



# Play Blast, Fall 2020

## Message from the President

From the President

As we enter the Fall season, I wish each of you health during this challenging time. The education profession has stepped up and persevered during the pandemic. The commitment of early care and education, public and private schools, and higher education to students, children, and families is a model for the country.

Exciting things are happening with IPA USA. We have a new website, [ipausa.org](http://ipausa.org). On the website, we have a PlayTalk Blog, access to the Facebook, Instagram, and Youtube Channel (look for the icons in the upper right corner). The YouTube Channel is where you can find all the published Porch Play Chats. You can also find the Porch Play Chats Playlist on the website, under Advocacy, Porch Play Chats, then Playlist to see what is coming up. One Porch Play Chat is released each week on Monday. These are informal conversations on specific topics related to play. All IPA USA members are eligible for the next session of the taping of the Porch Play Chats in early January. If you have a topic you are passionate about and would like to have a conversation about it, please email me at [ipausa2019user@gmail.com](mailto:ipausa2019user@gmail.com) with a topic. I will add you to the list. In the subject line, put in Porch Play Chats.

To access the members-only section of the New Website, we need you to register.

Under the Members Tab – Click on Register for Members Only and follow the steps. If you have any issues, you can contact Michelle Raymond. Her email is on the page.

For members only, we have 8 Policy Briefs. Policy Briefs are tools you can use for advocating for specific issues. The list of Policy Briefs includes:

- [Outdoor Play and Recess](#)
- [Recess](#)
- [Executive Function Policy Brief](#)
- [Infant and Toddler Settings](#)

- [Play and Learning](#)
- [Play and Children with Disabilities](#)
- [Equity](#)
- [Executive Function White Paper](#)

You can find the Policy Briefs under Membership in the Members Only Section. Other valuable resources are also available, including the Mini-Grant application,

You can also support the organization with any purchases made on Amazon. If you want to choose us to support, Amazon donates .5% of any purchase you make to your selected charity.

Here is how to make us your charity.

To find our org, click on this link and it will ask if you want to support us.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-1352149>

Important info, you must make the purchases your amazon.smile once you have selected us as your charity.

When you shop on Amazon, you must make purchases through [Amazon.Smile](#) for them to count. It is still your prime acct, you sign it like you normally do, just use Amazon Smile to make the purchases.

Yes, I understand that I must always start at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) to support American Association for the Child's Right To Play.

Another way to get involved in IPA USA is to join a committee. We have several active committees working hard to promote the child's right to play. Interested in joining? Let me know which one you are interested in. Email me at

[ipausa2019user@gmail.com](mailto:ipausa2019user@gmail.com)

State Play Advocates -

Publications

Social media, Outreach, and Marketing -

Conference.

Recess

Membership

Developing Indoor and Outdoor Play Opportunities for Children During a Pandemic

The Committee on Ratifying UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

The Publications Committee is seeking reviewers and manuscripts for the Spring 2021 ejournal. The themes for the Spring and Fall 2021 ejournal are:

- **Spring 2021:** Positive Play with Technology  
– *due by 2/1/2021*
- **Fall 2021:** Adaptive Play – *due by 8/1/2021*

Note: Manuscripts on other topics are also welcome and accepted at any time.

### Guidelines for manuscript submissions:

The IPA/USA E-Journal accepts manuscripts up to 2,500 words in length. All text should be featured in double-spaced, 12-point, Times New Roman Font, and APA format. Each submission should include a one-paragraph abstract of 150-175 words that describes the article and its significance to the study of play. Submissions are evaluated through a double-blind review.

- The names of the author and coauthors should appear only on the cover sheet.
- For each submission, include the contact information and a 40-word bio for every author/s.
- Authors should provide their phone, email, address of institutional affiliation, and research interests.
- The editors will communicate with authors about their status during the review process.

If you are interested in being a reviewer or submitting a manuscript, send an email to [ipausa2019user@gmail.com](mailto:ipausa2019user@gmail.com).

