



# From the Playroom

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## Planning for next year...

As the school year winds down, now is the time to reflect on this past year and identify the key learnings you have encountered along the way. Take time now to review the year and begin planning for next year, including what you plan to do differently.

After reviewing highlights provided by you this year, our Primary Project team suggests that you incorporate these ideas in your plans:

### **1. Spend time with your building principals.**

They can often be the best supporters for Primary Project. They want to know about how the program is going and how they can be of support. Ask for feedback on what they hear from teachers, parents, and children. Review the year and what you are looking forward to next year. Lastly, share your program data!

### **2. Accommodate staff changes with training.**

Despite our best plans, often there are staff changes from one year to the next. Sometimes even mid-year! Children's Institute offers introductory trainings in the fall and again in January if needed. Our fall dates are tentatively set for September 29 & 30 and October 8 & 9 in Rochester, NY. In the downstate region, the training occurs over two months: October 5 & December 1. If there are mid-year changes and there are no specific trainings available, the responsibility falls to the local program (typically the program supervisor). The "Creating Connections" and "The Intervention: Basic Skills" DVDs can help support this training. Contact your program consultant if you would like more information about these resources.

**3. Provide observation.** We all benefit from direct observation and feedback. If you still have time this year, you are encouraged to identify time with your child associate(s) to observe a session or two. After the observation, you can provide direct feedback to the child associate(s) around basic child-led play skills.

**4. Use joint supervision.** When there are multiple schools in a district implementing Primary Project, take time to bring the teams together several times a year. These meetings provide rich opportunities to cultivate skills, share what is going well and not going well, and to acquire ideas from fellow colleagues.

**5. Take inventory of your playrooms.** Play is vital to young children! Even in early elementary grades, play is what children do best. Its important for your playroom to have a good variety of real life (families, kitchen, dress up), scary/aggressive (figurines, soft ball, foam bats), and creative (play-do, paper, crayons) items. Are they gender neutral and appropriate for kindergarten through third grade students? Think about what you want to take out or change for next year.

We know from our work with all of you that Primary Project teams have a deep commitment and love for working with children and play. We have heard many great stories about how children have improved school adjustment and are engaged in learning. Thank you for all you do to support young school-age children.





# Memories of Summer and Play

When I think of summer and play it brings back memories of camping with my family, going to the beach, playing in the sand, and swimming. Other memories are playing games with all the kids in our neighborhood like Kick the Can, Red Rover, and Capture the Flag."

*-Karin Mercieca, Child Associate,  
Neff Kindergarten Center, Grand Ledge Public  
Schools, Michigan*



Summer to me means spending time with family and friends and enjoying the outdoors.

*-John Coleman, School Counselor,  
Neff Kindergarten Center, Grand Ledge  
Public Schools, Michigan*



**"Children need the  
freedom and time to play.**

**Play is not a luxury.**

**Play is a necessity."**

*-Kay Redfield Jamison*



As a child, I always looked forward to the summer sun shining, beautiful flowers blooming, and most importantly, an opportunity to play! Swinging, going down the slide, and running around the park with my friends meant the world to me. As my pigtails flew in the breeze, my feet in rhythm with the pavement, and my arms in forward motion, I would run, run, and run. As an adult, the opportunity to play in the summer still gives me something to look forward to. Although my age and size have changed and my pigtails are extinct, I still enjoy the summer sun shining, beautiful flowers blooming, and the opportunity to play with my friends!

*-Tamara Sheppard, Social Worker,  
Children's School of Rochester #15, Rochester, NY*



# Bringing the Lessons Home

## Fun summer activities

There are so many things to do over the summer and ways to have fun with children. The best part is that many of them are free! Here is our summer bucket list with ideas to fill those summer days. See how many you can do this summer.

- Play in sand, mud, and water – the options are many! Use a bucket to fill, pour, scoop, build, and make food (pretend of course). Watch your child's imagination and creativity grow.
- Take a walk – play a game of "I spy."
- Find a playground and watch how your child makes or interacts with new friends.
- Go to a local park – pack a picnic lunch.
- Play outdoor games like hide-and-seek, tag, and red rover.
- Blow bubbles.
- Go for a bike ride.
- Run through a sprinkler.
- Play a board or card game.
- Watch fireflies.
- Visit your local library.
- Read a book under a tree.
- Watch a parade.
- Skip rocks.
- Look up at clouds as you lay in the grass – can you make out pictures with the clouds?
- Collect seashells on the beach.
- Have a hula hoop contest.
- Go swimming.
- Feed some ducks.
- Fly a kite.



***Please feel free to copy this page and share it with Primary Project parents.***

# Trayendo las Lecciones al Hogar

## Actividades divertidas para el verano

Hay muchas cosas para hacer durante el verano y maneras para divertirse con los niños. ¡Lo mejor es que muchas de ellas no cuestan dinero! Aquí sigue una lista con ideas para llenar esos días del verano. Mire cuántas usted puede hacer este verano:

- Jugar en arena, fango y agua. ¡Muchas son las opciones! Utilice un cubo para llenar, echar, sacar, preparar y hacer comida (fingiendo por supuesto). Vea crecer la imaginación y creatividad de su niño(a).
- Ir a caminar – Hacer un juego de “yo espío” (“I spy”).
- Buscar un área de juego al aire libre y vea cómo su niño(a) interactúa con amigos nuevos.
- Ir a un parque en el área – tener un picnic allí.
- Jugar al aire libre como jugar al escondite, jugar al corre que te pilló (“tag”), y “red rover.”
- Hacer burbujas.
- Pasear en bicicleta.
- Correr a través de una regadera.
- Jugar un juego de mesa o de cartas.
- Mirar luciérnagas.
- Visitar su biblioteca local.
- Leer un libro bajo un árbol.
- Mirar un desfile.
- Saltar rocas (Skip rocks).
- Mirar hacia las nubes al estar acostado en la grama – ¿Puedes distinguir dibujos con las nubes?
- Recoger conchas en la playa.
- Tener un concurso de hula-hoop.
- Ir a nadar.
- Dar de comer a algunos patos.
- Volar una cometa (chiringa).



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## Save the Date!

### Children's Institute presents KIDS & TRUCKS

September 26 & 27, 2015  
 Saturday, 10am-5pm • Sunday, 10am-3pm  
 Frontier Field VIP Lot

Children's Institute is rolling out a new fundraiser – "Kids and Trucks!" Plan to bring your kids and experience up to fifty different trucks – a unique opportunity to climb on trucks and explore. Children's Institute is thrilled to carry on this event, which was originally presented by the Western New York chapter of the American Liver Foundation for many years. A special thank you goes to Nancy Koris, Past Executive Director of the Western New York chapter. She began this fundraiser many years ago and now turns it over to us, ensuring that this family-friendly event will continue to be offered to children all over Rochester! Please visit our website for event information and online ticket purchasing.



### The end of the school year is quickly approaching!

With that in mind, child associates will begin to countdown sessions with students and say "goodbye." A certificate of friendship is available for download at:

[www.childrensinstitute.net/programs/primary-project](http://www.childrensinstitute.net/programs/primary-project)

## children's institute

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