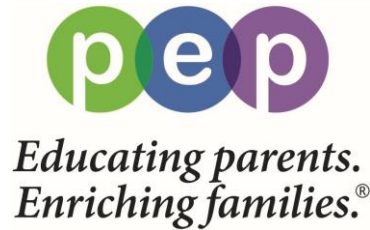
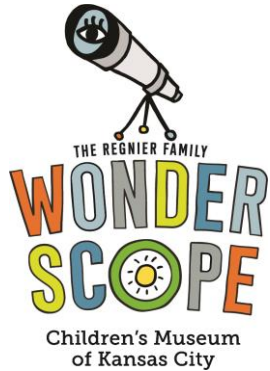


Strengthening Families by ENGAGING PARENTS IN PLAY



MEET YOUR FACILITATORS



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Development and Evaluation*

The Regnier Family
Wonderscope Children's
Museum of Kansas City



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Port Discovery
Children's Museum



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Furman L. Templeton
Preparatory Academy

THE REGNIER FAMILY

WONDER  SCOPE

Children's Museum of Kansas City

PARENTING

WITH

play

Building Values- Based Community Programs:



MISSION:

To spark a lifelong love of learning through the universal and uniting power of play!

VISION:

Wonderscope is appreciated as an educational resource in our community that provides all children and families with the opportunity to build a solid foundation for success in school and beyond.

VALUES:

Wonderscope is committed to serving and honoring people of all backgrounds, ethnicities, religions, gender identities, sexual orientations and physical abilities in a safe, educational environment that reflects the diversity of our community.

The Unique Positioning of Children's Museums in Communities



SWOT Analysis



STRENGTHS

What do we do well?

What makes us stand out from other community resources?

What internal resources do we have (space, staff, supplies, etc.)?

WEAKNESSES

What are the limitations of our internal resources?

Is our location easily accessible for the families we want to work with?

Is this program financially feasible for our museum?

OPPORTUNITIES

What do community partners stand to gain from partnering with us?

What do families stand to gain from participation in this program?

What does our museum stand to gain from engaging in this type of program?

THREATS

What challenges is our target population facing that is causing these issues in the first place?

What are roadblocks to attendance that exist for our target population?

Why might community agencies or members of our target population not think of our museum as a resource in this way?

Leveraging Partnerships within the Community



- During the creation process of this program, we connected with some of the bigger social service agencies in the area who serve our target population (Children's Division, CASA, etc.)
- Through meetings with the staff of these various community social service agencies, we were able to establish the primary needs and challenges that we wanted to address.

Addressing Threats

- Through the partnerships we had begun to establish with social service agencies, we were able to pinpoint the primary threats to parents and families engaging with the program or not completing the program.

Meals

Uber gift cards/gas cards

Play Packet

Toy basket

One year membership upon completion

Certificate of completion with hours listed

Small cohorts





Program Goals

1. Increase caregivers' confidence in their ability to parent and understand their child
2. Offer increased opportunities for caregivers and their children to engage in play
3. Strengthen the bonds between caregivers and their children
4. Help caregivers learn how to use the resources at their disposal to engage in play

Creating an accessible curriculum

- Chose structure (four weeks, after hours for working parents, kids in attendance to work on skills and avoid having to find childcare)
- Chose major topic areas
- Brought in outside professionals who were experts in each field
- Created interactive curriculum at a level accessible to parents with all types of backgrounds, with vignettes to help apply the knowledge to everyday life. Curriculum is meant to be accessible to parents who already engage in play with their children and parents who have never gotten a chance to play, even as kids.
- Utilize a strengths-based approach with a positive, supportive environment to encourage parents without using shame or guilt



Schedule of Programming

6 - 7pm:

Families arrive, get dinner, eat together, and begin learning. During this time, children are not expected to sit straight in their chairs and pay attention for the whole hour. We allow children to get up and move around, play with the toys, etc.

