



Play Blast, Summer 2021

Message from the President -Deb Lawrence

As we emerge from the Pandemic (fingers crossed) schools are planning for Fall, we are visiting families and friends again, perhaps going on a much-needed vacation, and trying to get back to normal. The IPA USA Board has been hard at work planning some exciting upcoming events.

Tell your friends and networks about IPA USA – Membership Drive

Has your membership lapsed? Do you know someone who is an advocate for play? Do you or they feel alone and wish to be part of a network that advocates for the child's right to play? Then we are your peeps and I hope you will join or rejoin IPAUSA. Go to ipausa.org to join

- Membership Benefits of IPA USA
 - Access to a multidisciplinary network of people
 - The IPAWorld magazine, PlayRights
 - The IPA USA online e-journal and are eligible to submit an article for peer review
 - Reduced rates at IPA & IPA USA conferences, and workshops
 - The IPA/USA Quarterly PlayBlast. with recent news, upcoming conferences, and updates
 - An invitation to IPA/USA biannual board meetings.
 - Eligible to become a State Play Advocates to promote Playdays in communities
 - Access to the Play Day Tool Kit
 - Access to Policy Briefs on a variety of topics as tools for advocacy to states and local communities
 - Access to mini-grant applications to IPA USA members who are offering professional development conferences with the theme of promoting play, doing playdays, or conducting parent workshops on the importance of play.

- Opportunities to be featured in a Porch Play Chat
- Opportunities to be a part of the leadership of IPA USA
- Become a State Play Advocate in your State and work with other Play Advocates to promote play in your state. (Quarterly virtual meetings with the IPA USA State Play Advocacy Chair and President)

Are you interested in becoming a State Play Advocate – Now is the time to sign up and work with IPA USA leadership to promote play in your state. Email Deb at ipausa2019user@gmail.com if interested. In the subject line, put State Play Advocate.

Below are the requirements and responsibilities.

Deb Lawrence, President IPAUSA

State Play Advocates -Deb

How Does IPA/USA Advocate for Play Across The Nation?

By having advocates like you at the local level.

As we emerge from a global pandemic, I hope you will consider joining our State Play Advocates initiative.

Not all support for this cause is monetary – sometimes the most important donation you can make is your time. We are in the process of expanding this network and would love your participation. Please feel free to contact us via through email at ipausa2019user@gmail.com with your interest and qualifications. Put in the subject line State Play Advocate

Become A State Play Advocate

IPA USA is looking for IPA USA members interested in becoming advocates for play in their State. The State Play Advocate will gather a group of interested individuals, work with state and local partners, and plan and implement at least one PlayDay event per year. Supported by Lisa Latimer, the State Play Advocate Chair and Deb Lawrence,

President of IPA USA will be provided through quarterly Zoom calls to help organize and implement PlayDay opportunities. IPA USA has also created the [PlayDay Toolkit](#) to assist you in these events.

IPA USA State Play Advocate Job Description

- **Be an [active member](#) of IPA USA;**
- Create an IPA USA State Advocacy Committee with fellow IPA-USA members that represent rural, suburban, and urban areas that promote playful learning from birth through 18 years;
- Meet through Zoom Conference at least quarterly with the IPA USA State Play Advocacy chair, Lisa Latimer;
- Use IPA USA resources to promote playful learning across your state, including recess policy papers, policy briefs, IPA USA [Guiding Principles](#), Vision, Mission, and [Porch Play Chat](#) podcasts;
- Organizes one public event per year that demonstrates the value of play to parents, early childhood professionals, policymakers, community leaders using the [IPA USA PlayDay Toolkit](#);
- Report events, provide photos, and a brief write-up of each of the two public events to the Committee Chair.

State Play Advocates First Zoom Planning call is scheduled for October 2021. More specifics coming soon.