**I also want to encourage you to vote in the November election. This election could determine whether children are seen as the future of this country, whether social justice is front and center in our communities and nation, how we handle the Covid 19 pandemic to get our country back on track, and whether or not we have a chance of finally ratifying the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.** So much is at stake, please vote and if you must go to the polls, please take precautions, and be safe.

Stay healthy and safe, and remember to incorporate play into every day.

Deb

### Featured Play Advocate, Lisa Murphy by Olga Jarrett, editor

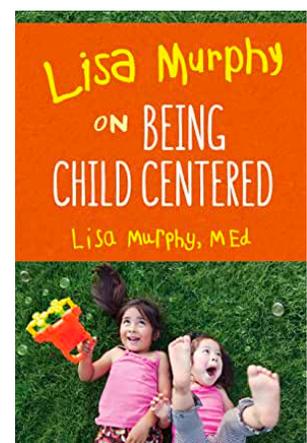


Lisa Murphy is one of our most famous members. Known as the Ooey Goey Lady®, she is CEO of Ooey Goey, Inc. As her website says, “ooey goeey is a silly name with a serious message.” Lisa has over 30 years of experience in early childhood education in such environments as Head Start, kindergarten, private preschools, family childcare, parks and recreation centers, group homes and child care centers.

Lisa has an M.Ed. in early childhood education from Champlain College in Vermont. She is the author of many books, both idea handbooks and books on child development and education. Here are her most recent two books:



Published in 2016



Published in 2019

As CEO of Ooey Gooley, Inc., Lisa presents hundreds of workshops every year to both domestic and international audiences on various early childhood education topics. Her goal is to offer “1) the best workshops and trainings; 2) the most up to date materials and resources; and 3) insightful conversations and connections through the power of social media.” Her workshops are very popular and having watched some on line, I can understand why. Her message is solid. Her activities are fun for adults and kids alike. And she has a terrific sense of humor. Check her out on YouTube and Instagram (@ooeygoeeylady)

As an IPAUSA board member, Lisa has contributed significantly, sharing her insights from her understandings of business and the need for publicity on the importance of play. Thanks, Lisa for your contributions to early childhood education and to the functioning of IPAUSA.

***Important Message from Robyn Monro Miller, president of IPA World.***

I hope this finds you well!

The following information has been sent to all IPA Council members today via Groupsite, I am resharing for your interest!

As you will be aware The 21st IPA Triennial World Conference on the theme of Play and Resilience to be hosted by Action for Children’s Environments (ACE) and IPA India has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This has been disappointing and the Board has been working with the conference organisers to look at alternative options that we can meet as a world group and support IPA India.

An unprecedented number of papers from across the world were received for presentation at the conference with the top choice of theme being 'Child friendly Cities and Communities'

Looking at this great interest, the conference organizers-Action for Children's Environments and IPA-India in partnership with IPA-World and UNICEF are pleased to announce 5 weeks of webinars by contextualizing this key theme of the conference for the present time: Each week 3-4 speakers will discuss various aspects of this topic that include:

- Week 1 (November 4): Public Place and Its Role in Promoting Children's Right to Play
- Week 2 (November 11): Interventions for Play in Inclusive Cities
- Week 3 (November 18): Play and Placemaking in Institutional and Early Childhood Settings
- Week 4 (November 25): Supporting Stakeholders to Support Play in Cities
- Week 5 (December 2): The State of Play in Cities: Voices from Across World
- Week 6 (December 9): IPA Special Awards: Play in times of Crisis

Time: 5-7pm IST (UTC+ 5:30 hours) for Weeks 1-4 and 6

4-7pm IST for Week 5

The times are difficult for the some countries ( NZ and Australia) - so the sessions will be recorded. A fee will be payable for the webinars and this will be a maximum of \$15 USD per webinar, less for majority world countries.

We will be making the announcement in the coming days as a 'Save the Date'. The conference website will be used for the registration process and it is thought that registrations will open by October 20.

Whilst this does not replace the value of us all coming together we hope this will be an opportunity to unite once more under the IPA Banner.

