



SACRAMENTO PLAY SUMMIT

2019 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Saturday, September 14
Tsakopoulos Library Galleria

- 8:30 – 9 AM Registration (Library Lobby)
- 9 – 10:15 AM Welcome
Keynote: *Changing the Dialogue from Readiness to Success—How Play Supports Equity* with Miriam Beloglovsky (Galleria)
- 10:30 – 11:30 AM Breakout Session 1
- *The Art of Collaboration* with Julie Montali, Ph.D. and Elizabeth Cunnion (Galleria)
 - *What is Adventure Play? Myths and Realities* with Steve Caudle (East Meeting Room)
 - *Providing Classroom Support for Inclusion Benefits All Students* with Molly Mix, Ashley Lambert, Jady Davis, and Nicole Juarez (West Meeting Room)
- 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Lunch (Galleria)
Book Sales and Signing
- 12:30 – 1:30 PM Breakout Session 2
- *Paint in Our Hair and Paint in Our Toes: Exciting, Dynamic, Process Based, Sensory-Rich Art Experiences Designed to Stimulate the Mind, Entice the Soul, and Grow the Creative Capacities of Young Learners* with Kristian and Michelle Klebofski (Galleria)
 - *Playful Connections: Building Social Skills through Play* with Lindsey Nicole (East Meeting Room)
 - *Trust in the Value of Play* with Michael Leeman and Mary Linnane (West Meeting Room)
- 1:45 – 2:45 PM Breakout Session 3
- *Putting the PLAY in Music!* with Scott Gifford (Galleria)
 - *Potential Effects of Screen Time & Play Alternatives for Infants* with Vanessa Ya Lopez (East Meeting Room)
 - *Book Play* with Justin Azevedo, Nate Halsan, Adilene Rogers, and Donna Zick (West Meeting Room)
- 3 – 4 PM Keynote: *A Child at Heart* with Christopher Phillips Ph.D. (Galleria)
- 4 PM Book Sales and Signing

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Keynote Address 1: 9 – 10:15 AM

Miriam
Beloglovsky

Changing the Dialogue from Readiness to Success—How Play Supports Equity (Galleria)



Children's right and need to play is rapidly disappearing from American early education classrooms; most notably in our country's most underserved and historically impacted communities. When children play with loose parts, they enter the world of inquiry and investigation, thus developing intellectual learning that is at the core of achievement and success in life. In this keynote presentation, Miriam will explore how play is not only a right for children, but it also leads to success in life.

Miriam Beloglovsky is a professor of early childhood education at Cosumnes River College, public speaker, child advocate, and author. She is the founder of the Play Equity Institute, which is dedicated to promoting equity through play. She is a keynote speaker and presents numerous workshops on child development loose parts, play, and early learning. She has also led community building and leadership training for nonprofit organizations and community agencies.

Keynote Address 2: 3 – 4 PM

Christopher
Phillips, Ph.D.

A Child at Heart (Galleria)



How can we stay a 'child at heart' at every age and stage of life, so that we are creative, open, curious, and inquisitive in ways that continually connect us with others and the universe itself? Christopher Phillips, PhD, has some answers and some good questions to go along with them! For nearly a quarter of a century, Christopher has travelled the world holding philosophical give and takes with 'children of all ages,' people whose appetite for asking 'Why? Why? Why?' is never sated, and who, like him, are constantly seeking to know more, so they can expand their horizons. In his travels, Christopher has learned about the unique perspectives, experiences, and wisdom of children and youth from around the globe. In this interactive presentation, Christopher will share how we can all, more than ever, remain open, honest, curious and connected.

Christopher Phillips, Ph.D. is the founder and Executive Director of the nonprofit Democracy Café, dedicated to making a more connected, understanding, and participatory world. Christopher is the author of 7 different books including his most recent one *A Child at Heart: Unlocking Your Creativity, Curiosity and Reason at Every Age and Stage of Life*. He has been a Network Ethics Fellow at Harvard University, a Senior Education Fellow at the National Constitution Center, and a Senior Writing and Research Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania. Chris travels the globe giving presentations and workshops, and of course holding philosophical inquiries with people of all ages and walks of life.

Breakout Session 1: 10:30 – 11:30 AM

The Art of Collaboration (Galleria)

Collaborative Art is a unique approach to building social emotional skills in the classroom. When children work together to make a piece of art, they sharpen skills in teamwork, communication, and creativity in a fun and playful atmosphere. Some might call collaborative art activities, “a pedagogical treasure chest!” Various methods will be showcased: from bringing individual sections together to form a piece to full collaboration on a group piece. Inspiration will be abundant through the works of famous artists such as, van Gogh, Rousseau, and Kandinsky. Educators will learn successful starting points and stages along the path towards the true Art of Collaboration. Participants will experience collaborative art approaches and reflect on the wide range of benefits for young children including developing self-regulation, social interaction, as well as sparking their initiative in learning.

