

TACEI, RAEYC, & MTSUnity welcome you to the ...

# Play Symposium 2016

## Play Talk

April 9, 2016

8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Middle Tennessee State University



# PLAY SYMPOSIUM 2016

## April 9, 2016

### College of Education – Room 160

8:00 AM – 8:30 AM: Registration

8:30 AM – 10:30 AM: Keynote Address

Play Advocacy: Moving Beyond Theory

Dr. Kathleen Burriss & Dr. Larry Burriss

10:30 AM – 10:45 AM: Break

### College of Education (Concurrent Sessions)

10:45 AM – 11:45 AM: Concurrent Session A

Titles	Speakers	Room
Keeping Play in Our Daily Learning Lives: What Pre-K and Kindergarten Should Look Like	Ms. Jamie Hubbard & Ms. Brittany Helton	COE 141
The Fairy Tales of Three– STEM Building Challenge	Ms. Rayann Loftis Ms. Holly Harwood, Ms. Tiffany Gannon, Ms. Alysia Pitts	COE 145
Moving and Learning: Innovative Physical Activities that Prepare Young Children for Future Success in the Classroom	Dr. Debbie Morgan	COE 149
Supporting Young Children with Developmental Delays in the Early Childhood Classroom	Dr. Robyn Ridgley	COE 153
Play is Work and Work is Play: Setting up the Early Childhood Classroom to Promote Play Skills for Children with ASD	Ms. Becky Shaffer & Ms. Marie Martinez	COE 160

### McCallie Dining Hall

11:45 AM – 1:00 PM: Lunch

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM: Concurrent Session B

Titles	Speakers	Room
Technology is Child's Play	Ms. Lichelle Leonard	COE 110
Moving and Learning: Innovative Physical Activities that Prepare Young Children for Future Success in the Classroom	Dr. Debbie Morgan	COE 149
Playful Exploring: Learning the about the World around Me	Ms. Linda Prichard	COE 145
Using Play to Help Your special Needs Children: Information, Ideas, and Inspiration	Ms. Michelle Slusher & Ms. Jennifer McDonald	COE 141

2:15 PM – 3:15 PM: Concurrent Session C

Titles	Speakers	Room
Exploring Play, Environment, and Emergent Literacy	Ms. Allison Brown	COE 146
STEM-Tastic Fun with Young Explorers	Ms. Sarah Jessie	COE 153
Playful Exploring: Learning the about the World around Me	Ms. Linda Prichard	COE 145
A Blast from the Past	Ms. Debbie Siegfried & Ms. Melissa Flowers	COE 149

College of Education – COE 160

3:15 PM – 3:30 PM: Certificates & Evaluation

## The Keynote Speakers

### Play Advocacy: Moving Beyond Theory – COE 160

Dr. Kathleen Burriss and Dr. Larry Burriss



Dr. Kathleen Burriss is a professor in the Department of Elementary And Special Education at Middle Tennessee State University. She received her B.A. and M.S. in Elementary Education from the SUNY Colleges of Fredonia and Buffalo respectively. After 15 years as a kindergarten teacher, she graduated from Arizona State University with an Ed.D. in Early Childhood education. Dr. Burriss served as the editor for the Journal of Research in Childhood Education, presented frequently at the international level, and consistently published in academic journals. Her current areas of research interest include homework and teacher bullying.

Dr. Larry L. Burriss is a professor in the School of Journalism at Middle Tennessee State University. He received a B.A. in broadcast journalism and an M.A. in journalism, both from The Ohio State University. He earned another M.A., in human relations, from the University of Oklahoma, and a Ph.D. from the College of Communication at Ohio University. He received a law degree from Concord Law School. He served 20 years in the United States Air Force where he rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel. In the United States he served in Texas, Nevada, Washington, D.C., and on Guam. He had overseas duty in England, Germany, Mali, Somalia, Bosnia, and throughout Central America. He currently teaches introduction to mass communication, media law, quantitative research methods, and mass media & national security.