Regards  
Robyn

**Robyn Monro Miller**, President, International Play Association (2017-2020) [President@ipaworld.org](mailto:President@ipaworld.org)

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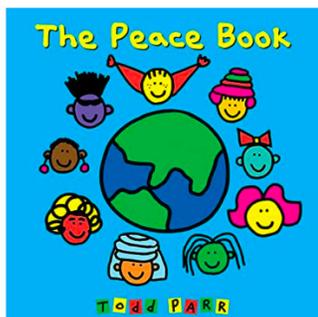
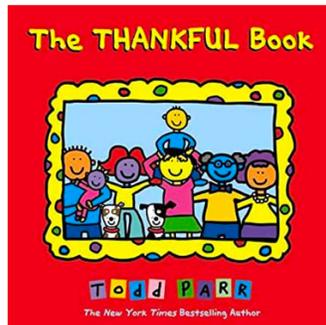
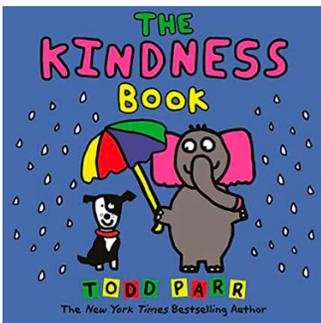
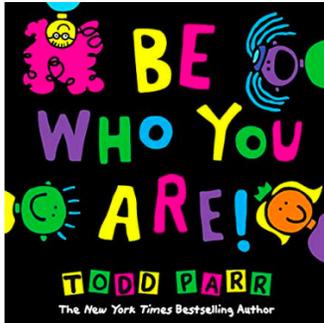
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*More books for young children on children's feelings and treating one another fairly*

For this topic, Deb Lawrence recommends books by Todd Parr. She has read many of them and say that "they are awesome."

Available from Amazon.com:



Other titles include:

The I LOVE YOU book

The Joyful Book

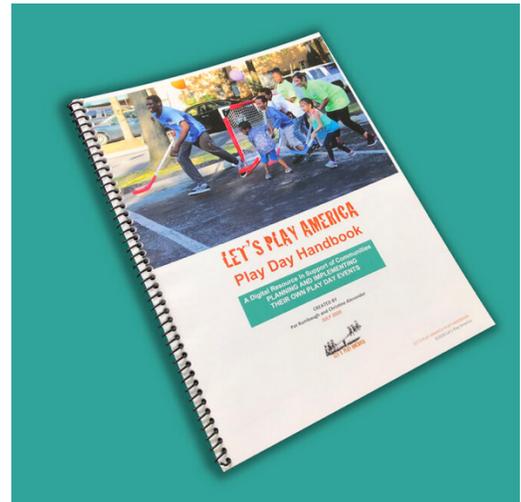
It's Okay to be different

The Family Book

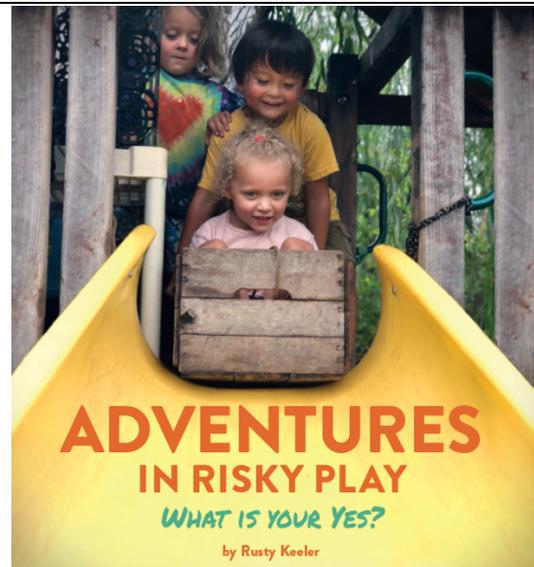
The Feelings Book

The Don't Worry Book

*Recent books by IPAUSA members*



Let's Play America, led by IPAUSA member Pat Rumbaugh received a IPAUSA minigrant to aid in the publication of a play day handbook. The book is now available for download for a suggested donation of \$20.20 at this website: [Toolkits — Let's Play America](#) Includes, great photos of playdays as well as planning considerations and ideas for activities.



