



Speaking of Play



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The Providence Athenaeum and Providence Children's Museum proudly partner to present a spring series of panel discussions about the critical importance of self-directed play for children's healthy growth and development.

Conversations will be held the first Tuesday of March, April and May from 7:00 - 8:30 PM at the Athenaeum (251 Benefit Street in Providence).

Leave No Child Inside

Tuesday, March 5 • 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Today's children play outside less than any previous generation. Yet free outdoor play connects kids to the natural world and builds their imaginations, resiliency and confidence. Join a discussion about what's keeping them inside and what we can do to get them out!

Panelists:

Chris Hitchener,

"Our Big Backyard" Program Manager,
Roger Williams Park Zoo

Paul Pieri,

Middle School Farm Program Director,
The Wheeler School

Jeanine Silversmith,

Founder and Director, RI Families in Nature

What Happened to Recess?

Tuesday, April 2 • 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Recess is crucial for kids, resulting in better attention span, improved classroom behavior, and important opportunities for free play, creativity and interaction with other children – yet it is increasingly limited or withheld. Join the great recess debate!

Panelists:

Alicia Bell,

Elementary art teacher and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Elementary School parent

Dr. Lauren Greve,

Psychologist and Vartan Gregorian Elementary
School parent

Phyllis Penhallow,

URI Lecturer and Chariho Elementary School parent

Play & Risk: How Safe is *Too Safe*?

Tuesday, May 7 • 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Acceptable risk is beneficial to kids' physical and emotional development, so when did it become a 4-letter word? Taking risks helps children learn about their own capabilities and limits while increasing their comfort with making mistakes and taking on challenges. Discuss ways to foster healthy risk-taking in kids' play.

Confirmed panelists:

Wendy Nilsson,

Director, Partnership for Providence Parks

Janice O'Donnell,

Executive Director, Providence Children's Museum

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