Play Everywhere!
Catalyze Play Across Your Community

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Warm-up Activity
Who We Are
The leading nonprofit working to bring balanced and active play into the daily lives of kids in America, particularly those growing up in poverty.

Our mission is simple.
We create great places to play, inspire communities to promote and support play and drive the national discussion about the importance of play in fostering healthy and productive lives.
KIDS NEED CARING ADULTS TO THRIVE

PLAY IS A COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

PLAY IS CRITICAL TO A GREAT EDUCATION

PLAY HELPS ADDRESS TOXIC STRESS

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**Play is Disappearing**

- Only 1 in 4 children get 60+ mins of physical activity/active play a day
- Over a six-year period, children age 6 to 12 spent 24 fewer minutes per week playing, and children age 9 to 12 spent 54% less time per week outdoors

**Our Kids are In Trouble**

America’s children are increasingly unhappy, unhealthy, and falling behind

- 1 in 3 kids are obese/overweight
- 1 in 5 have mental illness
- Children are not developing 21st century skills
- Children are experiencing higher levels of toxic stress

**PLAY IS A SOLUTION**

Research confirms that play – physically active, imaginative and interactive play – is a powerful healthy living solution to these problems because play benefits the whole child.

Play transforms children – from sedentary to physically active, bored to mentally active and solitary to socially active.
There are barriers to play ...

1. Play can get lost in daily schedules
2. It's hard to know if you're playing enough
3. Play can involve hassle factors

The solution is a new standard for cities that puts families first

PLAYABILITY

- Foster play everywhere
- Make cities family-friendly
- Create the corner store of play
# Playability to Life for All Kids
Please do not climb
Creative Play Grants
Let’s Play, KC!

2015 was the Year of Play!

monthly events all across the KC metro at least 2/3 in communities of economic need build awareness and partnerships
Year of Play 2015

- Pop-Up Play Lab events
- Creative play experiences
- Communities across the metro area
  - Partners in communities with economic need
  - Other partners
  - Reached 12 diverse communities
  - 6 in Kansas and 6 in Missouri
  - 9 in areas of economic need
  - 1,100 kids and adults
Pop-Up Play Lab
Pop-Up Play Lab
Pop-Up Play Lab
2016

play everywhere for everyone

Planet Play creates and catalyzes innovative places to play. Planet Play inspires communities to promote and support play. Planet Play collaborates with partners that share our vision.
2020 Goal
Planet Play Site Network

a network of neighborhood events & sites in urban core & suburban communities across the Kansas City metropolitan area to serve the needs of the growing Kansas City region.
play everywhere for everyone

We create and catalyze innovative places to play.

We inspire communities to promote and support play.

We collaborate with partners that share our vision for a more playable KC.
Hands On Children’s Museum

Olympia WA

- 28,000 square feet indoors, half acre outdoors
- 298,797 visitors annually
- 100,077 visitors served through Free & Reduced Programs
- 6,204 child participants in our young Maker programs
Young Makers Programs

Supporting the link between STEM and early childhood

• It is the nature of children to create and design
• Supporting parents and grandparents so they can encourage STEAM learning at home
• Reaching out to preschool teachers and daycare providers
Young Makers Field Trip Workshops & Parenting Support Groups
Hands On 2U, Math & Science Nights, & Community Events
Offsites

Makey Makey & Builder Boards
Sponsored Field Trips & Hands On 2U
Prototyping Mobile Makespace:
Makers Tool Bench
Sand in The City
PLAY TO LEARN IN THE COMMUNITY

Katie Edinger
Senior Public Programs Manager
Play to Learn - What is it?

- Partnership with local libraries and schools in low-income areas
- Three focused programs: The Importance of Play, Hands-on Science or, Hands-on Math
- Serves approximately 1,500 children per year
Questions?
Loose Parts

Materials

Rigamajig
kaboom.org/resources/rigamajig

Imagination Playground
imaginationplayground.com

Kodo Kids
kodokids.com

Books

Loose Parts: Inspiring Play in Young Children by Lisa Daly and Miriam Beloglovsky (Redleaf Press, 2014)

Loose Parts 2: Inspiring Play with Infants and Toddlers by Miriam Beloglovsky and Lisa Daly (Redleaf Press, 2016)


Websites

The Art of Tinkering by Karen Wilkinson and Mike Petrich
tinkering.exploratorium.edu/art-tinkering (book and web resources)

10 Reasons to Love Loose Parts
aneverydaystory.com/2014/04/25/loose-parts-transform-your-play/