This is the newest book by IPAUSA Vice President Rusty Keeler. Important information with beautiful photos. Here is a link to where you can get a signed copy!

<https://rustykeeler.com/product/adventures-in-risky-play/>

## IPAUSA t-shirts



In partnership with a small business, our Social Media, Outreach and Advocacy committee has created a T-shirt, Trees Over Screens. Follow these steps to order your T-shirt.

1. Visit [www.treeandback.com](http://www.treeandback.com).
2. In the top right, click “Schools”.
3. Enter “IPA” into the search bar and the page will come up.
4. \$5 of your price helps fund IPAUSA advocacy efforts and is tax-deductible.

## Members only page on the website

IPA USA members have had access to a Members Only section of our website.

On the Members Only page you will find:

Bylaws

Articles of Incorporation

501c 3

Member Benefits

Member Recruitment Materials

Board Manual

Recent Quarterly Play Blast

Recent E-Journal

Board Minutes

Tools for Advocacy

Check back frequently as more and more resources will be added. To enjoy the member only benefits, go to [ipausa.org](http://ipausa.org). Click on Membership. In the dropdown menu, click on *Register for Members only Access* and follow the instructions.

## IPA/USA Vision, Mission, and Guiding Principles

### Vision Statement:

A world where all children can play

### Purpose/Mission Statement (from Bylaws):

The purpose of IPA/USA is to protect, preserve, and promote the child’s right to play.

### What is Play?

Play is the work of childhood. Play is biologically driven. There are many types of play. The highest, purest form of play is spontaneous, freely chosen, intrinsically motivated, pleasurable, purposeless, and free from conflicts. For younger children it also contains symbolism and/or elements of pretend.

### Guiding Principles

- Play, along with the basic needs of nutrition, health, shelter, and education, is vital for development for all children, birth to 18 years.
- Play is integral and necessary for social, emotional, cognitive, language, and physical development.
- Play facilitates brain growth especially in the frontal cortex where essential cognitive functions reside; including attention, self-regulation, working memory, and cognitive flexibility, all of which are known as executive functioning.
- Some knowledge can *only* be learned through play and thus justifies the essential need of recess for younger children and breaks for older children.
- Play opportunities are needed both indoors and outdoors for all children, all ages.
- Play needs are different among the age groups: birth to age 2, PreK, early elementary, upper elementary, middle school, and high school.
- Schools, especially preK and elementary, need help understanding that young children learn best through play. Schools need help and support on how to provide meaningful and appropriate play/learning opportunities, including the project approach for older children
- Families need help recognizing that play is learning; and that family-play also bonds the family and helps build happy childhoods.
- Community services and regulators, such as parks and recreation, city planning, and housing developments, need help understanding why and how to include play in their plans.
- All types of play are important (e.g., physical play, such as, running, climbing, swinging, etc.; block and construction play; play within art and

music; games with rules; rough and tumble; risky; nature; role-playing; etc.), but child-directed, spontaneous play is the most important during the early years of birth through age eight.

□ Children have the right to play as guaranteed by the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Written by the following committee members: Marcy Guddemi (chair), Deb Lawrence, Rusty Keeler, LaDonna Atkins.

