Thank You to Our Partners
2019 Professional Development Conference
Play is Child’s Work!
Exploring Play-Based Learning

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Share what you learn!

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#MovingForward19
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“The only thing that interferes with my learning is my education.”
Agenda

- Ice breaker
- Defining play-based learning and play
- Stages of play
- Play-based learning in action
- What teachers can do
- Reflection
As a result of this training, you will be able to...

• explain the importance of play on a child’s development.

• create an environment that empowers children to pursue creative play.

• provide high quality interactions with children to enhance play.
Ice Breaker

• List what you liked to play as a child.
• By yourself, with siblings, with friends?
• At home, at school, in neighborhood?
• What did you like most about it?
What is Play-Based Learning

First we must define play…

Play is an activity that should be freely chosen by the child for no other reason than because it is fun.

Work with a partner to develop a definition that fully explains play-based learning.
What is Play-Based Learning

It isn’t just what children learn that’s important, but how they learn as well.
"Scientists have discovered that it takes approximately 400 repetitions to create a new synapse in the brain, unless it is done in play, in which case it only takes 10 to 20 repetitions."

Dr. Karyn Purvis
What is Play-Based Learning

Play-based learning gives children time to carry out their own ideas through play.
Play

• What children do for a living – it’s their job
• Through play children can
  • make sense of their world
  • Actively explore problem solving
  • Acquire new language and literacy skills
  • Practice social emotional skills
• Children have control of their environment
What does Play-Based Learning Look Like?

- What is a child doing?
- What is happening inside a child’s mind?
- What learning processes can we identify?
What are They Learning?
Learning is only limited by our imagination.
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Learning Through Inquiry

- Initial Engagement: Noticing/Wondering/Playing
- Exploration: Exploring/Observing/Questioning
- Investigation: Using observations/Reflecting
- Communicating: Sharing ideas or outcome
Children Need a Balance of Play

- Exploration Play
- Object Play
- Sensory Play
- Constructive Play
- Games with Rules
- Games with Invented Rules
- Physical Play
- Dramatic Play

Work with your group to create examples for each area.
Stages of Play

- Unoccupied play – child isn’t playing, just observing
- Solitary play – child plays alone, focuses on own activity (usually under 3 years old)
- Onlooker play – child watches others, may talk about the play but doesn’t engage (2-3 years old)
Stages of Play

- Parallel play – child plays close by others, mimicking actions, beginning of more complex social play (2.5 – 4 years old)

- Associative play – child is interested in playing with others, some interaction but not organized or coordinated (3 – 4 years old)

- Cooperative play – child interested in both activity and other children, organized, children have assigned roles, play as a team (4 – 6+ years old)
What are They Learning?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3mXJKh4xZ2Q
Talk, Talk, Talk
Teacher’s Role
Room Arrangement

- Arrange environment to stimulate play
  - All levels of play
  - All levels of development
  - All levels of difficulty
- Drawing/writing materials
- Time for free play
- Time for documentation and reflection
Teacher Observations

- Document growth without test questions
- Authentic anecdotal records
- Non-invasive
- Easier – less prep time
- Opportunities for interactive play with children
What are your Questions?
Bringing it All Together

- Play
- Play-based learning in the classrooms
- Meeting children where they are in their developmental stage
- Intentional conversations and observations
- Environment
Self-Reflection

“Play is the highest form of research.”
Albert Einstein

What are you taking back with you?
As a result of this training, you can…

- explain the importance of play on a child’s development.

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- provide high quality interactions with children to enhance play.
Follow Us!

We encourage you to post, comment and interact with us.
Thank you for attending!

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Let’s give away some items for your classroom!