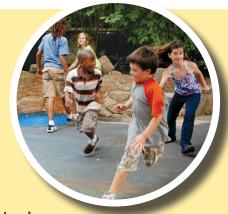


# Speaking of Play



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

## 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

RSVPs welcome to Lindsay Shaw, Ishaw@provath.org or (401) 421-6970 ext. 17.

Presented by





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