Play: Putting the Pieces Together

THE WORK OF PLAY

A WORKSHOP BY

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SONGS & RHYMES

Bananas
First we pick bananas, pick, pick bananas.
Then we peel bananas, peel, peel bananas.
The we bite bananas, bite, bite bananas.
Then we chew bananas, chew, chew bananas.
Then we swallow bananas, swallow bananas.
Then we go bananas, go, go bananas!

Two Little Dickey Birds
Two little dickey birds sitting on a cloud,
One named SOFT, the other named LOUD.
Fly away, SOFT, Fly away, LOUD.
Come back, SOFT, Come back, LOUD.
- Barbara Cass-Beggs (adapted)

Two Little Penguins
Two little penguins playing in the snow,
One named FAST, the other named S-L-O-W.
Waddle away, FAST, Waddle away, S-L-O-W.
Come back, FAST, Come back, S-L-O-W.
- Regina Wade (adapted)

Listen to the Water
Listen to the water, listen to the water, rolling down the river.
Listen to the water, listen to the water, rolling down the river.
Saw a bird by the waterside. Saw a bird by the waterside.
Saw a bird by the waterside. Oh, oh, by the waterside. Oh, oh, by the waterside.

Scarves Away
Scarves away, scarves away, put your scarves away today.
Scarves away, scarves away, put your scarves away today.

Hi. My name is Sew.
Hi. My name is Sew.
And I work in a button factory.
I've got a wife, and two kids.
Once day my boss said to me,
“Are you busy, Sew?” I said, “No.”
“Then push this button for me.”
- Carolyn Feller Bauer

Row, Row, Row Your Boat
Row, row, row your boat,
Gently down the stream.
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily,
Life is but a dream.
(If you see a crocodile, don’t forget to scream... AHH!)

Wind Oh Wind
Wind, oh wind, oh wind, I say.
What are you blowing away today?
Scarves, oh scarves, oh scarves, I say.
I am blowing the scarves away.
-Barbara Cass-Beggs
Throw Up the Animals, and Catch Them

Throw up the animals, and catch them. Turn around, turn around, 1, 2, 3.

Put them on your head, and walk around the room. Du, du, du, du... du, du, du, du, du, du, du, du.

Put the on your ears, put them on your toes. (Name as many body parts as you want!)

- This is an adaptation of a Hap Palmer song called “Throw the Beanbag.” A video can be accessed at: https://youtu.be/7g_KdERamZU

WAYS TO PLAY IN THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Use books with a chorus – involves listening and responding

Sing a song about the sounds animals make while looking at illustrations – Recognizing that pictures (and words) have meanings

Shout out what is behind the flaps – build’s self-confidence by showing you know the answer.

Model playing with a puzzle – persistence and spatial skills

Playing with blocks builds a multitude of skills

Play freeze games – practice listening and responding to “STOP”

Ignite imagination by inviting children to pretend to be a birthday cake (“what kind?”), birthday candles that melt when lit, and a birthday present (“What are you?”).

Be a media mentor by modeling joint media engagement and recommending digital media review sites for parents.

Use signs to give parents words to encourage and scaffold their children

Create a temporary early literacy area for Children’s Book Week based on a picture book.

Use soakers to help children build STEM skills and be exposed to the arts.

Play with colored scarves to ignite imagination and encourage dramatic play.

Sing!!!!!!!
Playing with FLOAM encourages:

- Problem Solving
- Motor Planning
- Position
- Range of Motion
- Visual Processing
- Reaching
- Finger Exploration
- Visual Attention
- Precision
- Functional Finger Movement
- Tactile Exploration
- Manual Dexterity
- Creativity
- Cooperative Hand Movements
- Imagination
- Fine Motor Skills
- Pincer Grasp
- Sorting – Colors and Sizes
- Bilateral Coordination
- Finger and Hand Strength and Control
- Eye-Hand Coordination
- PLAY!
- Coordination
- Part/Whole Relationship

Our FLOAM is from:

www.discountschoolsupply.com/foamdough
Tips for Child-Led Play

5 Minutes a Day:
• Schedule it in: you can even pick a time when it might be easy, like a few minutes during bath-time.
• If it feels like work, try again later.

Safety First:
• Take the child's lead when you can, but always take control if they need you to help them be safe.

