

US PLAY COALITION PRESENTS

# Play Date

TOUR '23



**PLAYING IN PLACE**  
FINDING PLAY WHEREVER YOU ARE

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9 \* VIRTUAL PLAY DATE**

# Schedule Overview

## 11:00am ET – **Welcome and Intros**

Stephanie Garst, Executive Director, US Play Coalition

Kristy Anderson, PhD, Research Scientist, Eppley Institute

## 11:10am ET – **“Play in ‘Play’ce”**

**Julie P. Jones, PhD, Assoc Professor, Converse University**

**Jed Dearybury, Educator, Author & Illustrator**

Do you seek a way to grow connection with your team-- whether that team is a group of adults or a classroom of learners? Do you want your space to encourage collaboration? Does your work environment empower risk taking?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, join us for this online exploration of how to PLAY in 'PLAY'ce, cultivating community through intentionality. Participants will dive head first into the deep end of the neuroscience of play and all the benefits that a playful workspace can provide. We will discuss tips and tricks, review resources, and practice a bit of online community building as we learn about the power of play for ALL ages.

## 11:30am ET – **“Finding Your Playful Rebellion”**

**Lisa K. Forbes, PhD, LPC, University of Colorado Denver**

**David Thomas, PhD, Executive Director of Online Programs,  
University of Denver**

Consider how playful rebellion can help you take back a playful adulthood. We will question and find freedom from the barriers that impact our relationship to play. Finding play wherever you are sometimes means breaking social norms and inviting play into spaces that are not always designed to accept it.

## 11:50am ET – **PLAY Break!**

## Schedule Overview

**12:00pm ET – “What Makes a Park Inclusive to All Users?  
Connecting The Dots for Everyone’s Whole Park Enjoyment”  
Bill Botten, U.S. Access Board Accessibility Specialist**

Ensuring park facilities are accessible and inclusive to everyone takes planning and an understanding of minimum design requirements. Creating accessible features are a great start, but if they aren’t connected by infrastructure, accessible site furnishings, and community assets that follow the same principles, the resulting participation will not be integrated and may not be successful. Join Bill, who was part of the team that developed the recreational facility requirements in the ADA Guidelines and spent 20+ years on staff at the US Access Board as he discusses whole park accessibility and shares insight from park users with disabilities on improving the overall experience.

**12:25pm ET – “Play in Hospital – Always More Than ‘Just’  
Playing!” – Nicky Everett, Senior Lecturer on Childhood  
Development and Playwork, Leeds Beckett University (UK) +  
Cath Hubbuck, Registered Health Play Specialist (UK)**

Learn how practitioners in hospitals in the UK and around the world, such as health play specialists and child life specialists, make use of play’s developmental benefits and therapeutic healing properties to aid the child’s healthcare journey.

**12:45pm ET – “Young Storytellers”  
Sunny Vachher, Founder & Chief Executive Officer, SUNNY +  
Producer, TED / TED-Ed + Daniel Hatcher, Senior Director of  
Strategic Partnerships, Alliance for a Healthier Generation**

**1:00pm-2:00pm ET – TAKE A LUNCH BREAK**

## Schedule Overview (cont.)

**2:00pm ET – “Play On!: Promoting Learning and Healthy Lifestyles through Active Play” –Russ Carson, PhD  
Research & Community Impact Director  
PlayCore Center for Research, Outreach, and Education**

Play is an effective strategy for increasing physical activity and learning in youth. Creative learning activities can offer fun and exciting ways to utilize one of our most valuable assets – the playground! Discover the benefits that evidence-based playground programming and thoughtful design practices have on promoting learning and the overall health and wellness of youth. Attendees will leave with sample activities, playground design considerations, and use case examples. Come join the fun!

**2:25pm ET – “That’s Not Play...Say’s Who?”  
Harrison Pinckney, PhD, Assistant Professor, Penn State University**

Who defines play? This discussion will examine the power structures that have shaped the way in which we perceive play. Additionally, attention will be given to charting a path for reimagining how play can be observed and appreciated by sharing the power to define with others.

**2:50pm ET – “Inclusive Playground Design: A Case Study of Three New England Playgrounds” – Ingrid M. Kanics, OTR, FAOTA, CPSI, President, Kanics Inclusive Design Services, LLC**

Research shows that a gap in literature exists relevant to how communities can initiate the process of planning and creating an inclusive playground, and how inclusive playgrounds truly impacts a child’s ability to participate. This research points out that lack of accessible playgrounds is a major contributing factor to decreased engagement of play for children of all abilities.

