Bringing Fun to ALL Families

Saki Iwamoto, Boston Children’s Museum
Alicia Greene, Boston Children’s Museum
Jeanmarie Walsh Mansfield, Long Island Children's Museum
Saleem Hue Penny, Chicago Children's Museum
Why do you seldom visit museums?

“People look at you funny. They think you are a kid & you have a kid yourself. I never felt like I knew what to do.”

-Partners in Learning participant
NJ Historical Society, circa 1999
1. Iterative Process
2. Relationships & Trust-Building
3. Limitations
4. Pleasant Surprises & Unplanned Benefits
Session #1 (February 15, 2017)

• Playspace Theme: The What, How, & Why of Pritzker Playspace
• Museum Activity: Superpowers in Strollers: Cape-Making for your Kiddos
• Books:
  • The Skin You Live In (Michael Tyler, David Lee Csicsko)
• Guest Speaker: N/A
• Take-home Resources: N/A
• WePlay Challenge: N/A
Session #2 (March 1, 2017)

• Playspace Theme: Block Play
• Museum Activity: Exploring “Tinkering Lab” facilitated makerspace
• Books:
  • I Am So Brave! (Stephen Krensky, Sara Gillingham)
  • I like It When.../Me Gusta Cuando... (Mary Murphy)
• Guest Speaker: Illinois Action for Children (IAFC)—Teen Parent Program
• Take-home Resources:
  • IAFC ‘Baby Steps’ Child Care Guide
  • Illinois Child Care Assistance Program application
• WePlay Challenge: N/A
Caseworker Call (March 9, 2017)

- Facilitation vs. Instruction
- Do we actually know our audience?
- Phone use
- Safety
- Support understanding/managing caseworker relationships
- Facilitator as a role model
- Reinforce learning/reflection (later became ‘WePlay Challenge’)
WePlay Challenge

Share your favorite Play Memory with us!

Reflect on these questions about your play experiences when you were a child. Think about your play experiences as a parent. Come ready to share your reflections with us at our next WePlay session!

- What is your favorite play memory as a child?
- When you were growing up, how did your family play?
- How do you play in your home today?
- How do you invite children to play in your family?

Spend an afternoon or evening playing together as a family.

- What are the effects of play on relationships in the family?
- How do you feel after playing?
- How do your children (or other children in your life) experience play?

Share your thoughts with us!

Reflect on these questions about your experiences with your child. Think about your experiences as a parent. Come ready to share your reflections with us at our next WePlay session!

- What aspects of parenting bring you the most joy?
- What developmental milestones of your child are you most looking forward to? (i.e. Crawling, walking, talking, running, etc.)
- What ideas come to mind about how to support your child as they reach those milestones?

ChicagoChildrensMuseum.org
Session #3 (March 15, 2017)

- Playspace Theme: Messy Play with Clay
- Museum Activity: Exploring “Treehouse Trails” Early Learner Exhibit
- Books:
  - *Last Stop On Market Street* (Matt de la Pena, Christian Robinson)
- Guest Speaker: Dr. Marealita Pierce, Pediatrician
- Take-home Resources:
  - *Understanding Children* (Richard Saul Wurman),
  - ‘Making Meaningful Art Experiences for Early Learners’ CCM Handout
  - CCM Playdough Recipe and Clean Mud Recipe
  - ‘Benefit of Clay Play’ CCM Handout
- WePlay Challenge: “Play Memories!”
Session #4 (March 29, 2017)

• Playspace Theme: Things That Roll
• Museum Activity: What Makes the Great Hall Great?
• Books:
  • Everywhere Babies (Susan Meyers, Marla Frazee)
  • Look! (Edouard Manceau)
• Guest Speaker: N/A
• Take-home Resources:
  • United Way, ‘Born Learning’ Series: Recipes for Learning (book) for UCAN caseworkers
  • United Way, ‘Born Learning’ Series: Kid Basics/El ABC de los Ninos (Reference Cards) for parents
• WePlay Challenge: “Hopes & Dreams”
Session #5 (April 12, 2017)

- Playspace Theme: Sounds, Music, & Movement
- Museum Activity: Collage Self-Portraits in Art Studio
- Books:
  - *How Do I Feel?/¿Como Me Siento?* (Pamela Cote, American Heritage Dictionary),
- Guest Speaker: N/A
- Take-home Resources:
  - *DeShawn Days* (Tony Medina, R. Gregory Christie) for UCAN caseworkers
  - Navy Pier Ferris Wheel Tickets for UCAN caseworkers & parents
- WePlay Challenge: “Music”
Share your thoughts with us!

Reflect on these questions about your experiences with your child. Think about your experiences as a parent. Come ready to share your reflections with us at our next WePlay session!

- How does listening to music or dancing make you feel?
- What do you observe when you play music for your child?
- Think of simple and easy ways to incorporate more music and movement in your lives!
Session #6 (April 26, 2017)

- Playspace Theme: Pretend Play
- Museum Activity: Dress-up in ‘Once Upon A Castle’
- Books:
  - *The Very Hungry Caterpillar/La Oruga Muy Hambrienta* (Eric Carle),
  - *Where Is the Green Sheep?/¿Donde Esta la Ovega Verde?* (Mem Fox, Judy Horacek, Carlos E. Calvo)
- Guest Speaker:
- Take-home Resources: Participant Photobooks (to be mailed)
- WePlay Challenge: N/A
Mother Profile
Pritzker Playspace is currently closed for

WePlay
Young Parent Playgroup
(1-3 pm)
WePlay
Young Parent Playgroup Pilot

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#AAMSMJ