In an effort to support advocacy and change, our two keynotes, experts in their disciplines, wed the topics of children's play and communication. Despite the abundant research supporting the value of quality play, the need to provide children with appropriate experiences, materials, and time remains a challenge. In addition to establishing a foundation for the importance of play, this opening session provides strategies to effectively communicate and advocate on behalf of children's appropriate learning and development.

## Concurrent Sessions A

### Keeping Play in Our Daily Learning Lives: What Pre-K and Kindergarten Should Look Like – COE 141

Ms. Jamie Hubbard and Ms. Brittany Helton

This session will center around the importance of play in not only Pre-k but also in Kindergarten classrooms as well. The participant will go away with ideas on how to keep centers fun and playful while also meeting the rigorous Pre-k and Kindergarten standards that are set for our 4 and 5 year olds today.

Jamie Hubbard has been teaching in the Rutherford County school system for 14 years. 5 years in 1st grade, 8 years in PreK and this is her first year in kindergarten. She graduated with her Masters in curriculum and instruction from MTSU a few years after completing her Bachelors here as well. She enjoys a busy home life with a husband and 9 kids! They are very involved with Oakland High football and rugby. She loves teaching almost as much as she loves her kiddos!

Brittany Helton graduated from MTSU's Early Childhood Education Program in December of 2008 and began teaching 3rd grade in January of 2009. In 2012, she decided to make a move to teach Kindergarten where her heart truly lies. She earned a Master's Degree in Reading Instruction with an emphasis on early reading. She loves to teach the little ones- it is truly one of her greatest blessings to be a child's first teacher. She believes early education teachers have the power to set the tone of lifetime learning.

### The Fairy Tales of Three – STEM Building Challenge – COE 145

Ms. Rayann Loftis, Ms. Holly Harwood, Ms. Tiffany Gannon, Ms. Alysia Pitts (Teacher Talk 4)

This session will show teachers how they can incorporate STEM into any fairytale unit they teach. This session will model play through solving problems. Some STEM challenges we will discuss are troll bridges, pig houses, and baby bear's bed.

Rayann Loftis, Holly Harwood, Tiffany Gannon, and Alysia Pitts make up Teacher Talk 4. They are a group of teachers that have taught together over the years. Although not currently teaching together, they still collaborate and plan on a monthly basis. They all attended at least one 60 hour STEM grant class at Tennessee Tech University within the last few years. They think play is an important and integral part of the K-2 learning environment. Teacher Talk 4 uses STEM to help them incorporate play into their classrooms.

Moving and Learning: Innovative Physical Activities that Prepare Young Children for Future Success in the Classroom – COE 149

Dr. Debbie Morgan

Emerging research has demonstrated the positive effect of regular physical activity on academic achievement. In this interactive session, Dr. Debbie Morgan will present examples of activities that can aid in developing fundamental movements skills and enhance the fitness levels of preschool (Session A) and early elementary school (Session B) children. Examples of how to use physical activities to teach basic core curriculum concepts will also be provided. Please come dressed to participate!

Dr. Debbie Morgan is a physical education specialist with over 25 years of teaching experience ranging from preschool children to university students. She has conducted workshops throughout North and South America for physical education teachers, classroom teachers and other caregivers who work with children in activity settings. Her passion is to equip teachers to provide fun-filled, high-quality activity programs for children of all ages.

Supporting Young Children with Developmental Delays in the Early Childhood Classroom – COE 153

Dr. Robyn Ridgley

This session will focus on strategies for organizing your planning so that young children with developmental delays are being supported throughout the day in the early childhood classroom. In addition, strategies for addressing specific needs and including all children within the daily routines and activities will be provided.

