVID Roadblocks Disrupting Play Opportunities: Fighting Back
Deborah Rhea, PhD
*Sunday, April 3rd, 4:45pm, Auditorium*
The LiiNK Project, a 60-minute recess intervention, has been implemented successfully across diverse learning environments to improve whole child development. Unfortunately, state and local school officials are using COVID as a roadblock to nature. This session will focus on how to tackle these continuous roadblocks through health and physical literacy components.

The Global Healing Curriculum Project | Edgar Klugman, PhD, Dee Stegelin, PhD, Debora Wisneski, PhD & Walter F. Drew, EdD
*Monday, April 4th, 10:00am, Auditorium*
The Global Healing Curriculum Project, directed by Dr. Edgar Klugman, Holocaust survivor and Wheelock College Emeritus, will be presented in a panel format. Play-based community strategies for relationship building across the generations will be presented. The session is dedicated to the important role of play in healing relationships impacted by trauma.

Every Child Deserves to Play...Baseball | Jill Moore White & Stephanie Davis
*Monday, April 4th, 11:00am, Auditorium*
The Miracle League serves over 250,000 children and adults with all abilities. Presently there are 315 Miracle League Organizations across the country including Canada & Puerto Rico. Our goal is to build an inclusive complex and program in every city so individuals with special needs across the country will have the same opportunity to play baseball.
Playful Pandemic - How Play Clubs, Nature Play, and Extra Recess Are Helping Students Thrive! | Kevin Stinehart  
*Monday, April 4th, 12:00pm, Auditorium*

Playful Pandemic will explore how one school thrived through the last two years of the pandemic by adding extra recesses, Play Clubs before and after school, and nature play. The results they’ve had are undeniable - decreased office referrals, deceased mental health issues, increased sense of well-being, less social isolation, and increased happiness school-wide!

5 Resources to Foster Family Engagement through Nature-Based Play  
Daniel Hatcher & Seth Shelby  
*Tuesday, April 5th, 9:45am, Auditorium*

Join the Alliance for a Healthier Generation for an interactive workshop featuring free resources and strategies to engage the whole family in wellness. Attendees will learn (and practice) nature-based activities to support physical, social, and emotional health.

Active Play: What Role Did it Have in our Evolutionary Past and How Vital is it for our Future? | Darryl Edwards  
*Tuesday, April 5th, 10:45am, Auditorium*

It will be proposed that although most of us are aware that play is important for children, we are less familiar with the underlying evolutionary mechanisms that make it useful for mind and body in the present.

Playing While Black: The Use of Storytelling For Play Inequity  
Courtashia Felton & Corliss Outley, PhD  
*Tuesday, April 5th, 11:45am, Auditorium*

The workshop will cover foundational concepts central to advancing play equity including an overview of the difference between equity and equality in play setting, the root causes of play inequities (both historical and contemporary), and the impact of implicit bias and racism on current developmental outcomes among Black youth.
MAKING ADAPTIVE SPORTS ACCESSIBLE TO ALL
Monday, April 4th, 5:00pm

Jasmine Townsend, PhD
Jeffrey Townsend, MS
Mckenna Woodhead & Marsden Miller

Individuals with a disability participate less frequently in recreational and sport activities compared with those without disabilities. Adaptive sport is one mechanism for improving the confidence, maximizing the physical abilities, improving emotional well-being, and increasing the quality of life for individuals with a disability.

This session, at the Clemson University Tennis Facility*, will give attendees hands-on opportunities to learn more about wheelchair tennis specifically and adaptive sports more broadly. Sport wheelchairs and tennis racquets will be provided during this session.

The purpose of this session is to improve attendees’ understanding of adaptive sport opportunities and expand their knowledge about disability awareness. During this session facilitators will teach the sport of wheelchair tennis. Attendees will receive a baseline of knowledge in the sport, how to teach it, learn the rules of the game, understand the mechanics of how to move the wheelchair to maximize efficiency, and the technical skills related to the game of wheelchair tennis through a hands-on experience.

PLUS - Demos with the Clemson University Virtual Reality and Nature Lab! Explore nature through a virtual lens!

*Shuttles will be provided to the Clemson University Tennis Facility. Light refreshments and other activities will be available.

In partnership with the Multicultural Play Therapy Center at UNC Charlotte, we are offering the Play Therapy Forum to shed light on the therapeutic power of play.

“There is more evidence now than ever that children need play in order to live healthy lives, and play therapy is improving children’s mental health and overall well-being all over the world,” according to the Association for Play Therapy.

The Play Therapy Forum will help kick off the conference on Sunday, April 3. Sessions include:

- Healing from Trauma: Play Therapy Principles for Intergenerational Relationship and Connection | Jennifer Geddes Hall, PhD, LPC/S, ACS, RPT & Jill Shelnut, PhD
- Time for a Reboot: Prescribing Nature Play Therapy for Emotional Wellness for Children, Teens and Families | Jamie Lynn Langley, LCSW, RPT-S
- The Power of Play Therapy | Jessie Guest, PhD
- Understanding Play Therapy, the Barriers, and How to Break Through | Jill Van Horne, PhD, LCMHC-S, NCPSC, NCC, RPT-S, EAGALA Certified

There will also be a poster session by graduate students studying Play Therapy on April 3rd at 3:15pm.

*full descriptions of individual sessions included later in the program

Eligible participants may earn APT and NBCC credits (additional fee required). Approved Providers: APT Approved Provider #07-191 and NBCC Approved Provider #4208
The Play Research Symposium provides opportunities for a scholarly exchange surrounding play. Our Research Symposium Sessions will include several 8-10 minute presentations grouped by theme with a brief Q&A to follow the series.

Educational Sessions are opportunities to share and discover innovative play strategies and play research. They are more interactive and aimed at practitioners. These Educational Sessions are 45 minutes long including Q&A.

Poster Presentations will display from Sunday through the Tuesday closing banquet. Poster presenters will accompany their posters during the pre-banquet reception on Tuesday. Posters this year will feature:

- Adult at Play Therapy | Aries Lane & Jessie Guest
- Adventures are the Best Way to Learn! | Jill Shelnut, Kevin Stinehart & Peter Dargatz
- Connecting Urban Youth with Nature through a Mobile Nature Clinic | Palmer Garrison, Yoan Penev & Jessie Guest
- Get More Kids on Bikes | Charise Stephens
- Integrating Clay in PLAY | D’Arion Johnston
- Medical Student instruction to grades K-5 on Healthy Choices | Krishna Shah & Kristen Wright
- Nature Based Play as a Counseling Intervention, Benefits and Tips for Integration | Emily Hartung
- Teaching: It’s All Fun and Games | Sarah Rogozinskk
- The Effects of Nature-Based Play Therapy on Education | Allison Webb & Kamira Pillay
- The importance of community-based play programs for children of low socioeconomic status | Kaitlyn Jones
- Using Table-Top Role Playing Games to Develop Social Health in Children and Adolescents | Erika Comfort
IN MEMORIAM

JOAN ALMON, JOE L. FROST, ERIC O’BRIEN & DOUG YOUNGBLOOD

Since we were all together at our 2019 conference, the US Play Coalition family has lost FOUR play champions...

Joan Almon (July 14, 2019) co-founded the Alliance for Childhood in 1999 and served as its director until 2012. We were honored to have Joan Almon as one of our founders and champions of the US Play Coalition, collaborating with her Alliance for Childhood on many initiatives in our first decade. She wrote and lectured extensively on child development, early education, and the need to restore play for children and youth. We were blessed that she and her husband Clopper were with us for the 10th Anniversary Conference in April 2019.

Joe L. Frost, EdD (February 17, 2020), was one of America’s leading experts on play and playgrounds with a global reputation as the contemporary father of play advocacy. He was influential in the creation of the US Play Coalition and offered the opening session of the 2009 Summit on the Value of Play (the precursor to this conference). He served as honorary chair of our Play Conference for the first ten years. What a treat to have had Joe and Betty with us in 2017 when we awarded Joe our inaugural research award named in his honor.

Eric O’Brien (January 7, 2021) spent much of his life dedicated to the advancement of public parks. He volunteered countless hours promoting and developing parks and recreation at local, regional and national levels. He engaged with and advised numerous nonprofits and national organizations. We were honored to have Eric as one of our founders and champions – and blessed that he was with us for the 10th Anniversary Conference in April 2019. A mentor to so many and a gentleman to all, we have lost a true giant in our field.