Porch Play Chats October 2021 recruitment - Deb

Have you viewed the Porch Play Chats on the [ipausa.org](#) YouTube Channel or Facebook page? If not, go to our website [ipausa.org](#), on the menu, click Advocacy, then you will have the list of 2020 Porch Play Chats and 2021 Porch Play Chats. Are you passionate about the child's right to play? Would you like to be invited to discuss your passion in a 25-30 conversation with Deb Lawrence and Lisa Murphy? If so, email Deb at IPAUSA2019user@gmail.com and put in the subject line October Porch Play Chats. Lisa and I have met some amazing people who are our peeps. Would love to have you. Deb

IPA USA's Board Nominations- Deb

Are you interested in being a part of IPAUSA's leadership? We are looking for folks who believe in the child's right to play, then submit your name and resume or Curriculum Vitae to ipausa2019user@gmail.com. In the subject line, put in Board Nominations. Elections are held in early January 2022, so now is the time to nominate yourself or someone else.

Featured Play Advocate – Representative Jacob Rosecrants



Rep. Jacob Rosecrants, who represents House District 46 in Norman, Oklahoma, is the proud father of two middle schoolers, who proudly attend Norman Public Schools. Before he was elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives in 2017, Jacob taught social studies at the middle and high school level in inner city schools, which helped him to learn of some the issues & trauma many children face every day. He is driven to author and support legislation such as the recently enacted Oklahoma Play to Learn Act (HB 1569), which empowers early childhood educators to teach with play in their classrooms. Jacob's passion is to do all he can to

help children through positive advocacy and common sense bipartisan legislation.

HB 1569, better known as the Oklahoma Play to Learn Act, is the fruit of a “Play-based Working Group” established in 2019 by Rep. Rosecrants. This group consisted of early childhood educators, professors, and parents. HB 1569 empowers early childhood educators (Pre-K-3rd grade) by prohibiting a district from preventing an early childhood educator from teaching with play. This essentially protects the right of a teacher to use play-based learning techniques in their early childhood classrooms. The Play to Learn Act, authored by Rep. Rosecrants, passed into law in 2021 with strong bipartisan support. Rosecrants is currently working on an interim study that looks at how more recess will lead to better academic, mental health, and physical health outcomes for students, and fewer behavior issues in our schools.

This push for play has led to a Play-based Learning Initiative Facebook group, which now has over 5,000 members, all of whom advocate for the importance of play as the best way for children to learn.

---- LaDonna Atkins

Gift for mini-grant program- Deb

It is with deep gratitude that IPA USA announces a \$5,000 gift from the Ann O’Bar trust to fund the Mini Grant program. Ann was a strong advocate for play and a past president of IPA USA. Following her passing, February 22, 2020, she was featured in the Spring 2020 **Play Blast** for her 45 years as an outstanding early childhood professional and her leadership of IPAUSA. This gift will help support our Mini Grant Initiative. If you are a State Play Advocate or an individual who sponsors opportunities for play events, such as a PlayDay, in your community, see the requirements below.

MINI GRANT OPPORTUNITY

To be eligible for a grant, you must be a current member of IPA USA

The USA affiliate of the International Play Association (IPA USA) is pleased to announce the availability of mini-grants of up to \$300 to play practitioners in the United States. You must be a member to apply.

Purpose:

- Promote play through professional development opportunities, such as conferences
- Promote advocacy for play by providing funds for those who work for or with children
- Work in coordination with our State Play Advocacy Chair to create local play days at community-based locations
- Develop play-based advocacy tools to share with families

Guidelines:

- Eligible applicants include play practitioners who are members of IPA/USA.
- Grants awards are open year-round and range from \$50 to \$300. There is no deadline to apply. Requests will be accepted or denied within 60 days of receipt.
- Funds may only be used for the purpose(s) identified in the proposal.
- Grant awardees must submit a final report that documents the use of funds within 30 days of the completed project.
- Successful awards are highlighted in **IPA/USA publications**.
- Grants are awarded based on need and impact.

Application requirements:

The applications should not exceed two pages in length and must include the following information in the order listed, or be submitted on this application:

- Date of request
- Contact information, including name, address, email, and phone number
- Name/Title of Project
- Description of need
- Description of how the money will be used to address the need
- The number of children or who will be impacted by the grant
- How will the success of the project be assessed
- Total project budget and the timeline for implementation

In addition to the one-page application, the following addendums (maximum two pages total) are required:

- A short bio of the person requesting and/or implementing the project.
- A copy of your business license, tax exemption letter, teaching credential or other documents that demonstrate your work in the field of play
- The organization's purpose, mission, vision, or other pertinent information about the project as appropriate.
- Applications are accepted via email only to IPA/USA president at ipausa2019user@gmail.com
- A committee reviews all Mini-grant proposals with approval or denial provided within 60 days of receipt.

