

ORIENTATION HANDOUT FOR PLAY DAZE VOLUNTEERS

The overall goal for today's event is ***child initiated, child directed play!!*** This means that as an adult volunteer your role will be a supportive one. We want children to feel free to go wherever they want to play within our Play Daze outer boundary. **They are free to take materials from one area to another!** At the end of the day, we would like help from everyone, *children and adults*. If everyone puts away a few items it shouldn't take long for clean up.

Role of the Play Facilitator:

- Be a good observer; truly watch how children play but stay vigilant to your area as well as the larger one.
- Ask good questions to get disengaged children on the road to play.
- Model playing with clay, building a fort, making a game – talk out loud so children can hear how you are going about making your decisions. If you are invited into the play, feel free to join in, otherwise stick to parallel play.
- Wear a vest so that it is easy for children to pick out adults that they can turn to if they need something or have a question.
- It is fine to switch off with someone else so that you can experience different play areas.
- We need to leave the areas better than we found it.
- Remember safety is important but building children's reasonability, exploration, and freedom is even more important.
- HAVE FUN!

The play areas are: sand, water, dirt, mud, clay, chalk, nature art, slack line, game building, fort building, bubbles, fairy huts, balls, parachute, jump ropes, hula hoops, and traditional play equipment.

The true sign of intelligence is not knowledge but imagination. ~ Albert Einstein

Free choice is one of the highest of all the mental processes. ~ Dr. Maria Montessori

The environment itself will teach the child, if every error he makes is manifest to him, without the intervention of a parent or teacher, who should remain a quiet observer of all that happens.

~ Dr. Maria Montessori

Children learn as they play. Most importantly, in play children learn how to learn.

~ O. Fred Donaldson