Doug Youngblood (December 22, 2021) was a longtime friend, supporter and play advocate. His passion for parks, kids, community and PLAY will live on through his efforts and contributions. Doug’s most recent gift to the US Play Coalition was his work to develop the new Partners for PLAY initiative, with his beloved hometown of Charlotte, NC as the pilot location. He was with us in 2019 to announce its launch. We are forever grateful to Doug for his vision, kindness and generosity.

In our grief, we find inspiration in the work and the wisdom about play that Joan, Joe, Eric and Doug 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.

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.
## SUNDAY, APRIL 3RD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIMES</th>
<th>AUDITORIUM</th>
<th>SEMINAR ROOM I</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Registration desk opens at 8:00am. Silent Auction open through 9:45am Tuesday</td>
<td>Posters display in Grand Hallway begins (continues Sunday through luncheon on Tuesday)</td>
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<td>10:00am-10:45am</td>
<td>Research Symposium Session 1:</td>
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<td>• “Playful Literacy Instruction: Making Learning Joyful and Culturally Responsive” – S. Peck</td>
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<td>• &quot;The Nature of Play in Schools: Teachers Leading the Way&quot; – D. Wisneski, A. Steiner</td>
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<td>• “Parent Motivations for Enrolling Young Children in Early Enrichment Programs” – R. McGovern</td>
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<td>11:00am-11:45am</td>
<td>Research Symposium Session 2:</td>
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<td>• “Körperkoordinationstest fur Kinder (KTK): Assessing motor coordination differences in childrens’ recess” – D. Campbell-Pierre &amp; D. Rhea</td>
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<td>• “The impact of multiple recesses on limb-movement patterns to strengthen cognition” – K. Webb, D. Rhea</td>
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<td>• &quot;Recess Policy Implementation: Beliefs and Perceptions of Site-Based Decisions-Makers” – C. Brickman</td>
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<td>12:00pm-2:00pm</td>
<td>KEYNOTE AND LUNCH (BALLROOM): Passion as Playtime — Why Loving What We Do Can Save Us</td>
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<td>J. Drew Lanham</td>
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<td>2:15pm-3:00pm</td>
<td>FEATURED:</td>
<td>“Play and Beauty in the Eyes of the Beholders”</td>
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<td>“Play is for a Lifetime, What is YOUR play personality?”</td>
<td>C. Gentry, P. Wilson</td>
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<td>S. Brown, T. Norquist</td>
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<td>3:15pm-3:45pm</td>
<td>Refreshment Break with Play Therapy Students’ Poster Session</td>
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<td>“The Playful Life: The Power of Play in our Every Day”</td>
<td>C. Ramstetter, C. Brickman</td>
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<td>J. Jones, J. Dearybury</td>
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<td>4:45pm-5:30pm</td>
<td>FEATURED:</td>
<td>“Changing the Culture: Parents Empower Transformational ECE Nature Education”</td>
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<td>“COVID Roadblocks Disrupting Play Opportunities: Fighting Back”</td>
<td>K. Seabolt, P. McColl</td>
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<td>D. Rhea</td>
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<td>5:30pm-6:00pm</td>
<td>POP UP Play Break!</td>
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<td>6:00pm-6:30pm</td>
<td>Newcomers Social</td>
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<td>6:30pm-8:30pm</td>
<td>KICKOFF DINNER (BALLROOM) &amp; PLAY</td>
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<td>9:00pm-11:30pm</td>
<td><strong>Evening Social</strong> - Hospitality Suite, James Martin Inn</td>
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## SUNDAY, APRIL 3RD

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<tr>
<th>SEMINAR ROOM II</th>
<th>MEETING ROOM I &amp; II</th>
<th>MEETING ROOM III &amp; IV</th>
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</table>
| “Being Mindfully Curious to Discover our Inner Play Being”  
S. Iverson | “Accessible Nature Through Equitable Mobility”  
P. Russell | **PLAY THERAPY FORUM (9:30am-10:30am):**  
“Healing from Trauma: Play Therapy Principles for Intergenerational Relationship and Connection”  
J. Hall, J. Shelnut |
| “It felt like complete chaos...at first’ - A Student-Led Play Day with Non-Profit”  
L. Jagodziński, H. Von Bank, S. Yang | “Coming to Our Senses: Envisioning spaces for play on a university campus”  
A. Roehl | **PLAY THERAPY FORUM (10:45am-11:45am):**  
“Time for a Reboot: Prescribing NaturePlay Therapy for Emotional Wellness for Children, Teens and Families”  
J. Langley |
| “The Playbrary”  
T. Durkson, M. Talarowski | “The Meaning of Play and Its Implications for Equitable Design in Outdoor Urban Spaces”  
S. Quinn | **PLAY THERAPY FORUM (2:15pm-3:15pm):**  
“The Power of Play Therapy”  
J. Guest |
| “Mindfulness in a Bag - Bringing Social/Emotional Learning to life through Brown Bag Play”  
N. Myles | “Play and Social Justice Across Systems of Inequity”  
O. Jarrett, J. Sutterby | **PLAY THERAPY FORUM (4:00pm-5:30pm):**  
“Understanding Play Therapy, the Barriers, and How to Break Through for School Counselors!”  
J. Van Horne |
| “Don’t throw it away! Make something and play!”  
J. Hemphill | “Supporting Health Equity and Environmental Resilience Through Green Playgrounds”  
J. De Melo |  
**3:15pm-3:45pm Refreshment Break with Play Therapy Students’ Poster Session**  
**3:45pm-4:30pm** |
|  |  | **FEATURED:**  
“The Playful Life: The Power of Play in our Every Day”  
J. Jones, J. Dearybury  
C. Ramstetter, C. Brickman  
**“Mindfulness in a Bag - Bringing Social/Emotional Learning to life through Brown Bag Play”**  
N. Myles  
**“Supporting Health Equity and Environmental Resilience Through Green Playgrounds”**  
J. De Melo | **FEATURED:**  
“COVID Roadblocks Disrupting Play Opportunities: Fighting Back”  
D. Rhea  
**“Changing the Culture: Parents Empower Transformational ECE Nature Education”**  
K. Seabolt, P. McColl  
**“Don’t throw it away! Make something and play!”**  
J. Hemphill  
**“Supporting Health Equity and Environmental Resilience Through Green Playgrounds”**  
J. De Melo | **5:30pm-6:00pm POP UP Play Break!**  
**6:00pm-6:30pm Newcomers Social**  
**6:30pm-8:30pm**  
**KICKOFF DINNER (BALLROOM) & PLAY**  
**9:00pm-11:30pm Evening Social** |  
**Hospitality Suite, James Martin Inn** |
### MONDAY, APRIL 4TH

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<tr>
<td>7:30am</td>
<td>Registration desk opens at 7:30am. Silent Auction opens through 9:45am Tuesday. Posters display in Grand Hallway begins (continues Sunday through luncheon on Tuesday)</td>
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<td>8:00am-8:30am</td>
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<td>8:30am-9:45am</td>
<td><strong>COFFEE TALK (BALLROOM):</strong> “Hot Topic” Round Tables - Kick off day 2 with discussions facilitated by industry leaders... with a cuppa Joe!</td>
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| 10:00am-10:45am | **FEATURED:** “The Global Healing Curriculum Project”  
E. Klugman, D. Stegelin, D. Wisneski, W. Drew, J. Kashuck  
“Creating Ecosystems of Play - The Synergies of Systems”  
C. Stephens |                                                                                                                                                 |
| 10:45am-11:00am |                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                |
| 11:00am-11:45am | **FEATURED:** “Every Child Deserves to Play... Baseball”  
J. Moore White, S. Davis  
“Earth Tones”  
D. Lewis |                                                                                                                                                 |
| 12:00pm-12:45pm | **FEATURED:** “Playful Pandemic - How Play Clubs, Nature Play, and Extra Recess Are Helping Students Thrive!”  
K. Stinehart  
“Evidence-informed, biophilic design of equitable/inclusive outdoor play and learning spaces”  
R. Moore, N. Cosco |                                                                                                                                                 |
| 12:45pm-1:00pm |                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                |
| 1:00pm-2:00pm | **HEALTH & PLAY INSTITUTE KICKOFF LUNCHEON (BALLROOM):**  
• “The Nature of Play” – Stuart Brown, MD  
• “The Therapeutic Benefit of Nature PLAY in Acute and Chronic Pain” – Michael Suk, MD  
• “Pushing Through a Fixed Notion of Play” – Brooke Buckley, MD  
• “National Study of Playgrounds” – Deborah A. Cohen, MD, MPH, Meghan Talarowski, PLA, ASLA, CPSI  
• “Environmental Determinants of Emotional Intelligence: Role of Nature Play & Greenspace Exposure”  
Matt Browning, PhD  
• “Movement Snacks” – Darryl Edwards, Primal Play |                                                                                                                                                 |
| 2:00pm-4:15pm |                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                |
| 4:15pm-5:00pm | Travel to Clemson University Tennis Facility - shuttles begin around 4:15pm                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                 |
| 5:00pm-7:00pm | **Making Adaptive Sports Accessible to All**  
hands-on activities at the Clemson University Tennis Facility, light refreshments provided  
J. Townsend, J. Townsend, M. Woodhead, M. Miller  
PLUS! Demos with the **Clemson University Virtual Reality and Nature Lab**  
Explore nature through a virtual lens! |                                                                                                                                                 |
| 7:00pm-9:00pm | **DINNER ON YOUR OWN IN DOWNTOWN CLEMSON** (transportation provided, dinner cost not included)                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                 |
| 9:00pm-11:30pm | **Evening Social - Hospitality Suite, James Martin Inn**                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                 |