In this presentation, participants will hear the research results of interviews held at three New England inclusive playgrounds. Designers and parents of children of all abilities were interviewed, and we’ll share their thoughts on inclusive playgrounds—how they define them, what design features make it inclusive and how they impact the life of their children, families and communities.

**3:10pm ET – PLAY Break!**

## Schedule Overview (cont.)

3:25pm ET – **“Rescuing Recess: Who Gets to Play?”**

**Heather Von Bank, PhD, Chair, Dept of Family Consumer Science, Minnesota State University, Mankato + Sharon Peck, PhD, Associate Professor of Literacy, SUNY Geneseo + Play Advocate**

It is always worth quoting our friend and mentor Olga Jarett (2013) when she wrote “advocates for the wellbeing of all children need to be concerned about the number of children deprived of recess. Given the strong evidence suggesting recess meets so many...needs, recess for all is a goal worth pursuing.” This panel discussion explores key questions about the state of recess today based on the work of scholars who are researching and advocating for recess in their communities. Questions include: Who gets to play? How are recess policies created and how are policies enforced? What happens when students of all ages don’t have access to play? How do we support recess advocates? Participants will engage in these discussions and discover ways to support teachers with alternatives to taking away recess.

*Jarrett, O. S. (2013). A research-based case for recess. US Play Coalition, 1.*

3:50pm ET – **“Why Active Play is the Best Form of Self-Care”**

**Darryl Edwards, FBSLM, Founder of Primal Play, Movement Coach & Author**

Despite appearing frivolous, play is essential for healthy human existence. Not just for kids but adults too. I will highlight the risks of play deprivation, review the evidence on the benefits of active play, and discuss the importance of incorporating active play to support adult physical, mental and emotional wellbeing.

4:15pm ET – **“The Play Room” – Virtual Happy Hour + Networking**

“The Play Room” is an opportunity to interact more directly with one another without a speaker or program. This is a chance to get to know each other professionally and personally and to make connections.

## Meet the Experts



**William Botten, U.S. Access Board Accessibility Specialist** – Bill Botten, who currently works as an accessibility consultant for PlayCore, joined the U.S. Access Board in 2000 and served for 22 years. Bill specializes in accessibility issues related to recreation facilities and outdoor developed areas including amusement rides,

recreational boating and fishing facilities, pedestrian trails, picnic and camping facilities, sports facilities, golf and miniature golf facilities, swimming pools, and play areas. His training experience includes hundreds of presentations over the last 30 years to local, state, and national audiences on injury prevention, disability awareness, and accessibility issues.



**Russ Carson, PhD, Research & Community Impact Director, PlayCore Center for Research, Outreach, and Education** – Russ has over 20 years of experience as a university professor in kinesiology and public health, applied researcher, and PlayCore scholar and author of PlayOn! Russ is a passionate

speaker on topics of comprehensive health and wellness and a committed champion of research translation and application. At PlayCore, he is dedicated to helping professionals turn research into practice for community health impact. Russ lives, works, and plays in northern Colorado.



**Jed Dearybury - "Mr. Dearybury"  
Educator, Author & Illustrator**

Jed began his education career in 2001. He was featured in GQ Magazine as Male Leader of the Year, met President Obama as the South Carolina honoree of the Presidential Award for Excellence

in Math and Science Teaching, and was named top 5 finalist for SC Teacher of the Year. He was also the very first Milken Fellow from South Carolina in 2016. Since leaving 2nd grade in 2015 he has been leading professional development across the country, and training the next generation of educators through teaching in Higher Ed.

## Meet the Experts



### **Darryl Edwards, FBSLM**

#### **Founder of Primal Play, Movement Coach & Author**

Darryl is a Movement Coach, author of the best-selling books “Animal Moves” and “My First Animal Moves”, and a thought leader in creativity and innovation for fitness and health. He is also a fellow of the British

Society of Lifestyle Medicine.

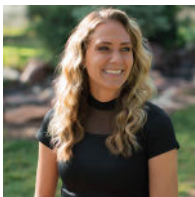
Darryl developed the Primal Play Method® to inspire others to make physical activity fun while getting healthier and more robust in the process.