Set Up the Environment for Success:
• Clear the space of distractions.
• You can even put the toys in a box so the child is curious and wants to play with what's inside.

Picking the Toys:
• Pick one that your child is okay sharing with others.
• Get your own toy if possible.

Show Interest In What Your Child is Interested In:
• Doesn't it feel great when someone is interested in what you like?

Body Language:
• Sit face to face with your child.
• Be their mirror by copying what they are doing.
• Smile!

Language and Communication:
• Be the sports announcer to their play.
• Try to minimize demands. Remember, your child is in the lead!
• Use a tone that is excited and animated.

Most Importantly: Have Fun and Enjoy Yourself!
RECOMMENDED ONLINE RESOURCES:

ALSC and LEGO® DUPLO® Present Read! Build! Play! Librarian Toolkit at http://www.ala.org/alsc/sites/ala.org.alsc/files/content/Read-Build-Play_Librarian-Toolkit.pdf

Sugra Mitra’s TED Talk: The child driven education up until 4:32 at: http://www.ted.com/talks/sugata_mitra_the_child_driven_education.html


Read the NAEYC position statement on technology: Joint position statement of the National Association for the Education of Young Children and the Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children’s Media at Saint Vincent College, “Technology and Interactive Media as Tools in Early Childhood Programs Serving Children from Birth through Age 8.” (NAEtech) http://www.naeyc.org/files/naeyc/file/positions/PS_technology_WEB2.pdf


Dr. Stuart Brown’s Ted Talk: “Play is more than just fun: it’s vital.” May, 2008. https://www.ted.com/talks/stuart_brown_says_play_is_more_than_fun_it_s_vital
EXPLORE THESE WEBSITES:

The Strong (formerly The Strong Museum) is an unparalleled, collections-based educational institution in Rochester, New York devoted to the study and exploration of play.
http://www.thestrong.org/

The National Institute for Play believes that as play is woven into the fabric of social practices, personal health, and relationships, the education provided to children and the capacity of corporations to innovate will dramatically transform.
http://www.nifplay.org/

The Alliance for Childhood promotes policies and practices that support children’s healthy development, love of learning, and joy in living. Their public education campaigns bring to light both the promise and the vulnerability of childhood. They act for the sake of children and for a more just, democratic, and ecologically responsible future.
http://www.allianceforchildhood.org/

KaBOOM! is a national non-profit that envisions a great place to play within walking distance of every child in America.
http://kaboom.org/


Carissa Christner’s Blog about the Wild Rumpus Summer Reading play in the park that strengthened writing, reading, and both written and verbal communication skills:
http://librarymakers.blogspot.com/2016/06/let-wild-rumpus-start.html

AnjiPlay brings children into “minimally-structured, open-ended environments that allow them to explore, imagine and create”: http://www.anjiplay.com/home/

Recommended App Review Sites

www.commonsensemedia.org
http://digital-storytime.com
RESOURCES:


Advice and anecdotes make this book a powerful parenting guide that reassures parents who are worried they are not doing enough for their children. Reasons and examples regarding the importance of play in children’s lives are given.


Brown, Stuart, & C. Vaughan. Play, How It Shapes the Brain, Opens the Imagination, and Invigorates the Soul. New York: Penguin Group, 200
A readable book that explains research on play in understandable language. The author uses his professional experiences to explain why play and physical activity are essential to help everyone cultivate the skills needed to survive and thrive.


Karr-Morser, Robin, and Meredith S. Wiley. *Ghosts from the Nursery: Tracing the Roots of Violence*. New York: The Atlantic Monthly Press, 1997 - Describes the work of Dr. Stuart Brown and his findings that many violent prisoners were play-deprived as children.


In a world of consumerism and commercialization, Linn touts the importance of play for children. She illuminates the links between play, creativity and health, and explains why fantasy play is essential in lives of children.


A fun, readable book with some comic book format that has easy developmental tips for parents and explanations of ways parents can play with their children.


Play helps children slow down in our fast paced, competitive world, and prepares them in multiple ways for success in the future. Descriptions of the benefits of self-paced, child-controlled play include concrete examples of positive roles adults can have in fostering their play.


Following explanations of the different types of play, this book is a cookbook of activities for children in preschool and kindergarten written for parents and caregivers. A number of different “recipes” focus on block play.