*Sessions in green denote schedule change since time of printing the conference booklet.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEMINAR ROOM II</th>
<th>MEETING ROOM I &amp; II</th>
<th>MEETING ROOM III &amp; IV</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| “Exploration in Forests of Learning: Play-based Ecosystems”  
  M. Oteri | “Authentic Learning and Play through Intergenerational Connections in Makerspaces”  
  A. Stephan, A. Baker, C. Cofield, T. Richardson | “AAA Play: Examining Play as the Linchpin to Learning”  
  P. Blackburn |
| “Naturally, It’s Child’s Play!”  
  K. Jenkins, S. Reese, D. Young | “CommUNITY EDinburgh (Inspiration from Scotland)”  
  E. Holder | “Apples, Peaches, Pumpkin Pie, Whose Not Ready Holler Eye”  
  E. Holder |
| “What did you do in school today? Developing class books around children’s play experiences”  
  K. Hubbard, L. Aker, J. Shelnut | “YES, I have an IEP! Climbing, Forts and Glass Fusing Risky Playing My Way to College, Career and Beyond!”  
  M. Brown | |
## TUESDAY, APRIL 5TH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIMES</th>
<th>AUDITORIUM</th>
<th>SEMINAR ROOM I</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30am</td>
<td>Registration desk opens at 7:30am. Silent Auction open through 9:45am. Posters on display through luncheon.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00am-8:15am</td>
<td>Coffee &amp; Morning Snacks (and a reminder: the Silent Auction closes at 10am!)</td>
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</table>
| 8:15am-9:30am | **KEYNOTE SESSION (BALLROOM):** Power PLAYer Panel: The Nature of PLAY  
F. Mainella, S. Milligan-Toffler, D. Adlakha, D. Wisneski |                                                                                |
| 9:30am-9:45am | POP UP Play Break!                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                |
| 9:45am-10:30am | **FEATURED:**  
“5 Resources to Foster Family Engagement through Nature-Based Play”  
D. Hatcher, S. Shelby | **Research Symposium Session 3:**  
• “The power of outdoor, unstructured play on decreasing obesity rates and increasing physical activity” – D. Farbo  
• “Park Ranger Emergency Response Training Needs” – B. Wilson  
• “The state of children’s physical activity and access to community opportunities for play in the U.S.” – M. Kennedy  
• “Second Nature: Technologies enabling and enriching play in the 2020’s” – K. Heljakka |
| 10:45am-11:30am | **FEATURED:**  
“Active Play: what role did it have in our evolutionary past and how vital is it for our future?”  
D. Edwards | **Research Symposium Session 4:**  
• “A New Perspective on Urban Playscapes: A Case Study Method” – S. Eslamzadeh, M. Powers  
• “Experiential spaces as immersive playscapes for adult players” – K. Heljakka  
• “You Can’t Fall From That: What National Playground Standards Could Learn from Childcare Regulations” – D. Jost  
• “Built and social nature of neighborhoods impact women’s play” – S. Baxter, S. Griffin |
| 11:45am-12:30pm | **FEATURED:**  
“Playing While Black: The Use of Storytelling For Play Inequity”  
C. Felton, C. Outley | **“Play Protocols: Maximizing Learning through Play”**  
P. Barry, H. Voulgarakis |
| 12:45pm-2:30pm | **PLAY Celebration Luncheon with MarketPLAYce Reception and Poster Presentations (Ballroom)**  
Entertainment, Special Honors, Remembering PLAY champions, award winners announced, retail therapy, and more! |                                                                                |
| 3:00pm-5:00pm | US Play Coalition Steering Committee Meeting (invitation only)                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                |
| 3:00pm-8:00pm | Free PLAY! (Late afternoon outdoor activities available!)                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                |
| 8:00pm-10:00pm | Hospitality Suite open, James Martin Inn                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                |

*Airport shuttles to Greenville-Spartanburg Regional Airport are available Tuesday and Wednesday (register online).*
# TUESDAY, APRIL 5TH

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Seminar Room II</th>
<th>Meeting Room I &amp; II</th>
<th>Meeting Room III &amp; IV</th>
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| “PLAYcemaking: Designing Nature Playscapes With Children”  
  K. Mohan, C. Kircher, M. Talarowski | “How global PLAY has influenced PLAY in the Early Years of Australian schools!”  
  - K. Moroney | “Reimagining Outdoor Play Spaces: Creating Therapeutic Outdoor Environments (TOEs) for Preschoolers”  
  D. Varat, J. Shelnut, J. Hall |
| “The Playful Remake: Repurpose Tried and True Activities to Make them Playful”  
  S. Peck | “Teaching for social justice: Honest teaching of history while building community through playfulness”  
  O. Jarrett | |
| “Loose Parts Smarts - New Dimensions in Loose Parts Play”  
  K. Scheel | “Risky Play is Good for You and Other Myths of the Free Play Era”  
  J. McCullough | |

**PLAY Celebration Luncheon with MarketPLAYce Reception and Poster Presentations (Ballroom)**
- Entertainment
- Special Honors
- Remembering PLAY champions
- Award winners announced
- Retail therapy
- More!

**US Play Coalition Steering Committee Meeting (invitation only)**

**Free PLAY! (Late afternoon outdoor activities available!)**

**8:00pm-10:00pm Hospitality Suite open, James Martin Inn**
**SESSIONS BY THEME**

* denotes a featured session  
° denotes a research symposium  
All other sessions are educational sessions.

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

### Accessible & Inclusive Play

**Every Child Deserves to Play...Baseball | Jill Moore White & Stephanie Davis**

The Miracle League serves over 250,000 children and adults with all abilities. Presently there are 315 Miracle League Organizations across the country including Canada & Puerto Rico. Our goal is to build an inclusive complex and program in every city so individuals with special needs across the country will have the same opportunity to play baseball.

**Making Adaptive Sports Accessible to All | Jeff Townsend & Jasmine Townsend**

This session will improve the knowledge base of practitioners when it comes to providing adaptive sport opportunities. Practitioners will receive a baseline of knowledge in the sport of wheelchair tennis, understand the mechanics of how to move the wheelchair, and the technical skills related to the game of wheelchair tennis.

**Play and Social Justice Across Systems of Inequity | Olga Jarrett & John Sutterby**

The purpose of the presentation is to examine social justice issues that shape views on play; influence opportunities and access to play; or reinforce inequities through play. We identify areas of disparity in quality play and also projects and programs that seek to provide equitable play experiences. Once the disparities and opportunities are brought to light, we hope that critical educators engage in additional research that will further identify disparities and their effects as well as positively address play equity issues in their own communities.

**Playing While Black: The Use of Storytelling For Play Inequity | Courtashia Felton & Corliss Outley**

The workshop will cover foundational concepts central to advancing play equity including an overview of the difference between equity and equality in play setting, the root causes of play inequities (both historical and contemporary), and the impact of implicit bias and racism on current developmental outcomes among Black youth.