Article 31: Convention on the Rights of the Child - Deb



- ✚ **Ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)-** Since the UNCRC was adopted in 1989, 196 countries have signed on to the UNCRC. Unfortunately, the United States is the only country that has failed to ratify the UNCRC. IPA USA has formed a committee led by World Board Member, Cynthia Gentry to engage members of the U.S. Senate to ratify the UNCRC. This effort will include a broad coalition of partners. Stay tuned for how you can become involved. You can visit the IPAUSA.org website to learn

more about the UNCRC, below I have provided a brief introduction.

The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)** is a legally-binding international agreement setting out the **civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights** of every child, regardless of their race, religion or abilities.

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

The UNCRC consists of **54 articles** that set out children's rights and how governments should work together to make them **available to all children**.

Under the terms of the convention, governments are required to **meet children's basic needs** and help them **reach their full potential**. Central to this is the acknowledgment that every child has basic fundamental rights. These include the right to:

- **Life, survival, and development**
- **Protection from violence, abuse or neglect**
- An **education** that enables children to **fulfill their potential**
- Be **raised by**, or have a **relationship with, their parents**
- **Express their opinions** and be **listened to**.

Do you believe that children have the right to play? If so, please add your organization or name to the list as we advocate for the United States to finally ratify the UNCRC. If interested, please email Deb Lawrence at ipausa2019user@gmail.com to join our coalition.

Town Hall Meeting - Deb

SAVE THE DATE - FREE - August 31st Town Hall –6:30-8:00 pm EST- Join us for a Town Hall filled with conversation and ideas for:

Using the Outdoor Classroom

Kindergarten Teachers talk about how they incorporate play

Engaging Parents in the importance of Play

A Focus on healing after Covid, one programs approach.

All members are invited and will receive an invitation. Nonmembers are also welcome. Watch for the flyer coming soon and please distribute to your networks.

Child's Right to Play Speaker Series - Deb

SAVE THE DATE - IPA USA is excited to announce our Virtual Conference October 4th – 8th. The Child's Right to Play is a speaker's series of both live and recorded presentations. The live sessions will feature a question-and-answer session where you can deepen your learning with the presenters. Watch for more information, all sessions will be recorded if you cannot view the live sessions and be available for three weeks after the conference. Stay tuned for more information.

IPAUSA 2022 Conference - Deb

Watch for more news on the **IPA USA Conference in San Antonio, Texas – October 2022**. Stay tuned.

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.
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.

(See the T-shirt design below.)

Members only page on our website, www.ipausa.org

IPA USA members have 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. Click on Membership. In the dropdown menu, click on *Register for Members only Access* and follow the instructions.

Let's Play America Virtual Play Day Handbook

Let's Play America's Virtual Play Day Handbook is now available. As author Pat Rumbaugh, says, "Everyone deserves to play!" The e-handbook can be ordered for a \$25 donation at

<https://www.letsplayamerica.org/handbooks>



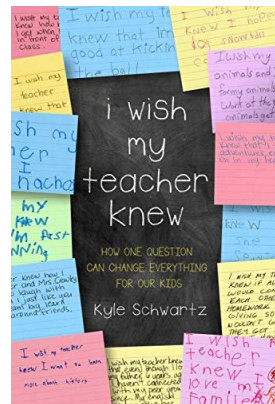
Also, Pat Rumbaugh's new book, *Let's Play Outside* is ready for ordering. Check it out!

<https://youtu.be/TlvtJdXdvas>

youtu.be/ <https://www.letsplayamerica.org/books>

Book Must-Reads – from Deb

I Wish My Teacher Knew: How One Question Can Change Everything for Our Kids

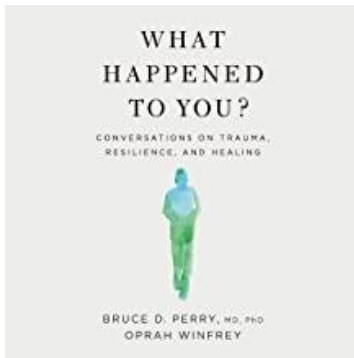


One day, third-grade teacher Kyle Schwartz asked her students to fill-in-the-blank in this sentence: "I wish my teacher knew ____." The results astounded her. Some answers were humorous, others were heartbreaking—all were profoundly moving and enlightening. The results opened her eyes to the need

for educators to understand the unique realities their students face in order to create an open, safe and supportive place in the classroom. When Schwartz shared her experience online, #IWishMyTeacherKnew became an immediate worldwide viral phenomenon. Schwartz's book tells the story of #IWishMyTeacherKnew, including

many students' emotional and insightful responses, and ultimately provides an invaluable guide for teachers, parents, and communities.

