



Guiding Children's Learning through Play

"Welcome. As you enter, please grab a marker and write your response on each of the flipcharts posted around the room. Then walk around the room and read what your colleagues have written."

Presented by: Vanessa Plourde-Smith, BSW

800.278.3723

threadalaska.or

For children, play is at the heart of early understanding about the natural world, mathematical concepts, literacy, and social and emotional competency.



GOALS

- Define Play and Learning Environment
- Explore the teachers role in the learning process.
- Gain insight into the role reflection plays in children's learning



800.278.3723

threadalaska.or



thread connecting
early care & education
to alaska

800.278.3723

threadalaska.or

Early Child Care Providers are...



800.278.3723

threadalaska.or

A red wavy line that starts with a small loop on the left, then flows horizontally across the page, ending with a small loop on the right.

Group Activity

800.278.3723

threadalaska.or

Challenges to Playing

- We don't have time for play, because of pressure to do "academic" activities. Some don't understand the real value of play.
- Children playing don't look like they aren't "doing anything".
- There is a lack of awareness of the Power that Play has on the social, emotional, spiritual, cognitive, and physical development of our children.
- We feel the need to "defend" play instead of implementing it.

800.278.3723

threadalaska.or



Children cannot
bounce off the
WALLS
if we take the walls
AWAY

—Erin Kenny



800.278.3723

threadalaska.or

A close-up photograph of a child's hands playing with a white, clay-like substance on a wooden surface. The child's fingers are covered in the material, and some of it is smeared on the table. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the play area.

Play is the
answer to how
anything new
comes about.

- Jean Piaget

800.278.3723

threadalaska.or

Walk about posters



800.278.3723

threadalaska.or

How is PLAY defined?

- Engaging in activity for _____ and _____ rather than a serious or practical purpose.
- When you play, especially as a child, you spend time doing_____.
- Anything that _____ is done for its own sake and appears _____.

800.278.3723

threadalaska.or

Lets talk about getting outside with your young children



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BmsTIID7DRM>

800.278.3723

threadalaska.or

The Play Continuum

- Play is Pleasurable
- Play is Intrinsically Motivated
- Play Is a Process Oriented
- Play is a Freely Chosen
- Play is Actively Engaged
- Play is Non-Literal

800.278.3723

threadalaska.or

Outside Play is important because...

“Snow and winter weather changed the outside experiences for the children with the new scenery and terrain. The toddlers have been able to observe how the snow feels, what it looks like and sometimes how it tastes! The children love being outside in any weather, and for many of the children at this age, snow is a new experience in temperature, texture and mobility.”

—Kaysha Brady, Dimensions Early Education Programs, Lincoln, NE

800.278.3723

threadalaska.or



Local outdoor Play



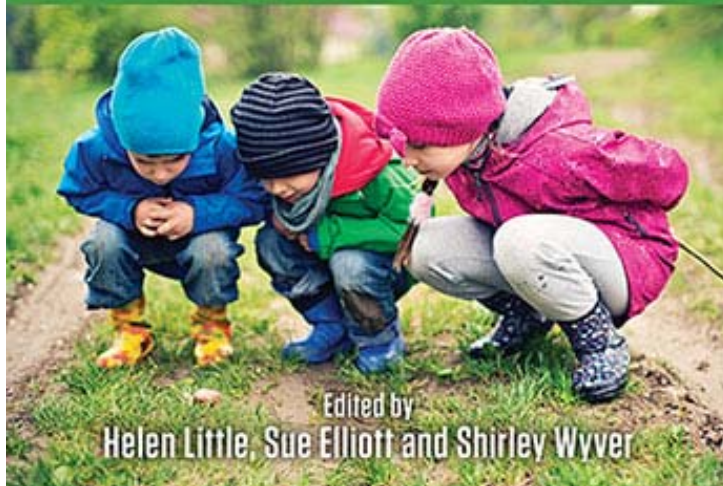
thread connecting
early care & education
to alaska

800.278.3723

threadalaska.or

OUTDOOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

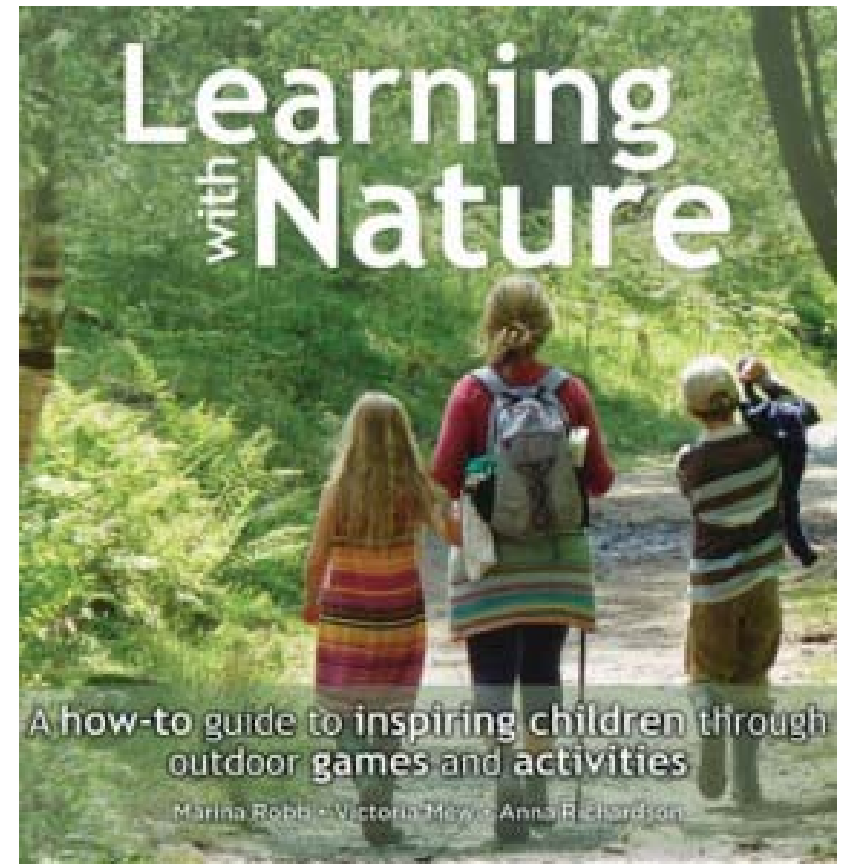
Spaces for exploration, discovery and risk-taking in the early years