### Designing for Play

**Accessible Nature Through Equitable Mobility | Paul Russell**

This presentation will use a case study method to demonstrate the retro fit design of two public parks. Each park underwent a design process to increase both the biodiversity ecological systems and site accessibility and diversity of user groups. The presentation will illustrate an effective coordination of the natural systems and site circulation for increased accessibility within a park space.

**Coming to Our Senses: Envisioning spaces for play on a university campus | Amy Roehl**

This presentation shares a strategy for making based on a sensory, experiential, and biophilic creative process used in a university-level student design project envisioning future play spaces on campus.

**Evidence-informed, biophilic design of equitable/inclusive outdoor play and learning spaces | Robin Moore & Nilda Cosco**

Learn how the Natural Learning Initiative engages underserved communities in design thinking to co-create equitable/inclusive biodiverse spaces using intersecting health-promoting principles of children-environment behavior across everyday contexts, ages and stages, and intergenerational relations.
The Meaning of Play and Its Implications for Equitable Design in Outdoor Urban Spaces
Suzanne Quinn

Play is marked by choices, modifications of functional behaviors, and opportunities vary actions (Burghardt, 2005). Active play does not happen without support, and a well designed environment that encourages people of all ages and abilities. In this session we will discuss research based design strategies for outdoor play.

*A New Perspective on Urban Playscapes: A Case Study Method | Sara Eslamzadeh & Matthew Powers

This study presents a new perspective on a type of learning landscape called urban thinkscapes. Urban thinkscapes are public spaces designed to maximize interaction and active engagement in playful learning. The study contributes to the body of knowledge associated with nature-based play in urban areas.

PLAYcemaking: Designing Nature Playscapes With Children | Krithika Mohan, Christopher Kircher & Meghan Talarowski

Transforming a traditional school playground into an immersive nature playscape starts with foundational work with children and educators to reimagine what’s possible, through models, play memories, and visioning of play potentials. These laid the groundwork for a space that sparks creativity, fosters collaboration, and nurtures the inner light of children.

Education & Play

AAA Play: Examining Play as the Linchpin to Learning | Preston Blackburn

Play comes naturally to children, it is the driving feature of their DNA after eating, comfort and sleep. So why do we as a culture continue to ignore its intrinsic value to the academic process?

*COVID Roadblocks Disrupting Play Opportunities: Fighting Back | Deborah Rhea

The LiNK Project, a 60-minute recess intervention, has been implemented successfully across diverse learning environments to improve whole child development. Unfortunately, state and local school officials are using COVID as a roadblock to nature. This session will focus on how to tackle these continuous roadblocks through health and physical literacy components.

Earth Tones | Dominique Lewis

Equity in play is an ongoing teaching practice that can challenge educators to look closer at their classrooms, trainings and materials. Earth Tones is an opportunity to dig deep into the learning spaces put together to host children in child care, school and after school settings. Can all children find Their crayon in your class?

Exploration in Forests of Learning: Play-based Ecosystems | Megan Oteri

In this interactive LEGO SERIOUS PLAY workshop, participants build individual Lego models of their play-based habitat in their field as a practitioner. As a group, they collaborate and merge their individual habitat models to define and build a 3D group model of this combined ecosystem.


The Global Healing Curriculum Project, directed by Dr. Edgar Klugman, Holocaust survivor and Wheelock College Emeritus, will be presented in a panel format. Play-based community strategies for relationship building across the generations will be presented. The session is dedicated to the important role of play in healing relationships impacted by trauma.
The impact of multiple recesses on limb-movement patterns to strengthen cognition | G. Kate Webb & Debbie Rhea

Movement patterns are studied to achieve better results in the classroom, resulting in significant differences in children who play for 15 minutes versus 60 minutes. Differences are not just in skill development but a more balanced, stronger body disposition and increased cognition in the classroom. This presentation will highlight the differences.

“It felt like complete chaos...at first” - A Student-Led Play Day with Non-Profit
Lydia Jagodzinski, Heather Von Bank & Syanna Yang

PlayDays provide children the chance for unstructured play instead of adult-lead programming. Partnerships between universities and nonprofits are one way to host a PlayDay. This presentation describes a PlayDay for girls YWCA Girls on the Run camp, and will provide multiple perspectives and insights gained from coordinators, students, and staff.

Körperkoordinationstest fur Kinder (KTK): Assessing motor coordination differences in children's recess | Daryl Campbell-Pierre & Debbie Rhea

This cross-sectional study examined motor coordination and postural balance in 3rd, 4th, and 5th-grade students who receive 30 vs 60-minutes of unstructured play. Körperkoordinationstest fur Kinder (KTK), measured children's agility, speed, balance, strength, and coordination. The sub-task differences will be explained by group, gender, and age.

Loose Parts Smarts - New Dimensions in Loose Parts Play | Ken Scheel

Using loose parts, learn how simple open-ended prompts can gently guide the direction of play for play-based learning. Learn how to reduce the hassle of loose-parts-play with reusable materials. KEVA Planks are used in the session. No slide deck - just play-based learning to teach play-based learning.

Mindfulness in a Bag - Bringing Social/Emotional Learning to life through Brown Bag Play
Nicole Myles

How do you combine pandemic-safe, hands-on learning with addressing the gap in social/emotional regulation all using play? CML developed a novel approach - our Brown Bag S/EL program. This session will explore the motivation, content, and approach for this replicable and scalable program that focuses on Social/Emotional Learning outcomes through simple, hands-on materials.

The Nature of Play in Schools: Teachers Leading the Way | Deborah Wisneski & Amanda Steiner

This session will share the impact of teacher training on play on early childhood educators based on data from a focus group study. The study reveals how teachers conceptualize play, plan for play, and how they struggle and succeed in incorporating play in education.

The Playbrary | Tiffany Durkson & Meghan Talarowski

The Playbrary is a loose parts library of disposable and reusable materials for play. We provide the ingredients for unstructured free play, supporting children to create meaningful and immersive experiences with inexpensive materials and loose parts that spark confidence, creativity, and give children the agency to reimagine their world.

The Playful Remake: Repurpose Tried and True Activities to Make them Playful | Sharon Peck

The purpose of this interactive workshop is to support participants to reconsider their current practices. Based on tenets of playful instruction, participants will identify factors of playfulness to incorporate into instruction. Participants will then remodel and recreate their favorite educational or recreational activity to make it more playful and more impactful for all children.
The Power of Play Therapy | Jessie Guest
Play is the language of children. This presentation provides an overview of play therapy theories and approaches, explores the impact of play therapy on children, and demonstrates a variety of play therapy techniques appropriate for various populations and settings.

Recess provides a time for play, where children practice interpersonal skills: to be creative; to nurture holistic well-being; to establish their own rules for games; to foster imagination. This translates into collaboration, ingenuity, resilience, problem-solving and critical thinking—essential adult skills. Join us as we discuss recess advocacy in your communities.

°Parent Motivations for Enrolling Young Children in Early Enrichment Programs | Rachel McGovern
Azjen’s (1991) theory of planned behavior (TPB) is used to identify and examine psychosocial and cognitive factors influencing parent intentions to enroll their young children (3-5 years old) in early enrichment programming at a regionally acclaimed children’s museum complex and to identify expected outcomes from participation in such programming.

Play Protocols: Maximizing Learning through Play | Patricia Barry & Harry Voulgarakis
Protocols for play are designed to support teachers in facilitating play through plans for activities that enhance learning. Areas such as executive functioning and emergent literacy skills can grow through play protocols. A main goal of protocols for play is to make visible the important learning that occurs through play.

°Playful Literacy Instruction: Making Learning Joyful and Culturally Responsive | Sharon Peck
This session unpacks the concept of playful literacy instruction. It looks at the way drawing on play and playfulness supports teachers to provide culturally responsive, engaging, generative, and joyful learning. Attendees will learn what to include to make literacy learning playful, ways to revise your favorite practices to make them more inclusive, and consider the ways that play-based instruction supports diverse learners.

*Playful Pandemic - How Play Clubs, Nature Play, and Extra Recess Are Helping Students Thrive! | Kevin Stinehart
Playful Pandemic will explore how one school thrived through the last two years of the pandemic by adding extra recesses, Play Clubs before and after school, and nature play. The results they’ve had are undeniable - decreased office referrals, deceased mental health issues, increased sense of well-being, less social isolation, and increased happiness school-wide!

