SACRAMENTO PLAY SUMMIT

2020 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Saturday, September 12

9 – 10 AM	Keynote: *Let the Children Play: The Case for Play in the Time of COVID* with Dr. Olivia Kasirye
10 – 11 AM	Breakout Session 1 • *The Benefits of Play and How Adventure Playgrounds Fits* with Steve Caudle • *Play and Gender: How to Support Gender Expression Through Play* with Samuel Mullins • *Music and Movement Through the Seasons* with Jamaica Stevens • *Trauma Informed Classrooms* with Alicia Williams and Kerra Landcaster
11 – 11:15 AM	Break
11:15 AM – 12:15 PM	Breakout Session 2 • *"What's That?" and "Now What?": Decoding and Serving Sensory Behaviors* with Monica Barr • *Exploring Music and Literacy for Early Ages* with Francie Dillon • *Leveraging Play to Build Resilience in Children Living in Crisis* with Brian Grant
12:15 – 12:45 PM	Break
12:45 – 1:45 PM	Breakout Session 3 • *The Benefits of Play and How Adventure Playgrounds Fits* with Steve Caudle • *Play and Gender: How to Support Gender Expression Through Play* with Samuel Mullins • *Music and Movement Through the Seasons* with Jamaica Stevens • *Trauma Informed Classrooms* with Alicia Williams and Kerra Landcaster
1:45 – 2:45 PM	Breakout Session 4 • *"What's That?" and "Now What?": Decoding and Serving Sensory Behaviors* with Monica Barr • *Leveraging Play to Build Resilience in Children Living in Crisis* with Brian Grant • *This is Play: Environments and Interactions that Engage Infants & Toddlers* with Julia Luckenbill • *Books that Help Us Play, Books that Help us Talk* with Justin Azevedo, Nate Halsan, and Adilene Rogers
2:45 – 3 PM	Break
3 – 4 PM	Keynote: *What Nature Needs You to Know About…Play* with Dr. Stuart Brown

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Keynote Address 1: 9 – 10 AM

Dr. Olivia Kasirye

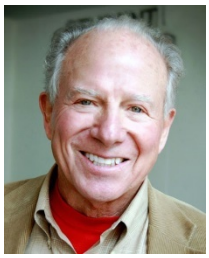
Let the Children Play: The Case for Play in the Time of COVID

Child-driven play is an important part of childhood that offers important benefits for social, emotional and physical well-being. However, multiple forces and social pressures have downplayed its importance over time, with resulting reduction in the amount of time children have for unstructured, child-driven play-time. Now more than ever, we need to revisit the benefits of free-play for children and be aware of the consequences of reducing it during the COVID pandemic. We need to seek an appropriate balance of play, academic achievement, and organized activities for children which take into consideration their social, emotional, intellectual and environmental needs.

Dr. Olivia Kasirye is the Public Health Officer for Sacramento County. She received her medical degree in 1988 and a Master's degree in Epidemiology at UC Davis in 2003. She is board certified in Public Health. She provides medical expertise and public health oversight on multiple community-wide public health issues.

Keynote Address 2: 3 – 4 PM

Dr. Stuart Brown



What Nature Needs You to Know About…Play

Dr. Stuart Brown will explore some remarkable play science through patterns of play seen among our animal cousins, as well as the consequences of major play deprivation. Brown will dive deep into the importance of discovering and implementing your own unique play personality and urge the audience to professionally enhance those of students and associates!

Dr. Stuart Brown is an educator and author who trained in general and internal medicine, psychiatry and clinical research. Brown first recognized the importance of play by discovering its absence in the life stories of murders and felony drunken drivers. Through his clinical practice and review of over 6000 personal play histories he affirmed the importance and need for healthy play throughout the human life cycle. Brown's experience as a medical administrator, producer, and scientific consultant or creator to numerous other productions on Joseph Campbell, Cosmology, Animal Play, and Stress, plus his scientific and popular writings have identified him as the foremost "practical champion of the knowledge of play." Our species, he says, "is built for play, and built by play."

