

Active Play Alliance Meeting Minutes

November 8th, 2017

11:00 A.M.

Attendees: Rich Rairigh, Caroline Sweezy, Evie Houtz, MaryJo Deck, Caroline Roider, Natasha Bowden, Sarah Salfey, Ronda Hawkins, and Linda Kinney

I. Introductions and Background

- Get everyone together for preliminary conversations. If anyone has a suggested person to add to the group, please send their name and contact information to Evie.
- Evie spoke about the timeline from the APA (PlayDaze, PlayMobile, and PlayPod), as well as the impact over the past 7 years. Impact numbers will be sent to all participants.
- Pop-up Play events from Buncombe are categorized as PlayDaze events.
- BAK is hoping to create a more efficient and effective way to track play events utilizing the BAK database.

II. Plans- We would like to get back to sparking play.

- A Play Summit in the spring of 2018 that will involve our international partners.
 - ✓ Conversation from Calgary Play Conf. connecting with playworkers across the world.
 - ✓ Things were going differently than we see in NC, so with this the thought of bringing international playworkers to NC came to mind to show our child care professionals what is going on across the world. Their play is very open, what settings should provide, and not guiding or forcing children to do certain things at certain times. The energy level is different; good listeners and excitement. More connected to the children with a better understanding of the risk benefit for kids.
 - ✓ Sarah- We have to sneak playwork in to what we are doing.
 - ✓ Mary Jo- Boundaries are different when you are working within a park; the materials don't allow for the same type of the permanent spaces we see in other countries.
 - ✓ Linda- Pure playwork, could we look at some of the boundaries and how to address them. How can we include playwork creatively within those boundaries and explore playwork in its purest form.
 - ✓ The summit would be in place of Be Active Kids ECPAI- provide sessions and workshops around play.
 - ✓ Association for Children's Museums is hosting a conference on **May 16th**, so we'll be holding a PlayDaze at Sassafras Park from 10-1. Play Summit could be connected to this event.
 - ✓ Site for Play Summit is open.
 - ✓ Experts on a one or few days
 - ✓ Possible doing areas of the state
 - ✓ Possible doing a few different days
 - ✓ The group thinks that it would be a great benefit to NC to have this summit.
 - ✓ Dates could be in May or June
 - ✓ Jo- Weekday and a Saturday would broaden the folks that could be involved.
 - ✓ June sounds like a better time for the group-

- ✓ **June 15th and 16th are some tentative dates for the Play Summit.**
- ✓ Jo- We need to think about a variety of events and embed experience and exposure to this rich adventure play. Involve the people we all know to create a community statewide of those that value play...don't make it just a onetime event. Rich- This goes back to bringing back the APA and start to invite others who are interested in play. We'll then create a framework for the next and get an idea of what trainings, resources, tools, etc. we would like to work on.
- ✓ AI: We will brainstorm what the summit will look like. We'll continue to work on resources and next meeting have a better plan of what the resources will look at.
- ✓ Natasha: We'll need to have this aligned to policies and standards.
- ✓ Rich: Here is how you do it in the individual settings? Find topics and define the elements that are needed in those settings.
- ✓ Rich: Keep thinking on what we need and get other players involved. Jo: Because there are so many different categories, we could create different committees/working groups around the different settings that make it possible for quicker movement on these projects. (Similar to how work was done in OLE)
- Involvement in conferences (US Play Coalition and others)
 - ✓ The goal would be to have someone from the APA presenting at local, state, and national conferences.
- Creating usable statewide resources to support growing interest in adventure playgrounds, "risky play", PlayPods, and PlayDaze or pop-up play events.
 - ✓ We are currently working with ScrapStore UK to create a manual for PlayPods.
 - ✓ We have viewed their webinar and have begun working with them to create an adventure playground and PlayPod toolkit.
 - ✓ Natasha- Intergenerational activities need to be part of the plan when working with the parks. Jo-Be intentional on who we bring to the meetings- DCDEE, NCPC, NCAEYC, NCRPA,
 - ✓ People want toolkits and webinars-prepackaged
 - ✓ Interest- Risky Play, PlayPods, has anyone heard other interest from people around the state. –Caroline's county is interested in adventure play ground in her county. Sarah- The Scrap Exchange is trying to start an adventure program.
 - ✓ [North American Adventure Play Association](#) has a list of adventure playgrounds around the country.
- Licensing and loose parts
 - ✓ We are starting to see a lot more push back from providers that you can't use certain materials.
 - ✓ We need those folks, related to regulations and safety, to be part of the group. We also need people from other places so they are hearing a different voice.
 - ✓ I-HOPE did targeted work around outdoor time and nutrition-stated case in front of Childcare Commission-had line item to discuss rules that we have issues with and then provided support against the rules. Ronda, Rich, and Nilda- did work at the zoo with licensing consultants and those folks could use some information on loose parts and how they can safely be used in a child care setting.
- Resources:
 - ✓ Play Scotland: <http://www.playscotland.org/>
 - ✓ Play Wales: <http://www.playwales.org.uk/eng/>
 - ✓ Play England: <http://www.playengland.org.uk>
 - ✓ Adventure Playgrounds:
 - <http://adventureplayground.org/>
 - <http://www.playengland.org.uk/resources-list/adventure-playgrounds>
 - <http://www.playengland.org.uk/media/112552/pathfinder-adventure-playground-briefing.pdf>

- ✓ Penny Wilson's Playwork Primer: <http://www.imaginationplayground.com/images/content/3/2/3239/playwork-primer.pdf>
- ✓ Wendy Russell, et al work on playwork space: <http://eprints.glos.ac.uk/3311/>
- ✓ Pop Up Adventure Playgrounds: <https://popupadventureplaygrounds.wordpress.com/>
- ✓ Loose Parts:
 - <https://playgroundideas.org/handbooks/>
 - Inspiring Scotland's Loose Parts Play: <https://www.inspiringscotland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Loose-Parts-Play-web.pdf>

III. Action Items

- *Send possible APA future members*
- *Send ideas for Play Summit*
- *Send any play resources that you have that may be helpful as we move to create NC resources*
- Sarah is at [Prairie Ridge](#) doing nature PlayDaze each week. She has been doing playwork since 2011-check-out kits for play settings-explorer backpacks- Ronda has pictures- Evie will get pictures from Ronda and send to group
- Rich will create APA webpage.

IV. Closing

- ***Next meeting December 13th at 11am- Evie will send the information for joining the meeting as well as agenda. If you have anything to add to the agenda please email Evie at evie@beactivekids.org.***