7 - 7:30pm:

Families have time out on the museum floor to play. Two staff members are always on hand to supervise.

Weekly Learning Goals

WEEK 1: Growing Up Playfully:

Understanding How Play Affects Your Child's Development

- Recognize what skills your child can learn through play.
- Use play to help your child develop socially, emotionally, and physically.
- Incorporate play into everyday life.

WEEK 2: Playing with Feelings:

Using Play to Stay in Tune With Your Child's Mental and Emotional Wellbeing

- Use play in conflict resolution.
- Use play to understand your child's emotional state.
- Use play to teach your child about empathy and boundaries.

Weekly Learning Goals

Week 3: Paint and Groove:

Incorporating Art and Music into Playtime

- Successfully incorporate art and music into playtime with your child.
- Understand which areas of child development are strengthened through art and which areas of child development are strengthened through music.
- Use art projects and music to help your child express emotions and tell stories.

Week 4: Family Ties: Using Play to Bond With Your Child

- Use play to learn about how your child communicates.
- Use play to understand your child's interests.
- Use play to show love and care to your child.



Nevaeh

Nevaeh is playing with her brother Isaac, pretending to be superheroes. Nevaeh is using a blanket as a cape, and Isaac gets upset because he wants a cape too. Nevaeh goes to get her pillowcase and ties it around Isaac's shoulders like a cape. What skills is Nevaeh developing?

Now let's do an activity, just like Nevaeh and Isaac!

Taking Control: Damarion

Damarion is playing firefighter with some action figures. Listen to his story.

Why are some possible reasons that Damarion is playing with his action figures like this?



Metrics of Success

I have a better understanding of how to resolve conflicts with my child(ren) in a healthy way as a result of Parenting with Play.

97%

I have a better understanding of my child(ren)'s emotional state(s) as a result of Parenting with Play

94%

I am now more confident in my ability to teach my child(ren) about creating healthy boundaries as a result of Parenting with Play

91%

I now incorporate more music and songs into my child(ren)'s life as a result of Parenting with Play

91%

I now make more time to do art with my child(ren) as a result of Parenting with Play

100%

I have a better understanding of my child(ren)'s interests, likes, and dislikes as a result of Parenting with Play

84%

I now have better communication with my child(ren) as a result of Parenting with Play

91%

I feel more confident when engaging in play with my child than I did before beginning Parenting with Play

94%

2022 PROGRAM SUMMARY



18 families and 21 caregivers completed
Parenting with Play in 2022

Variety of family structures, race, and gender
(though caregivers were primarily female)



Sourcing Referrals

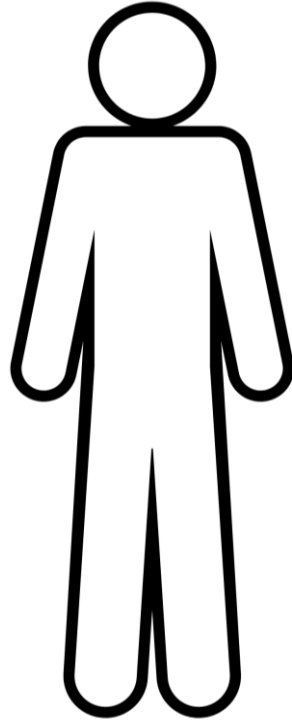
- We make continuous community outreach efforts in order to reach as many families as we can
- We currently have partnerships with 17 community agencies and are continuing to expand our reach in the Kansas City area
- We have regular touchpoints with our existing partner agencies throughout the year



Takeaways

- Children's museums are in a unique position to offer essential programming to families in need of extra support
- When working with parents and families, create an accessible curriculum that engages all target age groups and meets families where they are
- Collaborate with community partners to develop a program that will truly meet the needs of the families you want to serve
- Programming of this type elevates the voices of children's museums in their local communities
- Adaptability is key!

Where do you feel your emotions?