Risky Play is Good for You and Other Myths of the Free Play Era | Jim McCullough
In this half lecture/half TED-ish talk/half interactive happening, we will spend 20 minutes (video in real time) with eight tweens in a forest. Unbeknownst to they, they are being allowed to play. And in their innocence, they reveal all that is being lost in the free play era. Is a crime committed? We will be judge and jury. Mostly we will laugh and hopefully think.

Teaching for social justice: Honest teaching of history while building community through playfulness | Olga Jarrett
This session presents how to: (1) teach truthful history and responsibilities of citizenship for ALL children and (2) build caring community within this history with playful, hands-on activities. Beginning with a brief PowerPoint, this session concludes with a workshop involving small-group-brainstorming and group sharing. Participants receive a paper with resources.
Understanding Play Therapy, the Barriers, and How to Break Through for School Counselors!
Jill Van Horne

“Oh! My guidance counselor played Uno with me one time, I know what play therapy is!” This phrase will make professional school counselors and/or play therapists run for the hills! The idea of understanding what play therapy is and what it is not may be one of the largest barriers to understanding how to use play therapy and its effectiveness. This workshop will provide an explanation of play therapy and useful demonstrations of play therapy; directive and child-centered approaches will be included.

What did you do in school today? Developing class books around children’s play experiences
Koti Hubbard, Lisa Aker & Jill Shelnut

This session will inform educators about the importance of play and how to incorporate play into classroom literacy routines. Incorporating play into English Language Arts (ELA) classroom time may be as simple as creating class books, in which children share their lived experiences while developing necessary social-emotional and literacy skills.

YES, I have an IEP! Rock Climbing, Fort Building and Glass Fusing: Risky Playing My Way to College, Career and Beyond! | Mischelle Brown

Examining how 3 of the 8 characteristics of risky play guide Black and brown middle school students with IEPs toward success in school and advance toward their college, career and beyond aspirations.

Emerging Trends in Play

Authentic Learning and Play through Intergenerational Connections in Makerspaces | Abigail Stephan, Abigail Baker, Colby Cofield & Trey Richardson

Focused on play and authentic learning experiences, this session makes the case for connecting generations through makerspaces, or informal learning environments with tools and technologies for creating. Drawing on research and practice, we will provide educators and community leaders with tangible evidence of the power of intergenerational play in makerspaces.

CommUNITY EDinburg (Inspiration from Scotland) | Emily Holder

The National AfterSchool Association held its 2019 International Learning Exchange in Edinburgh, Scotland. Like almost every nation in the world, Scotland is a signatory of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. This commitment impacts national policy development (Scotland’s National Play Strategy and the Coalition for Outdoor Play Position Statement) and how youth workers talk about play - the words they use - to communicate the priority of play.

Play and Beauty in the Eyes of the Beholders | Cynthia Gentry & Penny Wilson

Far from being a shallow concern, the influence of beauty on a child’s experience of play can be significant. Our philosophy on incorporating pleasing aesthetics in designed play opportunities, both pop-up and built, will be examined in research and case studies.

*Play is for a Lifetime, What is YOUR play personality? | Stuart Brown & Tom Norquist

Are you activating your own play personality? This session will provide insights to identify spontaneous joy and deep engagement as your play personality. Learn from the animal worlds and from some 6000 play interviews that play personalities of kids, friends and family demonstrate some of the Nature of Play.

°Recess Policy Implementation: Beliefs and Perceptions of Site-Based Decisions-Makers | Charlene Woodham Brickman

Recess as an unstructured break benefits the whole child and policies have been established in many states and districts to protect children’s access to recess. Yet, recess deprivation still occurs. The Theory of Planned Behavior was used to assess the beliefs and perceptions of site-based decision-makers in this area.
Second Nature: Technologies enabling and enriching play in the 2020’s | Katriina Heljakka
This presentation demonstrates that technology enables play through devices, robots and games/apps; is used as an enricher of play through play-related content distribution and functions as a socializer through social media. The findings illustrate the ‘second nature’ of player relationships with technology as a driver for creative and mobile play.

You Can’t Fall From That: What National Playground Standards Could Learn from Childcare Regulations | Daniel Jost
The Consumer Product Safety Commission and ASTM International recognize that embankment slides < 12” high provide little risk and don’t need protective surfacing on their sides. However, no similar language is found for other playground equipment incorporated into topography. Adopting language found in childcare licensing standards would encourage greener playscapes.

Health, Recreation & Play

*5 Resources to Foster Family Engagement through Nature-Based Play | Daniel Hatcher & Seth Shelby
Join the Alliance for a Healthier Generation for an interactive workshop featuring free resources and strategies to engage the whole family in wellness. Attendees will learn (and practice) nature-based activities to support physical, social, and emotional health.

Active Play: what role did it have in our evolutionary past and how vital is it for our future? | Darryl Edwards
It will be proposed that although most of us are aware that play is important for children, we are less familiar with the underlying evolutionary mechanisms that make it useful for mind and body in the present.

Built and social nature of neighborhoods impact women’s play | Samuel Baxter & Sarah Griffin
We explore how the built and social environment influences play (i.e., walking, and physical activity) among women in rural SC.

The power of outdoor, unstructured play on decreasing obesity rates and increasing physical activity | David Farbo
This session presents the results of LiiNK, a longitudinal 60 minute recess intervention, on obesity rates and physical activity in 3rd and 4th grade children compared to only 30 minutes of recess. Bio-electrical impedance scales were used to measure obesity and accelerometers were used to measure physical activity. Overall, the intervention children showed healthier results than the control children.

The state of children’s physical activity and access to community opportunities for play in the U.S. | Malinda Kennedy
This descriptive analysis uses data from the 2020 National Survey on Children’s Health to describe variations in state-level prevalence of physical activity among children and adolescents, and access to parks and playgrounds as reported by parents and caregivers. These results can be used to inform programs and policies.

Time for a Reboot: Prescribing NaturePlay Therapy for Emotional Wellness for Children, Teens and Families | Jamie Lynn Langley
Nature Play Therapy incorporates nature’s playroom for a healing space utilizing discovered “toys” from nature such as sticks, leaves, stones, and more. Participants will explore why play in nature is needed and learn forms of NaturePlay for clinicians to prescribe for emotional wellness and self-care for children, teens and families.
International/Global Play

How global PLAY has influenced PLAY in the Early Years of Australian schools! | Kim Moroney
Kim’s research on PLAY has led her to study in Finland and Sweden, visit PEDAL at the University of Cambridge UK, and participate in a study tour of AnjiPlay in China. Kim will share PLAY stories and images of her work in schools in Newcastle, Australia where PLAY is fundamental to pedagogy and practice.

Multi/Intergenerational & Adults at Play

Being Mindfully Curious to Discover our Inner Play Being | Sarah Iverson
Learn about how utilizing mindfulness and curiosity can help us tap into our inner “play being” and through that, allow the magic of joy and authenticity bring libration in our daily life.

*Experiential spaces as immersive playscapes for adult players | Katriina Heljakka
This presentation analyzes and deconstructs interactive ‘pseudo-museum’ environments as immersive playscapes for adults, which seem to be all about making the self-documenting player the main exhibit. The research material collected through an autoethnographic approach consists of photoplays evidencing the author’s visits and play in four temporary museums dedicated to selfies.

Healing from Trauma: Play Therapy Principles for Intergenerational Relationship and Connection | Jennifer Hall & Jill Shelnut
This workshop reviews rationale for using child-centered play therapy (CCPT) tenants to promote relationship, connection, and healing from trauma intergenerationally. Background on the theory, communicating through play therapy, and how healing occurs through relationship will be reviewed. Participants will discuss how CCPT skills are applicable in various settings and with different populations.

*The Playful Life: The Power of Play in our Every Day | Julie Jones & Jed Dearybury
As play professionals, we create spaces, conduct meetings, teach students, & advocate for the power of play. But how much time do we dedicate for playful living in our own lives? Explore why we all need play and how play can occur anywhere, anytime, and with anything.

Nature Based & Outdoor Play

Changing the Culture: Parents Empower Transformational ECE Nature Education | Kathleen Seabolt & Pam McColl
Understanding how to engage parent partnership to embrace children’s opportunity for appropriate risk-taking and to support transformational Nature Education experiences in an ECE program.