Breakout Session 1: 10 – 11 AM

The Benefits of Play and How Adventure Playgrounds Fits

Through history all young animals learn to transition into adulthood by play, including humans. In recent times there has been a shift away from play to more structured or adult led programming. However, evidence is clear that children learn best by trying (and often failing). When adults step in too often it can have a negative impact on a child's growth. Find out how an adventure playground helps children adjust physically, emotionally, and serves as a fantastic education platform. We will also dive into how to take elements of adventure play into a traditional structured type of setting.

Steve Caudle, Play Manager, Sacramento Adventure Playground.

Play and Gender: How to Support Children's Gender Expression Through Play

In this session, participants will explore play through the lens of gender, gender expansive behavior and gender expression. First, participants will discuss appropriate terminology surrounding gender and examine their own biases towards gender and gender roles. They will then be able to discuss and analyze new strategies to ensure that they are creating an inclusive, safe and supportive paly environment for their children. They will be able to participate in hands-on activities to use these strategies and will leave with take-aways that can help them support this idea in their center, school or home.

Samuel Mullins, Child Care Coordinator, Child Action, Inc.

Music and Movement Through the Seasons

Sing and Dance throughout the Year with Music and Movement Activities for Every Season! Love Music and Movement? Come learn simple, yet valuable ways to integrate music and movement into your daily curriculum in this hands-on workshop! Discover creative ways to use books, toys and other props that you can find throughout your classroom or in your childcare to keep your students engaged and focused throughout the year. Explore simple ways to change classic children's songs and create new ones to build vocabulary, spark creativity and foster imaginative play! Find new ways to use music and movement activities in the classroom to promote early literacy and help your students understand basic math and science concepts! Make transition times, circle time and small group activities more engaging and FUN by integrating new songs and creative movement! Explore ways to integrate social emotional learning through movement or music activities in this fun high energy interactive workshop!

Jamaica Stevens, Founder & CEO, JAMaROO Kids

Trauma Informed Classrooms

Understanding brain science and compassion to understand behaviors. How to support and understand children who have experienced trauma by setting up the classroom with the appropriate supports and aesthetics as the third teacher.

Alicia Williams, M.A., Ed.D Candidate, San Juan Unified
Kerra Landcaster, Content Specialist, San Juan Unified School District

Breakout Session 2: 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM

"What's that?" and "Now what?": Decoding & serving sensory processing behaviors

Understanding the reasons why children may bite, lick, stomp and scream when we do not want them to. "What am I seeing?" and "what does it mean? ". How to view the children and adults around me through all their senses. An invitation to better understand sensory processing needs and challenges and how to respond well to ourselves and those around us. Knowing what to do before you do it. When to calm and why. How to calm. What is too much? Identifying appropriate expectations with the little and the big humans we belong to in our lives. Why we need to support functional sensory processing skills to support play. Our future depends on play. Self regulation leads to healthy humans.

Monica S. Barr, Masters of Science in Occupational Therapy, owner of Little Bird Courage Company MS, OTR/L, SIPT

Exploring Music and Literacy for Early Ages

Music can have an exciting impact on how young children develop phonological awareness, a foundational skill necessary for reading. In this workshop, we'll explore creative ways to make familiar songs new again and how tempo, dynamics, and melodies enhance the playful side of the musical experiences for young children.

Francie Dillon, Professor of Children's Literature, California State University of Sacramento

Leveraging Play to Build Resilience in Children Living in Contexts of Crisis

Play offers children opportunities to build the characteristics that are closely associated with high levels of resilience. Resilience refers to the capacity of the individual to demonstrate the personal strengths needed to cope with some kind of challenge, hardship or adversity. Resilience enables children living across different contexts to cope effectively with and overcome severe adversity. Many parents and education managers do not see the value of play for young children. This poses a major challenge to the use of play-based approaches in formal early childhood contexts. This challenge can be overcome, however, by becoming aware of the evidence that supports play-based approaches.

Brian Grant, Vice President, Kids Around the World

Breakout Session 3: 12:45 – 1:45 PM

The Benefits of Play and How Adventure Playgrounds Fits

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Brian Grant, Vice President, Kids Around the World

This is Play, Environments and Interactions that Engage Infants and Toddlers

Though it is tempting to treat infant-toddlers as tiny preschoolers, their development is different, and requires teachers who can understand this and design classrooms, experiences and interactions that match their interests and abilities. Join me as we explore the development of the young infant, mobile infant and toddler and consider how to design appropriate curriculum.