*Julie Montali Ph.D., Director of Early Childhood Education, Twin Rivers Unified School District.
Elizabeth Cunnion, Preschool Coordinator of Early Childhood Education, Twin Rivers Unified School District.*

What is Adventure Play? Myths and Realities (East Meeting Room)

Adventure Playgrounds are common in Europe, yet rare in the United States. Fairytale Town’s Sacramento Adventure Playground is now three years old. We’re based upon the old-fashioned concept of rural play featuring mud, tree climbing, fort building and much, much more. We’ll cover what adventure play is, the benefits, liability, costs, truths, myths and some great stories.

Steve Caudle, Play Manager, Sacramento Adventure Playground.

Providing Classroom Support for Inclusion Benefits All Students (West Meeting Room)

Learn tools for overturning many parents' concerns that inclusion equates to a few students getting all the attention at the expense of the rest of the classroom. We will talk about what to do when support does not meet expectations, how to help students navigate friendships through play, how to cultivate an environment of compassion, how to identify peer models, and how to offer parents opportunities for inclusion as well. We hope to leave teachers with the tools to identify antecedent behaviors, so they can intercede before the behavior becomes disruptive, to look for what the child might be trying to convey or accomplish with the behavior. Participants will also get a very small taste of what it might feel like for their students with autism with an interactive demonstration.

*Molly Mix, Interim Director of Education, Sacramento Children’s Museum.
Ashley Lambert, ExplorABILITY program Social Skills Specialist, Sacramento Children's Museum.
Jady Davis, Special Education Teacher, Cordova Lane Center.
Nicole Juarez, Owner and Director, Social Training and Resources (S.T.A.R.).*

Breakout Session 2: 12:30 – 1:30 PM

Paint in Our Hair and Paint in Our Toes: Exciting, Dynamic, Process-Based, Sensory Rich Art Experiences Designed to Stimulate the Mind, Entice the Soul, and Grow the Creative Capacities of Young Learners (Galleria)

Come ready to learn about new process art and sensory projects to add color, joy, and creative thinking to your classroom! Learn about the best tools and materials to add to your curriculum to

keep it relevant, engaging, and exciting for everyone. Presenters are current teachers and will show both photos and videos of their students in action, so you can see how preschoolers engage with each lesson. Learn how to bring art and sensory activities outdoors, how to embrace the mess (because creativity is rarely tidy!), and why art and sensory experiences are important for development. From Impressionism and self-portraits to moon sand and shaving cream, these new ideas are sure to spark excitement and learning in your classroom. Get ready to sparkle, splatter, squish, create, invent, and educate creatively!

*Kristian Klebofski, Preschool Teacher at Friends Preschool, Tenured Professor at Sierra College.
Michelle Klebofski, Executive Director, Friends Preschool*

Playful Connections: Building Social Skills through Play (East Meeting Room)

Playing with a child with autism can seem challenging. This workshop offers simple, easy to use strategies to build meaningful connections with children with autism and is designed for parents/caregivers, health and education professionals, and anyone directly involved with a young child on the Autism Spectrum who want some practical strategies for how to play in fun and exciting ways together. We explore easy ways to begin playing joyously together and how using the child's play preferences can establish safety and connection. We explore how to build social skills, expand executive functioning, and establish the foundational skills for life-long connections with others through time set aside just for one-on-one play sessions. We will practice being playful and attentive, listening, observing, and adding to play.

Lindsey Nicole, CEO & Founder, Rebel Joy Tribe

Trust in the Value of Play (West Meeting Room)

There is no disputing children benefit from engaging in play, with regard to; cognitive skills, problem-solving abilities, physical, social, and language development. These qualities are what adults view as the product, outcomes or justification for supporting children playing. For children this all sounds like a lot of work. Therein lies the conundrum — for work is what a body is required to do while play is what a body is not required to do. When play becomes an obligation it is no longer play. (Tom Sawyer) It is a common sentiment among adults to describe play as the work of children. But, by definition, any play activity that has a product or goal in mind does not qualify as pure play. It is true children play hard and learning can involve hard work but we need to take care not to confuse or conflate the two. We will share our experiences and recommendations for appreciating, and trusting, young children in their world of self-directed play.

*Michael Leeman, Director, Roseville Community Preschool.
Mary Linnane, Staff Teacher, Roseville Community Preschool*

Breakout Session 3: 1:45 – 2:45 PM

Putting the PLAY in Music! (Galleria)

Too many of us believe that “being musical” is something you're either born with, or not. And far too many lump themselves into the “or not” category. There was a time before records, radios, tv, cd players and streaming services, when people made their own music. Most families had one or more members who played the piano or a fiddle, or strummed a guitar or ukulele, picked a banjo or could play tunes on a harmonica. And even those who didn't could sing and clap along. Homemade music is within everyone's reach. We should, and can, be making music in our homes, our schools and our social gatherings. Whether you're a teacher, a parent, a grandparent or anyone else who

misses making music, you'll come away with songs and ideas which will help make your life more musical.

Scott Gifford, Children's Music Specialist, Music for All Ages.