Creating Ecosystems of Play - The Synergies of Systems | Claude Stephens
Play isn’t one thing. It’s the networked components of an ecosystem that rely on relationships, competition for resources, predictable change, symbiotic synergies, and cycled loops. Our work as play champions improves when we find our niche within the larger frame of play and settle into the grand community of play which defines us whether we acknowledge it or not. This workshop is part ecology, part systems thinking, part strategy formation, and all play. Come prepared to share your niche and build your play web in cooperation with others.

Naturally, It’s Child’s Play! | Kristine Jenkins, SheKiah Reese & Dorian Young
For preschool children, bringing natural elements into the classroom and creating learning environments outdoors, is a “natural” way to enhance learning through play, exploration, and creativity! Exploration in nature and natural elements can meet the various needs of both children & adults. Join us to see how!
°Park Ranger Emergency Response Training Needs | Bobby Wilson & Eric Russell
Nature based and outdoor play inevitably results in the occurrence of injuries and emergencies. This qualitative study identified certain training needs for fostering emergency decision-making abilities of park rangers employed by a large, multi-site state agency in the southeastern United States.

Reimagining Outdoor Play Spaces: Creating Therapeutic Outdoor Environments (TOEs) for Preschoolers | Danny Varat, Jill Shelnut & Jennifer Hall
This session describes the transformation of typical outdoor childcare play spaces into Therapeutic Outdoor Environments (TOEs) for young children who have been expelled from their childcare programs. Benefits of TOEs include not only physical development, but also improved self-discipline, better relationships with peers and teachers, reduced stress, and increased cooperation.

Supporting Health Equity and Environmental Resilience Through Green Playgrounds
Jen De Melo
In this panel, the play experts at KABOOM! will share actionable lessons from playspace projects in Texas, San Francisco, and elsewhere that aim to address persistent racial inequities in childhood health and environmental resiliency using responsive design, deep community engagement, and creative partnerships.

Nuts & Bolts

Apples, Peaches, Pumpkin Pie, Whose Not Ready Holler Eye | Pat Rumbaugh
Pat Rumbaugh, The Play Lady, Co-Founder of www.letsplayamerica.org will share examples of activities that inspired people to play from her 14 years as a play advocate, 25+ years career as a physical educator & coach, and a person who brought people together to play in her childhood.

Don’t throw it away! Make something and play! | Joyce Hemphill
Make-n-take a variety of playful activities using safe household recyclables. To participate you need to bring your focused attention, problem solving strategies, decision making tools, and creativity. All other materials will be provided.

CANCELED SESSIONS
Get Up, Get Out, and Play Naturally! | Shannon Coates
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn: Equity and Play | Angela Novak
Play Protocols: Maximizing Learning through Play | Patricia Barry & Harry Voulgarakis

Protocols for play are designed to support teachers in facilitating play through plans for activities that enhance learning. Areas such as executive functioning and emergent literacy skills can grow through play protocols. A main goal of protocols for play is to make visible the important learning that occurs through play.

°Built and social nature of neighborhoods impact women’s play | Samuel Baxter & Sarah Griffin

We explore how the built and social environment influences play (i.e., walking, and physical activity) among women in rural SC.

AAA Play: Examining Play as the Linchpin to Learning | Preston Blackburn

Play comes naturally to children, it is the driving feature of their DNA after eating, comfort and sleep. So why do we as a culture continue to ignore its intrinsic value to the academic process?

°Recess Policy Implementation: Beliefs and Perceptions of Site-Based Decisions-Makers | Charlene Woodham Brickman

Recess as an unstructured break benefits the whole child and policies have been established in many states and districts to protect children’s access to recess. Yet, recess deprivation still occurs. The Theory of Planned Behavior was used to assess the beliefs and perceptions of site-based decision-makers in this area.

*Play is for a Lifetime, What is YOUR play personality? | Stuart Brown & Tom Norquist

Are you activating your own play personality? This session will provide insights to identify spontaneous joy and deep engagement as your play personality. Learn from the animal worlds and from some 6000 play interviews that play personalities of kids, friends and family demonstrate some of the Nature of Play.

YES, I have an IEP! Rock Climbing, Fort Building and Glass Fusing: Risky Playing My Way to College, Career and Beyond! | Mischelle Brown

Examining how 3 of the 8 characteristics of risky play guide Black and brown middle school students with IEPs toward success in school and advance toward their college, career and beyond aspirations.

°Körperkoordinationstest fur Kinder (KTK): Assessing motor coordination differences in children’s recess | Daryl Campbell-Pierre & Debbie Rhea

This cross-sectional study examined motor coordination and postural balance in 3rd, 4th, and 5th-grade students who receive 30 vs 60-minutes of unstructured play. Körperkoordinationstest fur Kinder (KTK), measured children’s agility, speed, balance, strength, and coordination. The sub-task differences will be explained by group, gender, and age.

Supporting Health Equity and Environmental Resilience Through Green Playgrounds | Jen De Melo

In this panel, the play experts at KABOOM! will share actionable lessons from playspace projects in Texas, San Francisco, and elsewhere that aim to address persistent racial inequities in childhood health and environmental resiliency using responsive design, deep community engagement, and creative partnerships.

The Playbrary | Tiffany Durkson & Meghan Talarowski

The Playbrary is a loose parts library of disposable and reusable materials for play. We provide the ingredients for unstructured free play, supporting children to create meaningful and immersive experiences with inexpensive materials and loose parts that spark confidence, creativity, and give children the agency to reimagine their world.
Active Play: what role did it have in our evolutionary past and how vital is it for our future?
Darryl Edwards
It will be proposed that although most of us are aware that play is important for children, we are less familiar with the underlying evolutionary mechanisms that make it useful for mind and body in the present.

A New Perspective on Urban Playscapes: A Case Study Method | Sara Eslamzadeh & Matthew Powers
This study presents a new perspective on a type of learning landscape called urban thinkscapes. Urban thinkscapes are public spaces designed to maximize interaction and active engagement in playful learning. The study contributes to the body of knowledge associated with nature-based play in urban areas.

The power of outdoor, unstructured play on decreasing obesity rates and increasing physical activity | David Farbo
This session presents the results of LiiNK, a longitudinal 60 minute recess intervention, on obesity rates and physical activity in 3rd and 4th grade children compared to only 30 minutes of recess. Bio-electrical impedance scales were used to measure obesity and accelerometers were used to measure physical activity. Overall, the intervention children showed healthier results than the control children.

Playing While Black: The Use of Storytelling For Play Inequity | Courtashia Felton & Corliss Outley
The workshop will cover foundational concepts central to advancing play equity including an overview of the difference between equity and equality in play setting, the root causes of play inequities (both historical and contemporary), and the impact of implicit bias and racism on current developmental outcomes among Black youth.

Play and Beauty in the Eyes of the Beholders | Cynthia Gentry & Penny Wilson
Far from being a shallow concern, the influence of beauty on a child’s experience of play can be significant. Our philosophy on incorporating pleasing aesthetics in designed play opportunities, both pop-up and built, will be examined in research and case studies.

The Power of Play Therapy | Jessie Guest
Play is the language of children. This presentation provides an overview of play therapy theories and approaches, explores the impact of play therapy on children, and demonstrates a variety of play therapy techniques appropriate for various populations and settings.

Healing from Trauma: Play Therapy Principles for Intergenerational Relationship and Connection | Jennifer Hall & Jill Shelnut
This workshop reviews rationale for using child-centered play therapy (CCPT) tenants to promote relationship, connection, and healing from trauma intergenerationally. Background on the theory, communicating through play therapy, and how healing occurs through relationship will be reviewed. Participants will discuss how CCPT skills are applicable in various settings and with different populations.

5 Resources to Foster Family Engagement through Nature-Based Play | Daniel Hatcher & Seth Shelby
Join the Alliance for a Healthier Generation for an interactive workshop featuring free resources and strategies to engage the whole family in wellness. Attendees will learn (and practice) nature-based activities to support physical, social, and emotional health.
SESSIONS BY SPEAKER’S NAME CONTINUED

**Second Nature: Technologies enabling and enriching play in the 2020's | Katriina Heljakka**
This presentation demonstrates that technology enables play through devices, robots and games/apps; is used as an enricher of play through play-related content distribution and functions as a socializer through social media. The findings illustrate the ‘second nature’ of player relationships with technology as a driver for creative and mobile play.

