

### Breathing Exercise



While you're waiting try this breathing exercise

**4** Breathe in through your nose for a count of 4, taking the breath into your belly.

**4** Hold your breath for 4 counts.

**8** Release your breath through your mouth with a whooshing sound for 8 counts.

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### Teacher Time

Nov 2, 2023

Playful Learning and Joyful Teaching in Preschool

Gail Joseph, NCECDTL  
Saameh Solaimani, NCECDTL

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### Our Time Together: Playful Learning



Framework for Effective Practice    Teacher Toolbox    Small Change, Big Impact    The BookCASE    All About You!

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**Viewer's Guide**  
Playful Learning and Joyful Teaching in Preschool

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**Framework for Effective Practice**

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**Focus on the Foundation and Curriculum and Teaching Practices**

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**Reflecting Together**  
When thinking about play in the preschool learning environment what are some words that come to mind?



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**Lego Foundation Quote**

“Children achieve a richer understanding by connecting the concepts and skills they are learning with real world examples.

Playful experiences help engage in this type of deeper learning, applying knowledge to different situations and sparking new ideas at home and in school.”

*The LEGO foundation:  
Learning through play a summary: a review of the evidence*



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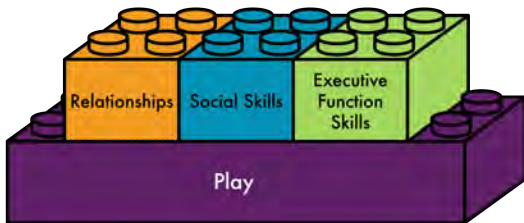
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**Why Play?**



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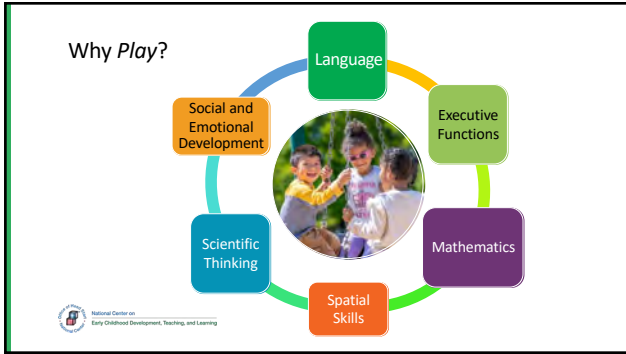
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**Small Group Play**  
What are the children learning?

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**Playful Learning**

Free Play      Guided play      Games

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### Honoring Families in Playful Learning



Families are:

- The first and most important teachers of their children
- Our partners with a critical role in their family's development
- Experts about their child and their family
- Valuable and important contributors

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### Guided Play

When you think of guided play, what comes to mind?



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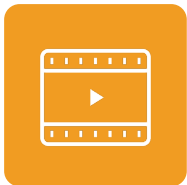
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Dr. Kathy Hirsh-Pasek  
"What is Guided Play?"



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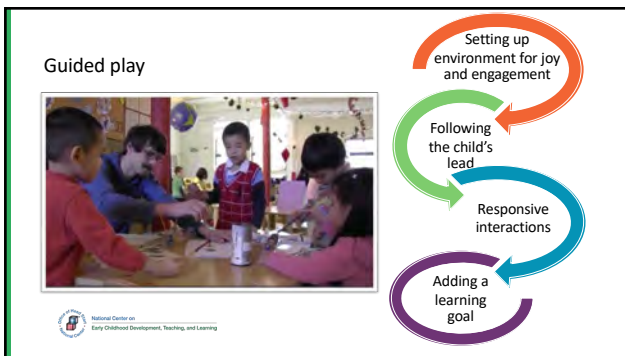
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**Color Mixing with Teacher Gabe**  
 Let's watch Teacher Gabe mixing colors with a group of preschool children to see what guided play looks like in action!

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Setting up the environment for joy and engagement



- For educators and children
- Following the child's interests
- Being curious and engaged
- Teachers as researchers

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Setting up the environment for joy and engagement

What is one way that you noticed Teacher Gabe setting up the environment for joy and engagement?

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Following the child's lead



- Aware and responsive to the child's learning needs
- Embraces the child's curiosity
- Asks open-ended questions
- Scaffolding child learning by modeling

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### Color Mixing with Teacher Gabe

What ways do you see the educator following the children's lead in their play?



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### Responsive Interactions



- Name and *acknowledge* children's play
- Be mindful of *tone of voice* and *body language*
- Responding to children's interests in a curious, open and playful way



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### Adding a Learning Goal

- Guided play allows teachers to focus children's play around *specific learning goals*
  - **ELOF P-SCI 3.** Child compares and categorizes observable phenomena: Sorts objects into groups based on simple attributes, such as color.
- Learning goal is *intertwined naturally* with children's play
- Children are provided with support but still *lead their own learning*



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Small Change,  
Big Impact



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Embed Child Preferences



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Making a Play Plan



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**Zoning during Guided Play**

- Educators are available to interact with children
- Ensures that the classroom environment is ready for children
- Children can be more engaged in learning activities
- Frees up time for communication

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**Staff Schedule to Support Zoning**

Activities/Transitions	Staff A	Staff B	Staff C
Arrival	Greet children and parents	Help children put away backpacks	Get tables ready for breakfast
Breakfast	At red table	At blue table *have adaptive spoon	At green table
Transition to outside	Signal transition/blow bubbles	Clean up breakfast tables	Help children to transition
Outside	At big toy	On the grass	Clean and sanitize tables
Transition to classroom	Help children transition to circle time	Signal transition	Help children wash hands
Circle time	Support children at circle	Lead circle	Break
Centers	Zone 1 *include adaptive art materials	Zone 2	Zone 3 *provide play plans

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The BookCASE

CONNECT  
ADVANCED VOCABULARY  
SUPPORT ENGAGEMENT  
EXTEND BEYOND THE BOOK

Maybe Something BEAUTIFUL  
THEY SAY, BE DIFFERENT  
Mila  
Wonder Walkers

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BookCASE

The BookCASE

Maybe Something BEAUTIFUL

F. Isabel Campoy, Author  
Theresa Howell, Author  
Rafael López, Illustrator

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It's All About You

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It's All About You!



**Moving your telescope**

- We can get stuck on the negative
- Ask yourself “am I stuck? Do I need to move my telescope?”
- Reflect on “what is something positive about this situation”

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**A moment of joy**  
Playdough table

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**Live Q&A**

If you have questions for us, put them in the Q&A and we'll do our best to answer your question!

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We Want to Hear From You

Please take some time to complete the session evaluation.

For more information contact:  
[ecdte!@ecetta.info](mailto:ecdte!@ecetta.info)  
 (Toll-free 1-844-261-3752)

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Thank You!

Join Us For Our Next Episode!  
February 1<sup>st</sup> 2023




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<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/about-us/article/mypeers-social-network-early-childhood-professionals>

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