Edited by
Helen Little, Sue Elliott and Shirley Wyver



thread connecting
early care & education
to alaska



A how-to guide to inspiring children through
outdoor games and activities

Marina Robb • Victoria Meyer • Anna Richardson

800.278.3723

threadalaska.or



Indoor Play with Free Choice Time

800.278.3723

threadalaska.or



800.278.3723

threadalaska.org

Play-Focused Learning

- We can agree that Play is an inborn learning strategy yet...

Children are over_____.

Children are so_____ in what they can do and think.

Children have less_____ to explore.

School work is more_____ than play.

Children don't play with mud, water, dig up worms or make kites from junk anymore.

800.278.3723

threadalaska.or

A red wavy line that starts on the left, loops around the top of the title, and extends across the top of the slide.

How does overscheduling effect the child?

- Sleep Disorders
- Irritability
- Inattention
- Moodiness
- Inability to sooth themselves after a stimulating situation
- Anxiety and Depression

800.278.3723

threadalaska.or

How is Play supporting children's physical and mental well-being?

- Play is _____
- Play reduces _____
- Play is more than _____
- Make time for _____
- Play and _____ go hand and hand
- Play _____
- Trust your own playful _____
- Play is a child's context for _____

800.278.3723

threadalaska.or



Discussion

Small group activity

800.278.3723

threadalaska.or

A red decorative line starts with a large loop on the left, then flows horizontally across the top of the slide, ending with a small loop on the right.

Interest Centers

- Art
- Dramatic Play
- Blocks
- Nature/Science/STEM (science, tech., engineering, math)
- Library/Cozy Area

800.278.3723

threadalaska.or

Social Play with Peers

Solitary Play (2-2.5 yrs.)

- The children play alone.

Parallel Play (2.5-3.5 yrs.)

- Children maybe engaged in similar activities but they play separately.

Associative Play (3.5-4.5)

- Children are playing separately but may share, pay attention to others, and/or communicate with others about their role.

Cooperative Play (4.5)

Children are engaged in play with a common goal and they work cooperatively to achieve the goal.

800.278.3723

threadalaska.or

Add tools and let them get
messy



800.278.3723

threadalaska.or

Benefits of Play



800.278.3723

threadalaska.or



What is your role as an Early Child Care provider in PLAY?

To allow children to dive into learning, take things apart, change it, rearrange it, and invent using whatever captures *their* imagination and curiosity for a whim or an intense purpose.

800.278.3723

threadalaska.or

What does scheduling play into your day look like?

- Arrive 7:30-8:30am
- Breakfast 8:30-9:00
- Free **Play**/Centers 9:00-10:30
- Go Outside to **Play** 10:45-11:30
- Lunch Time, Potty, Storytime 11:45-12:45
- Naptime 1:00-2:30
- Wash up, Snack then **Play** 2:30-3:30
- Outside Play 3:45-4:30
- Quiet play/reading and prepare to go home 4:45-5:30

800.278.3723

threadalaska.or

High Quality Child Care Looks Like...

Success Adventure Storytime Creativity
Possibilities Life Skills Discovery Fun Music
Imagination Progress Respect Drama Exploration
Nature Experience Trust Learning
Play Happiness Curiosity The Best Start



800.278.3723

threadalaska.or



Be Proactive in Teaching

- Be Organized
- Anticipate
- Be Flexible
- Be Relaxed

800.278.3723

threadalaska.or

How Play is Developmentally Important

PLAY
is the work of childhood
Mr. Rogers

<https://www.teachingchannel.org/video/work-time-as-play>

800.278.3723

threadalaska.or

A red wavy line that starts on the left, loops up and around the text 'Large Group Activity', and then extends to the right.

Large Group Activity

Let's Play

800.278.3723

threadalaska.or

Bubble Wrapping Children



800.278.3723

threadalaska.or

When was the last time you
Played?



800.278.3723

threadalaska.or



In Closing

Play Opens the Window

of learning in a child's life and acquaints him or her with movement, observation, relationships, emotions and much more.

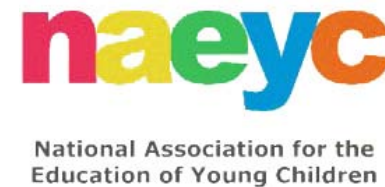
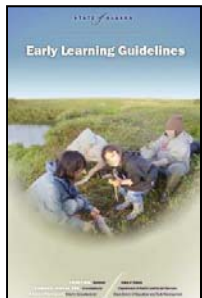
Play time is learning time for young children. Build towers, read, dance, sing, paint, run and laugh together-and watch your child's learning unfold.

800.278.3723

threadalaska.or

Early Childhood Education Standards

Organization	Standard
AK Early Learning Guidelines (ELG)	Domain 3: Approaches to Learning
AK Core Knowledge and Competencies (CKC)	Standard 1: Promoting Child Development and Learning
Learn & Grow	Standard 3: Relationships and Learning Environment
National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)	Standard 3: Teaching
Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential	Competency Standard 2: To advance physical and intellectual competency



Thank you



800.278.3723

threadalaska.or