HAPPY



ANGRY



SAD



LOVED



PEACEFUL



CONFIDENT



WORRIED

Roll the Dice!

Angry/Frustrated



Happy

Peaceful



Sad

Port Discovery's At Play Programs

Interactivity 2023

April 28, 2023

Strengthening Families by Engaging Parents In Play

PORT DISCOVERY
Children's Museum

Our Mission, Vision & Values

MISSION

We provide unique opportunities and high-quality experiences that make play accessible, educational, and fun for all.

VISION

To foster joy, connections, laughter, and learning through purposeful play.

VALUES

- Playfulness, Joy, and Fun
- Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging
- Connection and Compassion
- Creativity and Innovation
- Empowerment and Shared Purpose

Port Discovery Factoids

- As the premier children's museum in the mid-Atlantic, Port Discovery Children's Museum educates and inspires children through purposeful play.
- We serve infants through children 10 years old and their families, educators and caregivers.
- Port Discovery features three floors of hands-on, interactive exhibits that encourage children and the adults in their lives to play, learn and engage with one another.
- On average, Port Discovery serves 270,000 guests annually through on-site visitation and community outreach.
 - 28% from Baltimore City
 - 46% from MD counties outside of Baltimore City
 - 26% from outside the state of Maryland
- In a normal year, more than 33% of our visitors receives free or reduced admission through the Museum's access programs.





Achieving Positive Child & Family Outcomes is Especially Challenging Right Now

- 40% of Maryland’s kindergarteners demonstrate readiness and entered classrooms prepared to fully participate in kindergarten, a 7-point decrease from the 2019–2020 school year.
- COVID-19 continues to disrupt school and home routines and increase child and family stress.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics has issued a call to action to meet our child mental health crisis.
- In 2019, 28% of children in Maryland were living below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. For the same year, that rate in Baltimore City was 55%.

Our Multi-Generational Focus

- Engaging and innovative programs throughout our museum.
- Caregiver and child workshops.
- Inviting and accessible experiences for all children and their caregivers.
- Community partnerships.
- Local governance.
- Higher education research partners.
- Early Childhood Community Advisory Panel
- At Play Programs



At Play Programs



Fathers At Play

Invites fathers of young children to engage with their kids through purposeful play approaches.



Parent Partners At Play

Empowers parents as museum volunteers and program facilitators.



Parents At Play

Supports caregivers by modeling positive parenting strategies and incorporating play into daily routines.



Professionals At Play

Provides educators with opportunities to explore how play is embedded in their practice and network with peers.

Parents At Play Overview

- Genesis
 - From Fathers At Play to Parents At Play
- Evolution
 - Incentivizing Participation
 - Identifying Broad Range of Partners
- Metrics of Success
 - Pre- and Post-Surveys
 - Parent Focus Groups
 - Comprehensive Evaluation
- Next Steps
 - Parent Partners At Play: Empowering the Parent Voice

Parents At Play Program Model

- Research-Based
- Leveraged parent input to shape the program model.
- Launched pilot of *Parents At Play* in Spring 2022.
Initial partners were Promise Heights and PEP.
- Other partners include Urban Strategies, Howard County Judy Center, and Bedtime In A Box.
- Flexible model that involves weekly, monthly or quarterly sessions.
 - ❖ 3-4 sessions
 - ❖ Final session in museum

Parents At Play Key Components

Relying on Stakeholder Engagement to Drive Program

Development

Parent Focus Groups

Parent Interests and Needs

Model design and logistics

Reflection and Refinement

Collaborating with Experts to Strengthen Our Program Model

Parent Encouragement Program

Leveraging Community Partners to Connect with Families

PORT DISCOVERY
Children's Museum

Parents At Play Curriculum

WEEK 1 – Observe It!

