Partners for Play

is a network of individuals and organizations whose vision is based on three principles:

• Positive play experiences are essential to human development and life long learning.
• The value of play and potential for good is not fully appreciated nor acted upon.
• Collaborating as advocates for play, we can enhance the value of play in our community.

Partners For Play is dedicated to promoting play to

• Broaden awareness of the benefits of play
• Increase understanding of constructive positive play
• Strengthen existing resources and opportunities for play
• Advance the quality and frequency of play experiences offered & chosen

Shared beliefs on the significance of play:

• Play is essential to human development and well-being.
• Play helps us develop physically, mentally, emotionally, socially, perceptually and creatively.
• Play is not a luxury, is not just a pastime and it's not just for kids. It's for all ages.
• Play provides the foundation for early development & life long learning. It enables the brain for early learning and continued learning, for making new connections & for taking in and processing newly acquired information.
• Play can keep us young at heart. It helps us see from a fresh perspective. It stimulates our thinking. It turns tasks into fun, builds relationships and makes life more meaningful and enjoyable.
• Educating the community on the value of play, promoting the benefits of play and facilitating constructive play experiences will enhance the lives of the players, those that facilitate them and society as a whole.

For more information about Partners For Play or to become part of the Partners For Play network call (585) 234-0700 or e-mail: info@partnersforplay.org.
Recipes for Play

For all ages – for the child in all of us!

Allow time for play – pure play without distractions.
- Turn off the TV, move away from the computer.
- Bigger blocks of time & more frequent play is best.

Play with others – children, family members, friends.
- Take opportunities to spend “playful” time together.
- Pretend, be silly, create together.
- Listen, participate, sometimes follow, sometimes lead.
- Share in others’ excitement of discovery, accomplishment.
- Help others feel safe to express themselves freely.

Create an encouraging environment – a safe setting.
- Set up an environment that inspires pretend & creativity.
- Allow for “messy” creative play and physically active play.
- Set limits and rules, as necessary, to ensure safe play.
- Acknowledge creativity & individual uniqueness.
- Provide opportunities for solitary play and play with others.

Provide a wide variety of materials and toys that stimulate play.
- Provide props for play that encourages interaction with others.
- Provide opportunities where the “process” is most important.
- Provide multiple experiences to expand learning & perception.
- Provide tools for play that support all development areas & skills:
  - Sensory-Perceptual
  - Physical
  - Creative
  - Social-Emotional
  - Cognitive

Places to Play

Anywhere… Constructive play is possible anytime, anywhere.

Places with play-full learning environments for all ages include:
- Rochester Museum & Science Center – Exploration & discovery
- Strong Museum – History and culture of play
- Toy Resource Center at Lincoln Branch Library – Play resources

Ingredients of Play

Experts say ingredients of constructive positive play include:
- Spontaneity & Joy
- Experimentation
- Make-believe
- Discovery
- Exploration
- Creative
- Voluntary
- Decision making
- Satisfying
- Freedom of expression

Experience I can!

Benefits of Play

Play builds and exercises fundamental skills. (Develops sharper minds, literacy skills & healthier bodies.)
- Sensory, motor, language, memory, & thinking skills.

Play helps form and maintain identity. (Builds stronger and balanced social-emotional skills.)
- Playing allows us to develop relationships and learn about our abilities and our capabilities (assets).
- Play enables us to learn how to work as a team member, control emotion and to resolve conflict.

Play encourages creativity. (Stimulates exploration, experimentation and imagination.)
- Play exercises, develops and enriches our imagination, abstract reasoning capacity, memory and language, self-confidence and flexible attitude.

Play instills values. (Establishes the lenses for seeing and acting in society.)
- Play gives experiences to discover the value of rules, directions, boundaries, manners, attitudes and moral virtues including respect for oneself and others.
- Play develops, strengthens, and rejuvenates relationships. Loving, supportive relationships enable us to develop, learn, and fulfill our potential.

Play transforms us. (Facilitates positive change and growth throughout life.)
- Play gives us insight and changes our perception of others, our community, the world, and ourselves.
- Play enables us to change our knowledge, attitude, and behaviors.