*Approved by the Board by email on October 3, 2019.*

### **Mini Grants!**

IPAUSA has a mini-grant program. The purpose of these small grants (up to approximately \$250) is to provide funding for play projects such as the following:

- Promote play through advocacy effort.
- Create local play days at community-based locations
- Develop play-based advocacy tools to share with families
- Purchase playful materials to reintroduce learning centers into primary grade classrooms
- Purchase materials to inspire play

Check the website for application requirements:

[www.ipausa.org/grants.html](http://www.ipausa.org/grants.html)

So far, two grants have been funded:

- With a \$300 grant to the Ithaca Play Symposium at the Ithaca Children's Garden (Ithaca, NY), October 4-6, 2019, IPAUSA helped to sponsor the Symposium. The theme of the symposium was *Play for All: Equity, Access, and Inclusion*.
- A recent \$250 grant to Let's Play America, Pat Rumbaugh, Executive Director to help produce a Play Day Handbook. See how to order the handbook on p. 4.

### **IPAUSA Publications**

IPAUSA has several publications. You are currently reading the *Play Blast* (Olga Jarrett, editor) which you receive quarterly by email. As editor, I would

appreciate hearing from you with items for the Play Blast or any additions or corrections at [ojarrett@mindspring.com](mailto:ojarrett@mindspring.com).

**As mentioned by our president, Deb Lawrence, on page 1, we also have an *ejournal*! The Spring 2020 issue of the *ejournal* on Tinkering is now available on the members only section of the website. The Fall 2020 issue on Risky Play should be available on the website in November.** Notice that we mention the *ejournal* at several places in this issue. That is because we really want members to become involved in the journal, both as reader and as contributor. We seek articles that highlight research, projects, and practice about topics pertaining to play and play behaviors in the home, in school, on the playgrounds, and in the community. Manuscripts may address advocacy, culture, games, and activities. Authors are encouraged to examine the ways that children play and how playful activities benefit development. You may submit articles on the spotlight topic as well as other aspects of play to all issues. **Note the themes and deadlines below for these upcoming issues:**

***2021: Spring: Positive Play with Technology-due by 2/1/2021***

***2021 Fall: Adaptive Play-due by 8/1/2021***

**Reminder: Manuscripts on other topics are also welcome and accepted at any time. Guidelines for manuscript submissions are below.**

The IPA/USA E-Journal accepts manuscripts up to 2,500 words in length. All text should be featured in double-spaced, 12-point, Times New Roman Font, and APA format. Each submission should include a one-paragraph abstract of 150-175 words that describes the article as well as its significance to the study of play. All submissions will be evaluated by double-blind review. The names of the author and coauthors should appear only on the cover sheet. For each submission, include the contact information as well as a 40-word bio for every author. Authors should provide their phone, email, address of institutional affiliation, and research interests. The editors will communicate with authors about their status during the review process.

Our co-editors are Vivien Geneser, Shelley Harris and Reece Wilson. They monitor incoming manuscript submissions, manage the review process, and format the final draft prior to

uploading it to the website. If you are interested in participating in the production of the eJournal, either as a reviewer or as an author, please contact them at [vgeneser@gmail.com](mailto:vgeneser@gmail.com). Or submit your paper to the link for journal manuscripts [ipausauser2019@gmail.com](mailto:ipausauser2019@gmail.com)

Vivien Geneser is also the editor of the soon to be published book, *Scholarly Snapshots: Affirming the Importance of the Child's Right to Play* from which IPAUSA will earn profits. The book is now in the hands of the publisher, Rowman & Littlefield.

Olga S. Jarrett, [olarrett@mindspring.com](mailto:olarrett@mindspring.com)

### ***IPAUSA Committee for Developing Indoor and Outdoor Play Opportunities for Children in a Pandemic by Brad Roberts***

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on our way of life, and on our children's ability to engage in safe indoor and outdoor play activities. The vast array of public health restrictions that have been put into place to protect us from the virus have also limited opportunities for indoor and outdoor play activities for children. This pandemic-driven reduction in play activities has in turn negatively impacted the physical and mental health of our children.

The IPA USA recognizes that play is an essential part of the healthy growth and development of children; and that even in a pandemic, play in some form must be made available to children to help keep their minds, bodies and spirits healthy. In July 2020, an IPA USA committee was established to understand the many challenges that children face to engage in safe indoor and outdoor play in a pandemic, and to develop innovative and safe indoor and outdoor play activities for children.