In Week 1, we will introduce a simple encouragement strategy taught by PEP: parents notice and observe what their children are doing, without casting judgment. When a parent or caregiver sees a child for who s/he is without judgment, the child gains a stronger sense of self and a sense that they are valued, which is powerfully encouraging. This strengthens the parent-child connection and fosters cooperation in the child. (This can be used when a child is exhibiting unwanted behavior.)

WEEK 2 – You Can Do It!

In Week 2, we will build on Week 1 and expand to noticing a child's effort. This builds internal motivation and resiliency in the child, as they learn that effort is prioritized and recognized rather than achievement. As a result of this week's lesson, the parents will be able to use their noticing skills without judgment to encourage their child to try new or challenging things, and to focus on learning as a process.

WEEK 3 – Feel It!

In Week 3, we will build on Week 2 by adding the tool of “acknowledging feelings” of the child. This provides the child with some sense of control over their lives while keeping all the choices acceptable by the parent. As a result of this week's lesson, the parents will be able to verbalize what feelings their child may be experiencing while playing

WEEK 4 – Choose It!

In Week 4, we will introduce the concept of offering limited choices to build positive power and autonomy. This provides the child with some sense of control over their lives while keeping all the choices acceptable by the parent. We will also review and practice what we learned in Weeks 1 – 3, with specific language offered for parents to try as they play with their kids at 2-3 play areas in the room. As a result of this week's lesson, the parents will be able to take away specific phrases to use in offering choices to their child, in addition to phrases for noticing and encouraging.

