



Trying Together

# Finding Joy through Playful Learning

**February 3-4, 2021**

**February 9-10, 2021**

Finding Joy through Playful Learning aims to bring together educators, researchers, policymakers, and practitioners who have a variety of experiences related to education, play, and learning. The conference will take place via Zoom over the course of several days covering six topics related to playful learning. The goal is to generate dialogue among different stakeholders and share best practices to support children and families in learning through play.

# Rethinking Education During and Post COVID-19

**February 3, 2021**

**3-5 PM (ET)**

Children authentically learn through play. Developmentally appropriate practices allow for multiple opportunities for personal, meaningful play experiences in and out of the classroom - but what has this looked like during the pandemic and remote learning? This workshop will discuss how schools and community organizations have supported children's growth and learning throughout the pandemic - as well as share key takeaways and what the future holds for teaching and learning through play.

**Opening and Introduction – Shelly Kessler**

**Featured Speakers**

**Kathy Hirsh-Pasek, Ph.D., Temple University & The Brookings Institution**

**Dr. Scott Miller, Avonworth Primary Center**

**Jen Schnakenberg, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy**

**Q&A with Panel – Shelly Kessler**

**Breakout Rooms for Discussion**

**Closing and Feedback – Shelly Kessler**



**Moderator**

**Shelly Kessler**

Shelly Kessler is the Executive Director of Playful Learning Landscapes Action Network. For over twenty-five years, Shelly has been both a practitioner and advisor to nonprofit and philanthropic organizations nationally, as well as nongovernmental organizations globally. She has deep experience in strategy and business planning, organizational and leadership development; and program planning and assessment, as well as being a trained facilitator.

# Rethinking Education During and Post COVID-19

## Featured Speakers



### **Kathryn Hirsh-Pasek, PhD**

Kathy is the Stanley and Debra Lefkowitz Faculty Fellow in the Department of Psychology at Temple University and a Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution. Her research examines the development of early language and literacy as well as the role of play in learning. With her long-term collaborator, Roberta Golinkoff, she is author of 14 books and hundreds of publications and a fellow of the Cognitive Science Society. She is highly decorated by the field's leading organizations. She is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and the American Psychological Society. She serves on the Steering Committee of the Latin American School for Education, Cognitive Neural Science as well as on the advisory board for Vroom, The Boston Children's Museum, Disney Junior, The Free to Be Initiative and Jumpstart. Her recent book, *Becoming Brilliant: What the science tells us about raising successful children*, released in 2016 was on the NYTimes Best Seller List in Education and Parenting. Kathy received her bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh and her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania and is a frequent spokesperson for her field appearing in the NYTimes, npr and in international television outlets.



### **Dr. Scott Miller**

Dr. Miller is principal at Avonworth Primary Center (K-2) located in Pittsburgh, PA. His expertise and interests include early childhood education pedagogy, creativity in the elementary school setting as part of effective lesson design, and the development of maker spaces. Dr. Miller holds leadership positions on his district's technology committee and on Allegheny County's Hi5 Kindergarten Transition Committee and actively collaborates on a regular basis with Trying Together.



### **Jen Schnakenberg**

As assistant director of education, Jen serves as the interface between the Parks Conservancy's education department, local schools, and other environmental education organizations. Jen holds bachelor's degrees in psychology and biology from the University of Pittsburgh and has worked in the field of outdoor environmental education for 20 years, joining the Parks Conservancy in 2014. In all her work, she has focused on creating and sharing programs that increase understanding of our reliance on natural systems and that help students acquire skills to continue learning about the world and sharing in its care.



## Acknowledgements

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The opinions expressed in this conference are those of the presenters and do not necessarily reflect the views of the William Penn foundation.