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What Happened to You?: Conversations on Trauma, Resilience, and Healing
 by Bruce D. Perry & Oprah Winfrey



Our earliest experiences shape our lives far down the road, and *What happened to you?* provides powerful, scientific, and emotional insights into the behavioral patterns so many of us struggle to understand.

“Through this lens, we can build a renewed sense of personal self-worth and ultimately recalibrate our responses to circumstances, situations, and relationships. It is, in other words, the key to reshaping our various lives.” Oprah Winfrey
 This book is going to change the way you see your life. Have you ever wondered “Why did I do that? or Why can't I just control my behavior?” Others may judge our reactions and think, What's wrong with that person?” When questioning our emotions, it's easy to place the blame on ourselves; holding ourselves and those around us to an impossible standard. It's time we started asking a different question.

Through deeply personal conversations, Oprah Winfrey and renowned brain and trauma therapist doctor Bruce Perry offer a groundbreaking and profound shift from asking “What's wrong with you? to “What happened to you?”

Here, Winfrey shares stories from her own past, understanding through experience the vulnerability that comes from facing trauma and adversity at a young age. In conversation throughout the book, she and Dr Perry focus on understanding people, behavior, and ourselves. It's a subtle but profound

shift in our approach to trauma, and it's one that allows us to understand our pasts in order to clear a path to our future --- opening the door to resilience and healing in a proven powerful way.

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. Each issue has news from IPA as well as other play organizations, play advocates worthy of honor, and recommended books.

We also have an ejournal. See further information on page 8. The journal is to be found in the members only section of the website. 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 playground, and in the community. Manuscripts my address advocacy, culture, games, and activities. Authors are encouraged to examine the ways that children play and how playful activities benefit development.

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 journal, either as a reviewer or as an author, please contact vgeneser@gmail.com. Or submit your article to the link for journal manuscripts to ipausa2019user@gmail.com. The next issue will be released in January 2021.

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* will be available in Fall 2021.

Fairplay: Childhood beyond brands

“For two decades, **Fairplay** (formerly Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood) has been standing up to huge companies, making sure that kids’ needs come before corporations’ bottom lines. We collaborate with parents, teachers, and advocates throughout the country and our advocacy

has resulted in changes at some of the world's largest corporations, including Amazon, Google, and Mattel!"

For more information and to join:

WEBSITE: <https://fairplayforkids.org>.

FACEBOOK/LINKEDIN/INSTAGRAM/etc.

@fpforkids on Facebook: vimeo.com/564359189

TWITTER

@fairplayforkids vimeo.com/564359189

Important information from IPA World - Deb

Did you know that IPA World is made up of 23 different countries? This is an amazing representation of strong and passionate countries dedicated to promoting the child's right to play.

IPA World is investigating a way for each country to host their own membership data base. This exciting opportunity, if approved, will allow each IPA World country, who are interested to have their own Apricot system and for each country to have membership fees in their country currency. Stay tuned for more information.

SAVE THE DATE AND START SAVING FOR THE – XXII - IPA World Tri-Annual Conference:

Glasgow, Scotland – June 6-9, 2023



More from IPA World – Cynthia Gentry, IPA World Communications Officer

On the IPA World front, most of the work underway this term has been of the behind-the-scenes variety. It's not fun, but it certainly is critical for the International Play Association to continue to grow and develop as an organization reaching so many people around the world.

Along those lines, the long and tedious work continues on discovery of and meeting the extensive criteria required by the England and Wales Charity

Commission in order to become a registered charity. It is a long-drawn-out process that is being handled ably by IPA's Board member and Treasurer Mike Greenaway of Play Wales. It is wonderful to have so much varied experience on the Board and Mike's history of board governance is proving invaluable (as is that of the other Board members with that experience).