### **Nicky Everett, Senior Lecturer on Childhood Development and Playwork, Leeds Beckett University (UK)**

Previous to her role at the University, Nicky was employed for just over 14 years at the Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust (NHS) working within

Paediatric Oncology. Starting her career as a Play Leader, then qualifying as a Hospital Play Specialist in 2007 and then moving over to be a Teenage Cancer Trust, Youth Support Coordinator within the Oncology teenage and young adult team.



### **Lisa K. Forbes, PhD, LPC, Clinical Asst Professor, University of Colorado Denver**

Lisa is an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Counseling Program at the University of Colorado Denver. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), a Registered Play Therapist (RPT) and her

current clinical practice is doing play therapy with kids from 3 to 9 years old. Lisa is a co-founder of the global faculty network called Professors at Play which consists of almost 800 higher education faculty and professionals interested in play as a medium for learning and a philosophy to challenge the norms and status quo of academia.

## Meet the Experts



**Daniel Hatcher**  
**Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships,**  
**Alliance for a Healthier Generation**

Daniel Hatcher is Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships at Alliance for a Healthier Generation where he has developed and led a national youth advisory board and helped create afterschool standards for healthy eating and physical activity.



**Cath Hubbuck, Registered Health Play Specialist**

**(UK)** – Cath Hubbuck is a registered Health Play Specialist based in London, UK. She trained in Bristol and qualified as a HPS in 2001 and has had a varied career working in a number of hospital settings around the UK. She has written

and taught about the role and work of Health Play Specialists in hospitals and really believes in the power of play to prevent trauma and aid coping in children and young people..



**Julie P. Jones, PhD**  
**Associate Professor, Child & Family Studies,**  
**Converse University**

– Julie is an innovative educational development professional, author and PLAY advocate. She maintains an active research agenda with interests including instructional technology and pedagogy, always with a mix of creativity and play. She is the previous director of teacher education and student teaching at Converse University. In the fall of 2023, she moved to the Behavioral and Social Sciences department, growing the Child and Family Studies major.



## Meet the Experts



**Ingrid M. Kanics, OTR, FAOTA, CPSI, President, Kanics Inclusive Design Services, LLC**

Ingrid is an occupational therapist and respected speaker on inclusive design. She helps communities create and operate indoor and outdoor play spaces that can be enjoyed by people of all abilities. As a person who experiences mobility deficits due to spinal cord injury, and an occasional wheelchair user, Ingrid has devoted more than 20 years working with museums and parks to create cutting-edge play spaces that embrace the principles and goals of Universal Design.



**Sharon M. Peck, PhD  
Associate Professor of Literacy, SUNY Geneseo  
+ Play Advocate**

Sharon actively researches urban literacy education, literacy clinical practicum methodology and the use of puppetry in the literacy classroom. She is dedicated to preparing teacher candidates to meet the diverse needs of students, to understand the complexities of poverty, to enact culturally responsive assessment based instruction, and to recognize the power of the arts for empowering students to become lifelong learners.



**Harrison Pinckney, PhD, Assistant Professor, Penn State University**

– Harrison is an Assistant Professor of Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management at The Pennsylvania State University. His work focuses on how play shapes the lives and future outlooks of youth.

Giving specific attention to the role of Race, Harrison primarily emphasizes how the play of Black youth has been stifled and points to the power of uninhibited play in promoting Black youths' physical, social, and emotional well-being. Harrison is also a member of the US Play Coalition's steering committee.

## Meet the Experts



### **David Thomas, PhD, Executive Director of Online Programs, University of Denver –**

David is an expert on fun in the workplace, the architecture of fun and fun in general. He has written books about the aesthetics of games, how to have fun at work and a compendium of playful technique for the higher education classroom. David is the executive director of online programs at the University of Denver, is an assistant professor, attendant, in the Department of Architecture at CU Denver and is the co-founder of the international organization Professors at Play. His research focuses on the architecture of fun and delves into the deep human connection with play and argues for the ability of fun transform our daily lives.



### **Sunny Vachher, Founder & Chief Executive Officer, SUNNY + Producer, TED / TED-Ed –**

As a Head Mentor and Motivational Speaker for Young Storytellers Foundation, Sunny helps raise diverse, inclusive, and emerging creative voices.



### **Heather Von Bank, PhD, Chair, Dept of Family Consumer Science, Minnesota State University, Mankato –**

Heather is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Family Consumer Science at Minnesota State University-Mankato, teaching courses in Child Development and Family Studies. She has presented across the globe, promoting the power of play to support children’s social-emotional, cognitive, and physical development. Heather is also on the steering committee of the US Play Coalition.

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