



The Importance of **PLAY**

Play is essential to children's healthy development

Throughout the United States, a new emphasis is being placed on the importance of child-driven, unstructured play. Play is being championed as critical to children's development and learning, and to strengthening the bonds between children and their families/caregivers.

- The United Nations High Commission for Human Rights has stated that play is so important to children's development that it should be the right of every child.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics released a landmark clinical report highlighting the significance of open-ended play in January 2007, stating: "Play is essential to development because it contributes to the cognitive, physical, social, and emotional well-being of children and youth."
- In an age of overscheduled, stressed, achievement-driven, TV/computer-addicted and "recess-starved" children, unstructured play is often lost or devalued. Recent statistics report that 40% of the nation's schools have eliminated recess.
- *The Power of Play*, the latest book by psychologist David Elkind, examines the loss of unstructured play and calls for its revival in the lives of American children.
- Play is valuable. It promotes children's healthy growth and learning. It builds developmental skills. Today's children need more time and space to play.

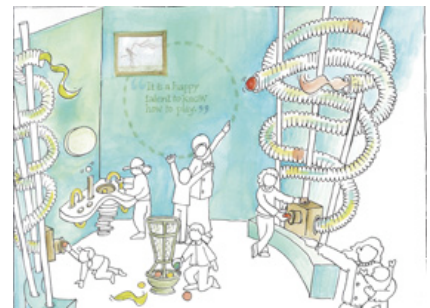
Play is central to Providence Children's Museum's mission

- With over 30 years of experience and national recognition for innovative, effective programming and exhibits, Providence Children's Museum is a leading advocate for returning play to its rightful place in childhood.
- The value of play has been at the core of the Museum's mission since it was established in 1977.

New exhibit explores the power of play

Experiment, explore, invent, imagine and **PLAY!** *Play Power*, a major new exhibit celebrating the power of children's play, opens October 28. This vibrant learning environment engages kids and grown-ups in imaginative activities that vividly illustrate the importance of open-ended play:

- Investigate cause and effect with sound, motion, magnets, air and light
- Construct contraptions to send balls rolling down ramps and through mazes
- Create original musical compositions at a multi-sensory sound sculpture
- Propel objects through air tubes
- Transform an intriguing domed play space with interlocking geometric blocks and tubes
- And much more!



Play Power is one of several important Museum advancements as part of the Play Works Campaign for Kids.