Potential Effects of Screen Time & Play Alternatives for Infants (East Meeting Room)

What's the best way to play with children, particularly infants under 2 years old? Although screen time is seen as alternative for play today, this workshop will highlight the impact screen time has on our infant children, lack of sleep being just one of the many effects it can have on them. I will share the American Academy of Pediatrics screen guidelines, talk about healthy alternatives for screens, and offer novel and easy ways for teachers, parents, and siblings to find fun and appropriate ways to engage with infant children. I will offer book suggestions, and give handouts with my top book and toy selections.

Vanessa Ya Lopez, Certified Child Life Specialist, Stanford Children's Hospital.

Book Play (West Meeting Room)

Learn about the latest children's books and ways to support play as you share them with a young audience. In this engaging presentation, a panel of Sacramento Public Library child literature experts will introduce participants to diverse picture books that are successful in storytime, including Spanish and bilingual Spanish-English titles. They will share with you some of the latest interactive picture books, including books that inspire a playful reading environment and also create opportunities and inspiration for unstructured play. They will also highlight some of their favorite strategies for promoting play while sharing these books with children. Find new ideas for fun and engaging books that support your commitment to play.

Justin Azevedo, Youth Materials Selector, Sacramento Public Library.

Nate Halsan, Youth Services Librarian, Sacramento Public Library.

Adilene Rogers Bilingual Outreach Youth Services Librarian, Sacramento Public Library.

Donna Zick, Early Learning Specialist, Sacramento Public Library.

Speaker Bios



Justin Azevedo is the youth materials selector for Sacramento Public Library, responsible for all children's and teen materials in the multi-branch system. He previously worked as a teen services librarian and branch supervisor.



Steve Caudle has been the Play Manager of Sacramento Adventure Playground since its inception in 2016. Steve has a unique background with 20 years in the recreation field, including 10 years within children's programming. And as an avid DIYer, he possesses a construction background that comes in handy at the Playground.



Elizabeth Cunnion is the Coordinator of Early Childhood Education for Twin Rivers USD in Sacramento, CA. Elizabeth has 28 years of experience in education, having taught early childhood from birth to age 5, teen parents, and K-12 general education and at-risk/at-promise students. She holds a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in Early Childhood Education.



Jady Davis' background in applied behavioral analysis and integrated play groups helps her as a special education preschool teacher and a Social Skills Specialist with Sacramento Children's Museum's ExplorABILITY program for children with autism.



Scott Gifford has been a musician and educator for over 40 years. A former 5th/6th grade teacher, he works with preschoolers, kids, parents, adults and seniors to promote the idea that music is for everyone and is what people do.



Nate Halsan is a children's librarian based out of Sacramento Public Library Central Library responsible for family storytimes and community pop-up storytimes.



Nicole Juarez's experience as a Senior Behavioral Therapist and an Assistance Director for a social skills inclusion program helped her create Social Training and Resources (S.T.A.R.), a program that offers consultation and Training for families and organizations with special needs children.



Kristian Klebofski is a dynamic presence in Early Childhood Education whose experience and expertise have made her a prominent voice, national speaker, and creative enthusiast. She has earned both a B.A. and M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education + Early Childhood Special Education, has been a lead preschool teacher for over ten years, and is a tenured professor of education.



Michelle Klebofski is the creative visionary and executive director of Friends Preschool in California that she has owned and operated for more than 20 years. She is a teacher and nationally known speaker recognized for her vibrant educational philosophies and preschool vision.



Ashley Lambert utilizes her psychology degree with an emphasis in child development by helping children with autism and special needs. She is currently a Social Skills Specialist with Sacramento Children's Museum's ExplorABILITY program for children with autism.



Michael Leeman is the Director of the Roseville Community Preschool a play-based, parent-participation preschool. He has co-presented over 6,000 workshops and conferences with Bev Bos to a wide variety of education groups for over 25 years.



Molly Mix is the Interim Director of Education and Program Manager at Sacramento Children's Museum, where she identifies and develops ideas, programs, events, exhibits, classes, activities, and guest programs that enrich visitor experiences at the museum.



Julie Montali Ph.D. is the Director of Early Childhood Education for Twin Rivers USD in Sacramento, CA, an early learning consultant, and a psychologist of more than 25 years. Julie has taught graduate courses in early childhood, special education, and teacher residency programs at various universities, and is the co-author of several visual arts integrated curricula designed for young learners.



Lindsey Nicole is a relentless optimist whose son was diagnosed with Autism. She has dedicated her life to her son's recovery from Autism, which she believes is his optimal outcome. Lindsey used play as the method to get into his world to create meaningful connection to build his social skills. She is also the CEO and Founder of the company Rebel Joy Tribe.



Adilene Rogers is Sacramento Public Library's Bilingual Outreach Youth Services Librarian who offers Spanish language programming and storytime in libraries throughout Sacramento County.



Vanessa Ya Lopez is a certified child life specialist and works in the NICU at Stanford Children's Hospital. She holds bachelor degrees in Spanish and Psychology and Social Behavior, and a master's in Education. Her professional interests include: infant/child development, family centered care, and bereavement. She is a mother and enjoys beachcombing and photography.



Donna Zick is the early learning specialist with the Sacramento Public Library, where she coordinates countywide programming and initiatives to help families learn how they can support their child's early literacy skill development.

ROOM MAP

Tsakopoulos Library Galleria