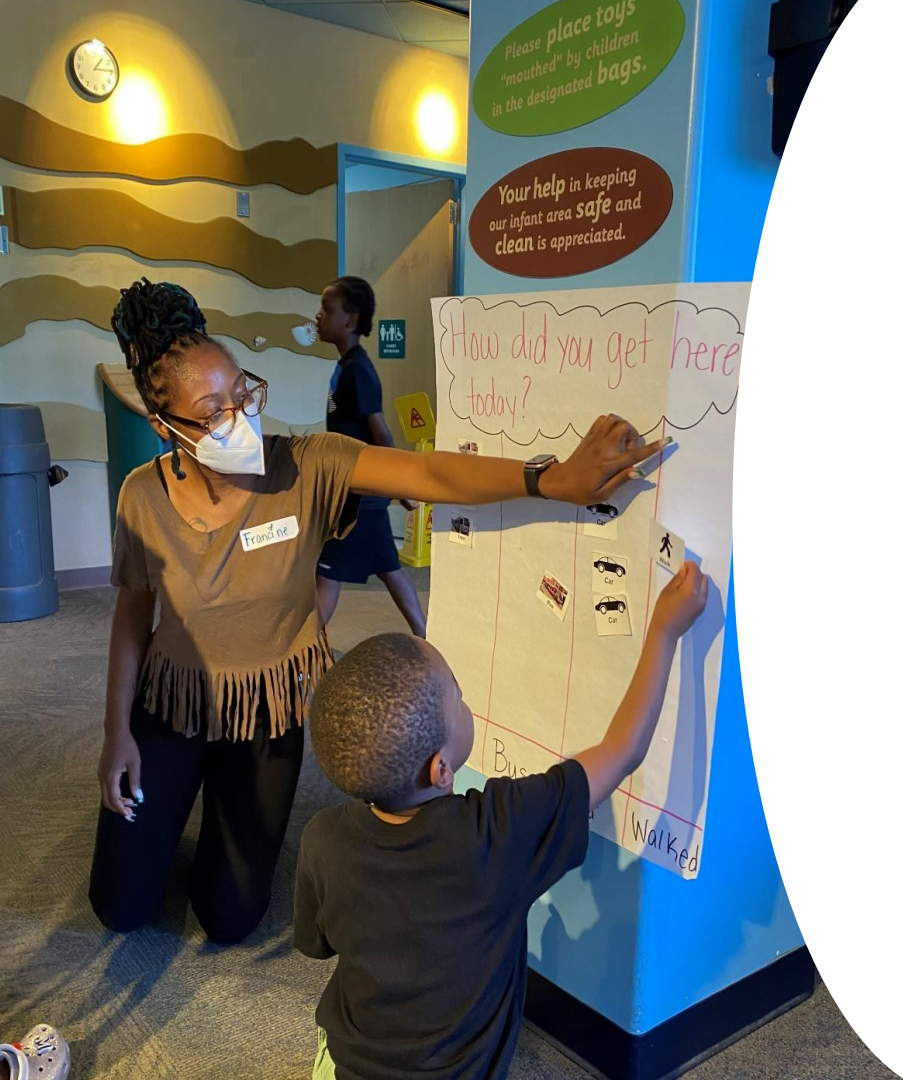
Parents At Play Evaluation

- Pre- and post surveys.
- Comprehensive evaluation including parent focus groups.
- Overwhelmingly, we received positive feedback from participants based on pre- and post-surveys that were administered.
- Overall, 84% of parents strongly agreed that “The program activities made me feel more confident about using different parenting techniques with my child to support and encourage positive behaviors.”

“I like that they showed a different topic of child/parent skills each week.”

Questions?

- What will our partnership look like?
- Could we start with 1-2 centers as a pilot?
- How will we identify centers to participate?
- Could this lead into a Professionals At Play pilot?



Educating parents. Enriching families.®

Parents at Play:

**Collaborating with
Experts**

What PEP Brings to the Partnership



Parenting
Education
Expertise



Culturally
Competent
Program



Focused on
Practical
Skills

PEP Parent Educators – A Peer to Peer Model



Parents at Play:

Collaborating with Experts

Encouragement

En-courage-ment

'To build courage'
'To instill confidence'
'To give heart'



Collaborating with Experts

Program Objectives:

- To share new skills to help parents encourage their children
- To provide tools for diminishing challenging behaviors and encouraging positive behaviors
- To provide a positive experience for parents and children together



Parents at Play:

Collaborating with Experts

Program Themes:

- **Observe it!**
Noticing without Judgement
- **You Can Do It!**
Noticing effort, building the child's autonomy
- **Feel It!**
Acknowledging feelings
- **Choose It!**
Offering limited choices



Collaborating with Experts

Program Format:

- Group centering activity
- Concept of the day
- Immersive activity
- Transition back to full group
- Final thoughts/wrap-up
- Try it at home exercise



Parents at Play:

Collaborating with Experts

Example:

Noticing effort



Parents At Play: Leveraging Community Partners



Linda Callahan, LMSW

Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant

Furman L. Templeton

Promise Heights



What is Promise Heights?

- ▶ A PROMISE NEIGHBORHOOD
- ▶ Federal Grant
- ▶ Program/Strategy

UPTON DRUID HEIGHTS



- ▶ HISTORIC BLACK ARTS DISTRICT
- ▶ Disinvestment/systemic racist policies
- ▶ Community Demographics

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
B'MORE HEALTHY BABIES:
Social determinants of health and
education

Furman L. Templeton

Eutaw Marshburn

Community outreach and partners

- ▶ Maternal Health
- ▶ Post Partum groups
- ▶ Parenting education and support
- ▶ Early childhood mental health
- ▶ Case management
- ▶ Resource referral
- ▶ 0-5 school readiness
- ▶ 2 generation literacy

Recruitment Strategies

- ▶ Personal Invitation/phone calls
- ▶ Email
- ▶ Class Dojo
- ▶ Offer incentives



Getting Participation

Barriers

- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Time
- ▶ Childcare

Solutions

- ▶ Parking vouchers, bus passes, LYFT
- ▶ Parent survey/focus group for best days/times
- ▶ Open program for siblings

Glows and Grows

- ▶ Family bonding
- ▶ New experiences
- ▶ Complements other programs
- ▶ Scheduling
- ▶ Consistency
- ▶ Follow-up