**Experiential spaces as immersive playscapes for adult players | Katriina Heljakka**
This presentation analyzes and deconstructs interactive ‘pseudo-museum’ environments as immersive playscapes for adults, which seem to be all about making the self-documenting player the main exhibit. The research material collected through an autoethnographic approach consists of photoplays evidencing the author’s visits and play in four temporary museums dedicated to selfies.

**Don’t throw it away! Make something and play! | Joyce Hemphill**
Make-n-take a variety of playful activities using safe household recyclables. To participate you need to bring your focused attention, problem solving strategies, decision making tools, and creativity. All other materials will be provided.

**CommUNITY EDinburgh (Inspiration from Scotland) | Emily Holder**
The National AfterSchool Association held its 2019 International Learning Exchange in Edinburgh, Scotland. Like almost every nation in the world, Scotland is a signatory of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. This commitment impacts national policy development (Scotland’s National Play Strategy and the Coalition for Outdoor Play Position Statement) and how youth workers talk about play - the words they use - to communicate the priority of play.

**What did you do in school today? Developing class books around children’s play experiences | Koti Hubbard, Lisa Aker & Jill Shelnut**
This session will inform educators about the importance of play and how to incorporate play into classroom literacy routines. Incorporating play into English Language Arts (ELA) classroom time may be as simple as creating class books, in which children share their lived experiences while developing necessary social-emotional and literacy skills.

**Being Mindfully Curious to Discover our Inner Play Being | Sarah Iverson**
Learn about how utilizing mindfulness and curiosity can help us tap into our inner “play being” and through that, allow the magic of joy and authenticity bring us liberation in our daily life.

**“It felt like complete chaos...at first” - A Student-Led Play Day with Non-Profit | Lydia Jagodzinski, Heather Von Bank & Syanna Yang**
PlayDays provide children the chance for unstructured play instead of adult-lead programming. Partnerships between universities and nonprofits are one way to host a PlayDay. This presentation describes a PlayDay for girls YWCA Girls on the Run camp, and will provide multiple perspectives and insights gained from coordinators, students, and staff.

**Teaching for social justice: Honest teaching of history while building community through playfulness | Olga Jarrett**
This session presents how to: (1) teach truthful history and responsibilities of citizenship for ALL children and (2) build caring community within this history with playful, hands-on activities. Beginning with a brief PowerPoint, this session concludes with a workshop involving small-group-brainstorming and group sharing. Participants receive a paper with resources.
Play and Social Justice Across Systems of Inequity | Olga Jarrett & John Sutterby
The purpose of the presentation is to examine social justice issues that shape views on play; influence opportunities and access to play; or reinforce inequities through play. We identify areas of disparity in quality play and also projects and programs that seek to provide equitable play experiences. Once the disparities and opportunities are brought to light, we hope that critical educators engage in additional research that will further identify disparities and their effects as well as positively address play equity issues in their own communities.

Naturally, It’s Child's Play! | Kristine Jenkins, SheKiah Reese & Dorian Young
For preschool children, bringing natural elements into the classroom and creating learning environments outdoors, is a “natural” way to enhance learning through play, exploration, and creativity! Exploration in nature and natural elements can meet the various needs of both children & adults. Join us to see how!

*The Playful Life: The Power of Play in our Every Day | Julie Jones & Jed Dearybury
As play professionals, we create spaces, conduct meetings, teach students, & advocate for the power of play. But how much time do we dedicate for playful living in our own lives? Explore why we all need play and how play can occur anywhere, anytime, and with anything.

°You Can’t Fall From That: What National Playground Standards Could Learn from Childcare Regulations | Daniel Jost
The Consumer Product Safety Commission and ASTM International recognize that embankment slides < 12” high provide little risk and don’t need protective surfacing on their sides. However, no similar language is found for other playground equipment incorporated into topography. Adopting language found in childcare licensing standards would encourage greener playscapes.

°The state of children's physical activity and access to community opportunities for play in the U.S. | Malinda Kennedy
This descriptive analysis uses data from the 2020 National Survey on Children’s Health to describe variations in state-level prevalence of physical activity among children and adolescents, and access to parks and playgrounds as reported by parents and caregivers. These results can be used to inform programs and policies.

The Global Healing Curriculum Project, directed by Dr. Edgar Klugman, Holocaust survivor and Wheelock College Emeritus, will be presented in a panel format. Play-based community strategies for relationship building across the generations will be presented. The session is dedicated to the important role of play in healing relationships impacted by trauma.

Time for a Reboot: Prescribing NaturePlay Therapy for Emotional Wellness for Children, Teens and Families | Jamie Lynn Langley
Nature Play Therapy incorporates nature’s playroom for a healing space utilizing discovered “toys” from nature such as sticks, leaves, stones, and more. Participants will explore why play in nature is needed and learn forms of NaturePlay for clinicians to prescribe for emotional wellness and self-care for children, teens and families.

Earth Tones | Dominique Lewis
Equity in play is an ongoing teaching practice that can challenge educators to look closer at their classrooms, trainings and materials. Earth Tones is an opportunity to dig deep into the learning spaces put together to host children in child care, school and after school settings. Can all children find Their crayon in your class?
Risky Play is Good for You and Other Myths of the Free Play Era | Jim McCullough

In this half lecture/half TED-ish talk/half interactive happening, we will spend 20 minutes (video in real time) with eight tweens in a forest. Unbeknownst to they, they are being allowed to play. And in their innocence, they reveal all that is being lost in the free play era. Is a crime committed? We will be judge and jury. Mostly we will laugh and hopefully think.

°Parent Motivations for Enrolling Young Children in Early Enrichment Programs
Rachel McGovern

Azjen’s (1991) theory of planned behavior (TPB) is used to identify and examine psychosocial and cognitive factors influencing parent intentions to enroll their young children (3-5 years old) in early enrichment programming at a regionally acclaimed children’s museum complex and to identify expected outcomes from participation in such programming.

PLAYcemaking: Designing Nature Playscapes With Children | Krithika Mohan, Christopher Kircher & Meghan Talarowski

Transforming a traditional school playground into an immersive nature playscape starts with foundational work with children and educators to reimagine what’s possible, through models, play memories, and visioning of play potentials. These laid the groundwork for a space that sparks creativity, fosters collaboration, and nurtures the inner light of children.

*Every Child Deserves to Play...Baseball | Jill Moore White & Stephanie Davis

The Miracle League serves over 250,000 children and adults with all abilities. Presently there are 315 Miracle League Organizations across the country including Canada & Puerto Rico. Our goal is to build an inclusive complex and program in every city so individuals with special needs across the country will have the same opportunity to play baseball.

Evidence-informed, biophilic design of equitable/inclusive outdoor play and learning spaces
Robin Moore & Nilda Cosco

Learn how the Natural Learning Initiative engages underserved communities in design thinking to co-create equitable/inclusive biodiverse spaces using intersecting health-promoting principles of children-environment behavior across everyday contexts, ages and stages, and intergenerational relations.

How global PLAY has influenced PLAY in the Early Years of Australian schools! | Kim Moroney

Kim’s research on PLAY has led her to study in Finland and Sweden, visit PEDAL at the University of Cambridge UK, and participate in a study tour of AnjiPlay in China. Kim will share PLAY stories and images of her work in schools in Newcastle, Australia where PLAY is fundamental to pedagogy and practice.

Mindfulness in a Bag - Bringing Social/Emotional Learning to life through Brown Bag Play
Nichole Myles

How do you combine pandemic-safe, hands-on learning with addressing the gap in social/emotional regulation all using play? CML developed a novel approach - our Brown Bag S/EL program. This session will explore the motivation, content, and approach for this replicable and scalable program that focuses on Social/Emotional Learning outcomes through simple, hands-on materials.

Exploration in Forests of Learning: Play-based Ecosystems | Megan Oteri

In this interactive LEGO SERIOUS PLAY workshop, participants build individual Lego models of their play-based habitat in their field as a practitioner. As a group, they collaborate and merge their individual habitat models to define and build a 3D group model of this combined ecosystem.
The Playful Remake: Repurpose Tried and True Activities to Make them Playful | Sharon Peck

The purpose of this interactive workshop is to support participants to reconsider their current practices. Based on tenets of playful instruction, participants will identify factors of playfulness to incorporate into instruction. Participants will then remodel and recreate their favorite educational or recreational activity to make it more playful and more impactful for all children.