On the membership front, Tam Baillie, our Membership Officer, is ironing out the difficulties that come with a worldwide membership base. From issues with finding a seamless way for members to pay their dues, to keeping up with ever changing addresses and so on, this is not as easy a task as one might assume. Meetings are being held with the IPA World Council members in the efforts of finding a system that works for all groups, all cultures (some countries don't want their email addresses held centrally which makes communications impossible), all currencies and banking laws is -well - not child's play. But, Tam is a fearless and determined Scot and is making great inroads.

Work is also underway on a book celebrating the first 60 years of IPA. The astounding thing is doing the research into our history and seeing the impact of an organization devoted to promoting the child's right to play. I'm personally glad the book will exist as when I joined the Board a few years back I honestly had no idea of just what an honor that role is and what a great legacy IPA has. Here's to another 60 years.

From the editor – Olga Jarrett

Again, thanks to Pat Rumbaugh for her willingness to be my official proofreader. Also, I appreciate all the information our president, Deb, has included in this issue. There is a lot going on in IPAUSA! To all members, I invite you to send me information on happenings of interest to our membership. I would also be happy to receive brief book reviews on books on play that you would recommend to the membership. I will start work on the Fall 2021 issue in mid-September. You can contact me at ojarrett@mindspring.com.

Critical Race Theory – Olga Jarrett

The number of states that are trying to limit what teachers can discuss about race is disturbing.

Basically, teachers are being asked to not teach the truth about our history as a nation. Here are two ways to better understand Critical Race Theory. Read the following clear and comprehensive book and listen to the broadcast on Critical Race Theory from *Defending the Early Years* (DEY).

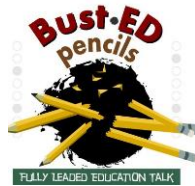
Delgado, R. & Stefencic, J. (2017) *Critical Race Theory: An introduction* (3rd Edition). New York, NY: New York University Press.

And from **Defending the Early Years**---

On Critical Race Theory

On July 13, Nancy Carlsson-Paige was interviewed on the Busted Pencil's radio show about Critical Race Theory and its impact on early childhood education.

[Listen to the broadcast here.](#)



Denisha Jones discussed "Critical Race Theory within the Context of NYC Public Schools" on the program Talk

Out of School on WBAY.

[Hear the broadcast here.](#)

On July 8, 2021, Denisha Jones discussed "The Latest Scam Scare: Critical Race Theory" on the Heartland Labor Forum on KKFI, Kansas City.

[Find the broadcast here.](#)



What we learned from the Pandemic by Deb Lawrence and Mike Huber

is available in *Exchange Magazine* July/August 2021 edition. The article challenges our thinking about extensive assessment data that many programs are struggling to find the time to complete and why relationships are the most important aspect of early childhood education. It also provides us with theoretical roots that ground

us is what is best for children. The link to the article is available through August 31st. Let me know your thoughts. <https://bit.ly/260-Huber-Lawrence>

IPA/USA eJournal Call for Manuscripts

You are invited to contribute to the IPA/USA eJournal! 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. Articles on other topics related to play are also welcome and accepted at any time.

Guidelines for manuscript submissions:

The IPA/USA eJournal accepts manuscripts from IPA/USA members only. All papers must be featured in double-spaced, 12-point, Times New Roman font, and no longer than 2,200 words. Manuscripts must follow APA style, as seen in the American Psychological Association Publication Manual, 7th ed. Provide a one-paragraph abstract of 150-175 words that describes the article. Please include a statement that confirms exclusivity of the submission since manuscripts may not be submitted simultaneously to the IPAUSA eJournal and other journals. The names of the author and coauthors should appear only on the cover sheet. Include the contact information and a bio (25-40 words) for every author. Each author should provide their phone, email, address of institutional affiliation, and research interests. All submissions will be evaluated by double-blind review. The eJournal editors will communicate with authors about their status during the review process.

[Please submit your paper to the link for journal manuscripts on \[www.ipausa.org\]\(http://www.ipausa.org\).](#)

Sincerely,
Vivien L. Geneser, PhD, Shelley B. Harris, PhD,
Reece Wilson, PhD: Editors