The IPA USA committee plans to create a resource page of *safe indoor and outdoor play activities for children in a pandemic* by November 2020 for the IPA USA website. For more information, please contact committee Chair Brad Roberts at [Bradleyroberts5384@gmail.com](mailto:Bradleyroberts5384@gmail.com).

### ***Ideas from the Genius of Play***

The Genius of Play has been creating content and resources to help families during the pandemic.

Check out their new virtual hub for parents and caregivers: [www.thegeniusofplay.org/playtoday](http://www.thegeniusofplay.org/playtoday). The ideas include play activities and ways to relieve stress. They recommend, if you are on social media that you use #PlayToday and tag@GeniusofPlay.

### ***Play, home visits, and play in refugee camps from LaDonna Atkins***

The following link was sent to me by LaDonna Atkins who recommends the following special on Sesame Street in refugee camps:

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/sesame-street-teaching-children-refugees-from-syria-to-cope-with-emotions-60-minutes-2020-10-11/>

### ***Additional resources on the healing power of play and a survey on schooling at home from Marcy Guddemi***

An article Marcy wrote for Community Playthings: <http://www.communityplaythings.com/resources/articles/2020/the-healing-powers-of-play>

And from Defending the Early Years (DEY), the results of a survey of teachers and parents about schooling at home:

<https://dey.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/The-Impact-of-COVID-19-on-Young-Children-Families-and-Teachers-A-DEY-Report-9-8-20-FINAL.pdf>

Also COVID-19 resources:

<https://dey.org/resources/covid-19-resources/>

And the summer institute that was all about COVID-19: <https://dey.org/2020-summer-institute/>

### ***COVID-19 - Safe Holiday Celebrations***

With Halloween, Dia de los Muertos, Thanksgiving, and Christmas coming in the next few months, many of us are looking for safe ideas. The CDC has a list of recommendations worth reading:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html> One idea that looks like fun is: "Doing a Halloween scavenger hunt where children are given lists of Halloween-themed things to look for while they walk outdoors from house to house admiring Halloween decorations at a distance."

**SAVE YOUR DATES: COMING SOON 6 WEEKS OF WEBINARS IN NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2020**

International Webinar Series by ACE, IPA-India, IPA-World and UNICEF

## Making Cities Child Friendly in the Post Pandemic World

# Play and Public Place



Speakers from different regions of the world drawn from academics, art, architecture and planning, play practice, education, foundations working on improving cities for children, government, and UN agencies.

- Week 1 (November 4): Public Place and Its Role in Promoting Children's Right to Play
- Week 2 (November 11): Interventions for Play in Inclusive Cities
- Week 3 (November 18): Play and Placemaking in Institutional and ECD Settings
- Week 4 (November 25): The State of Play in Cities: Voices from Across the World
- Week 5 (November 30): Supporting Stakeholders to Support Play in Cities
- Week 6 (December 9): IPA Special Awards: Play in the time of Crisis

All sessions: 5-7pm IST (UCT +5:30)

Registration to open by October 23, 2020 at

<https://www.ipa2020jaipur.org/>

Limited tickets on first come basis

#playandresilience #playandpublicplace #playintimesofcrisis



In light of the **COVID-19 outbreak**, Action for Children's Environments (ACE) and IPA India, in close consultation with IPA World, has decided to **postpone the International Play Association Conference 2020**.

Our priority is to guarantee the health of everyone involved and ensure a high level of attendance from our members and other stakeholders from around the world. The conference will now be **re-scheduled for October/November 2021** subject to the World Health Organization declaring the COVID-19 global pandemic contained and borders reopened for unrestricted travel.

The planning of the conference was well underway, with more than 200 papers received and sessions scheduled to take place over the course of four days. ACE and IPA India will work towards ensuring the same programme with an even greater level of participation in 2021. The organisers will continue to review the papers already submitted and may open a fresh call this year. **The 2020 papers will however get priority.**

ACE invites all partners to continue their engagement with this event and we will continue to provide updates on the conference preparation and planning.