Playful Literacy Instruction: Making Learning Joyful and Culturally Responsive | Sharon Peck

This session unpacks the concept of playful literacy instruction. It looks at the way drawing on play and playfulness supports teachers to provide culturally responsive, engaging, generative, and joyful learning. Attendees will learn what to include to make literacy learning playful, ways to revise your favorite practices to make them more inclusive, and consider the ways that play-based instruction supports diverse learners.

The Meaning of Play and Its Implications for Equitable Design in Outdoor Urban Spaces | Suzanne Quinn

Play is marked by choices, modifications of functional behaviors, and opportunities vary actions (Burghardt, 2005). Active play does not happen without support, and a well designed environment that encourages people of all ages and abilities. In this session we will discuss research based design strategies for outdoor play.


Recess provides a time for play, where children practice interpersonal skills: to be creative; to nurture holistic well-being; to establish their own rules for games; to foster imagination. This translates into collaboration, ingenuity, resilience, problem-solving and critical thinking—essential adult skills. Join us as we discuss recess advocacy in your communities.

COVID Roadblocks Disrupting Play Opportunities: Fighting Back | Deborah Rhea

The LiiNK Project, a 60-minute recess intervention, has been implemented successfully across diverse learning environments to improve whole child development. Unfortunately, state and local school officials are using COVID as a roadblock to nature. This session will focus on how to tackle these continuous roadblocks through health and physical literacy components.

Coming to Our Senses: Envisioning spaces for play on a university campus | Amy Roehl

This presentation shares a strategy for making based on a sensory, experiential, and biophilic creative process used in a university-level student design project envisioning future play spaces on campus.

Apples, Peaches, Pumpkin Pie, Whose Not Ready Holler Eye | Pat Rumbaugh

Pat Rumbaugh, The Play Lady, Co-Founder of www.letsplayamerica.org will share examples of activities that inspired people to play from her 14 years as a play advocate, 25+ years career as a physical educator & coach, and a person who brought people together to play in her childhood.

Accessible Nature Through Equitable Mobility | Paul Russell

This presentation will use a case study method to demonstrate the retro fit design of two public parks. Each park underwent a design process to increase both the biodiversity ecological systems and site accessibility and diversity of user groups. The presentation will illustrate an effective coordination of the natural systems and site circulation for increased accessibility within a park space.

Loose Parts Smarts - New Dimensions in Loose Parts Play | Ken Scheel

Using loose parts, learn how simple open-ended prompts can gently guide the direction of play for play-based learning. Learn how to reduce the hassle of loose-parts-play with reusable materials. KEVA Planks are used in the session. No slide deck - just play-based learning to teach play-based learning.
Changing the Culture: Parents Empower Transformational ECE Nature Education | Kathleen Seabolt & Pam McColl
Understanding how to engage parent partnership to embrace children’s opportunity for appropriate risk-taking and to support transformational Nature Education experiences in an ECE program.

Authentic Learning and Play through Intergenerational Connections in Makerspaces | Abigail Stephan, Abigail Baker, Colby Cofield & Trey Richardson
Focused on play and authentic learning experiences, this session makes the case for connecting generations through makerspaces, or informal learning environments with tools and technologies for creating. Drawing on research and practice, we will provide educators and community leaders with tangible evidence of the power of intergenerational play in makerspaces.

Creating Ecosystems of Play - The Synergies of Systems | Claude Stephens
Play isn’t one thing. It’s more like the networked components of an ecosystem that rely on relationships, competition for resources, predictable change, symbiotic synergies, and cycled loops. Our work as play champions improves when we find our niche within the larger frame of play and settle into the grand community of play which defines us whether we acknowledge it or not. This workshop is part ecology, part systems thinking, part strategy formation, and all play. Come prepared to share your niche and build your play web in cooperation with others.

*Playful Pandemic - How Play Clubs, Nature Play, and Extra Recess Are Helping Students Thrive! | Kevin Stinehart
Playful Pandemic will explore how one school thrived through the last two years of the pandemic by adding extra recesses, Play Clubs before and after school, and nature play. The results they’ve had are undeniable - decreased office referrals, deceased mental health issues, increased sense of well-being, less social isolation, and increased happiness school-wide!

*Making Adaptive Sports Accessible to All | Jeff Townsend & Jasmine Townsend
This session will improve the knowledge base of practitioners when it comes to providing adaptive sport opportunities. Practitioners will receive a baseline of knowledge in the sport of wheelchair tennis, understand the mechanics of how to move the wheelchair, and the technical skills related to the game of wheelchair tennis.

Understanding Play Therapy, the Barriers, and How to Break Through for School Counselors! | Jill Van Horne
“Oh! My guidance counselor played Uno with me one time, I know what play therapy is!” This phrase will make professional school counselors and/or play therapists run for the hills! The idea of understanding what play therapy is and what it is not may be one of the largest barriers to understanding how to use play therapy and its effectiveness. This workshop will provide an explanation of play therapy and useful demonstrations of play therapy; directive and child-centered approaches will be included.

Reimagining Outdoor Play Spaces: Creating Therapeutic Outdoor Environments (TOEs) for Preschoolers | Danny Varat, Jill Shelnut & Jennifer Hall
This session describes the transformation of typical outdoor childcare play spaces into Therapeutic Outdoor Environments (TOEs) for young children who have been expelled from their childcare programs. Benefits of TOEs include not only physical development, but also improved self-discipline, better relationships with peers and teachers, reduced stress, and increased cooperation.
°The impact of multiple recesses on limb-movement patterns to strengthen cognition | G. Kate Webb & Debbie Rhea
Movement patterns are studied to achieve better results in the classroom, resulting in significant differences in children who play for 15 minutes versus 60 minutes. Differences are not just in skill development but a more balanced, stronger body disposition and increased cognition in the classroom. This presentation will highlight the differences.

°Park Ranger Emergency Response Training Needs | Bobby Wilson & Eric Russell
Nature based and outdoor play inevitably results in the occurrence of injuries and emergencies. This qualitative study identified certain training needs for fostering emergency decision-making abilities of park rangers employed by a large, multi-site state agency in the southeastern United States.

°The Nature of Play in Schools: Teachers Leading the Way | Deborah Wisneski & Amanda Steiner
This session will share the impact of teacher training on play on early childhood educators based on data from a focus group study. The study reveals how teachers conceptualize play, plan for play, and how they struggle and succeed in incorporating play in education.
US PLAY COALITION STEERING COMMITTEE

Jodie Adams - Co-founder, Brio 2 Solutions, Parks Director Emeritus, Past President NRPA Board of Directors

Lawrence Allen, PhD - Professor Emeritus, 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

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Sarah Lisiecki - Marketing Communications Specialist, BCI Burke

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

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Harrison Pinckey, PhD - Assistant Professor, Parks Recreation and Tourism Management, Clemson University

Lynn Pinoniemi - Director of Marketing, Landscape Structures Inc.

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Dolores Stegelin, PhD - Professor Emeritus, 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 Emeritus, College of Behavioral, Social and Health Sciences, Clemson University
GIVING THANKS

A very special thank you is in order for so many who helped us plan and implement our 2022 IN PERSON Play Conference and for all those that helped to manage all the other tasks, programs, events, and publications related to the work of the US Play Coalition this year:

Fran Mainella, Ryan Fahey, Michael Suk, Brooke Buckley, Allison Killinger, Leslie Heffington, Gillian Bernabe, Corliss Outley, Jennifer Geddes Hall, Phyllis Post, Victor Mack, Jeff Townsend, Chuck McCuen, Courtashia Felton, Jeff Hallo, Matt Brownlee, Lindsey Watley, Julie Jones, Jed Dearybury, Rachelle Beckner, Carter Roper, Sharon Franks, Sharon Melton, Pam Morgan, Leslie Conrad, Norm McGee, Barry Garst, Kristie Nieves, Annette Parker, Angee Pearson, Kirsten Windbiel, 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 sixteen countries, spanning 6 continents— and no one ever left the comforts of their home or office.

Join in 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.

Be sure to visit our website regularly for ongoing updates about the play movement and Coalition activities!

usplaycoalition.org

Follow US Play Coalition on social media at @usplaycoalition!
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