Julia Luckenbill, Child Development Demonstration Lecture, UC Davis, CCFS

Books that Help Us Play, Books that Help us Talk

Learn about the latest children's books and ways to support discussion about race and racism with your children. 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 offer opportunities for you to talk with your children about race. They will also highlight some of their favorite resources to learn about ways you can engage your child in discussion while sharing these books with children. Find new ideas for fun and engaging books that support your commitment to uplifting diversity in your programming.

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.

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.

Monica S. Barr has been involved with child and family development since 1996. She completed her Masters of Science degree in Occupational Therapy (OT) in 2003, and since has globally worked as an early interventionist. Barr specializes in sensory processing evaluation and treatment for all. She strongly believes in the culture of belonging and moving through this life with fun and function within all communities.

Steve Caudle has served as the Play Manager at the Sacramento Adventure Playground since its inception in 2016. Prior he worked several years coordinating afterschool programming and youth sports and fitness. Although always willing to be more of a non-traditionalist and to take "risks" 'Mr. Steve' has seen youth grow at such a high rate at SAP compared to more traditional programming that he has become a staunch advocate.

Francie Dillon is a professor of children's literature at California State University, Sacramento, national award-winning children's recording artist, and speaker at state and regional early childhood conferences. Her efforts in promoting music and literacy have reached thousands of children and families in elementary schools, city libraries, preschool settings, and special events nationwide. Her most joyful and playful accomplishments include being Sacramento's Voice of Fairytale Town, where Dillon produced, recorded, and co-created the music and stories for the play-set recordings.

Brian Grant is Vice President of Partnerships at Kids Around the World where he develops strategic collaboratives to sustain and expand program impact. Working in over 80 countries, Kids Around the World is a child-focused, community development organization that designs and executes play initiatives benefiting at-risk children and under-resourced communities. For over 15 years, Brian has developed strategies that support stakeholder engagement and maximize program impact for organization, including World Vision (US), The Salvation Army and Lifewater International.

Nate Halsan is a youth services librarian based out of SPL's Central Library and responsible for family storytimes and community pop-up storytimes.

Kerra Lancaster is an established ECE professional in the Sacramento Area who has found her passion in marrying assessment tools, research and play. Kerra recently graduated from Sac State with an M.A. in Child Development, with a focus on research-based early learning environments.

Julia Luckenbill has a Master's Degree in Education with an Emphasis in Child Life in Hospitals. She is the program coordinator for the infant and toddler components of the NAEYC-accredited Early Childhood Laboratory School at the UC Davis Center for Child and Family Studies. She has directed preschool programs in California and presents on child development topics for parents, teachers, and students. Luckenbill's book, "This is Play," was offered as the comprehensive benefit for NAEYC this year.

Samuel Mullins has been in the Child Development field for 15 years. He has been a classroom teacher, an Assistant Director and Center Director. He currently is a Child Care Coordinator working with Child Action, Inc. Sacramento County's Resource and Referral Agency. He is passionate about supporting teachers to do what is right for all children.

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

Jamaica Stevens founded JAMaROO Kids in 2004 after teaching preschool for 7.5 years and studying the performing arts since childhood. JAMaROO Kids specializes in providing quality enrichment programs for young children. These programs have included dance, music, yoga, art and bilingual classes. Currently Jamaica leads a team of educators who specialize in creating and teaching developmentally appropriate enrichment programs for young children at over 150 schools, childcare centers and community venues throughout San Francisco and the surrounding 8 counties.

Alicia Williams is an established ECE specialist from the Sacramento area who has passionately worked to create aesthetically pleasing environments that encourage positive behaviors in young children and those who have experienced trauma. Alicia graduated with a B.A. in Early Childhood Education from Brandman University, an M.A. in Human Development from Pacific Oaks College and her Ed.D coursework in Educational Leadership from Brandman University, she is currently completing the dissertation.