Robyn Ridgley is an associate professor in the Department of Elementary & Special Education at Middle Tennessee State University. She teaches Early Childhood Education undergraduate courses that focus on early literacy, assessment, and applied experiences in early childhood settings. She also teaches assessment courses in the Ed.D. in Assessment, Learning, and School Improvement program. She enjoys working with early childhood teachers and early intervention professionals as they support young children with developmental delays and their families.

Play is Work and Work is Play: Setting Up the Early Childhood Classroom to Promote Play Skills for Children with ASD – COE 160

Ms. Becky Shaffer and Ms. Marie Martinez

A diagnostic criterion of ASD is delays in social-communication which impacts a child's ability to demonstrate age-appropriate play skills. Children with ASD often struggle with turn-taking, functional or symbolic use of play objects, imitation, using language to enhance play, etc. This basic knowledge about social-communication needs in children with ASD can help us to better plan and set up the classroom environment to promote play skill development. Specific areas to focus on include:

- Use of themes in the classroom (e.g., center materials and activities relate to a book that is read and a consistent theme remains in place for a period of time)
- Setting up specific play centers in the classroom to promote play (e.g., setting up the dramatic play center or block center)
- Use of visual supports (i.e., scripts in dramatic play, block imitation pictures, action cards, etc.)
- Rotation of materials and how to use some materials/objects for a variety of purposes/functions
- Utilizing whole-group activities to model play skills students will later use in center activities

Becky Shafer, M.Ed., BCBA, is a behavior analyst in Nashville, TN. She currently works at the Treatment and Research Institute for Autism Spectrum Disorders (TRIAD) at the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center. She conducts trainings and provides consultative support to school systems and community members on how to best support children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Prior to working at Vanderbilt, she worked in several school systems as an early childhood special education teacher and a behavior analyst. She also worked as a clinical supervisor and behavior analyst at a private school for students with ASD.

Marie Martinez, M.S., CCC-SLP, is a certified Speech-language pathologist, who lives in Nashville, TN. She currently works at the Treatment and Research Institute for Autism Spectrum Disorders (TRIAD), at the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center. She provides parent training on strategies to support children with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) or related developmental delay in the home environment.

## Concurrent Sessions B

### Technology is Child's Play – COE 110

Ms. Lichelle Leonard

Technology for today's children is truly child's play. So what a better way to play and learn in the classroom than to play with devices that children are already using at home. Not only does technology come easy for them, it is easily accessible. Using educational apps with devices to support the foundational standards can be a great learning tool, as well as engaging and entertaining. During this session, you will be introduced to apps and websites, along with ideas for integration. Visit Lichelle's webpage for session agenda <http://lichelleleonard.weebly.com>. Follow Lichelle [@lichelleleonard](#)

Lichelle Leonard's 22 years of educational experience has included six years teaching technology in the classroom, three years as an instructional technology coordinator for Duval County Public Schools in Jacksonville, FL., and 13 years, currently, as a technology coach for Rutherford County Schools in Murfreesboro, TN. She is currently assigned to Stewartsboro Elementary School and McFadden School of Excellence and has a Masters in educational administration, as well as a bachelor of science in secondary education. Lichelle has also worked as an adjunct professor for Florida Community College at Jacksonville. Her experience in training educators includes over 900 hours in developing, creating, and teaching professional development workshops and several workshops with RCS' Technology Academy. She enjoys modeling and co-teaching with teachers and observing her teachers integrate technology with their students on a daily basis.

### Moving and Learning: Innovative Physical Activities that Prepare Young Children for Future Success in the Classroom – COE 149

Dr. Debbie Morgan

Emerging research has demonstrated the positive effect of regular physical activity on academic achievement. In this interactive session, Dr. Debbie Morgan will present examples of activities that can aid in developing fundamental movements skills and enhance the fitness levels of preschool (Session A) and early elementary school (Session B) children. Examples of how to use physical activities to teach basic core curriculum concepts will also be provided. Please come dressed to participate!

Dr. Debbie Morgan is a physical education specialist with over 25 years of teaching experience ranging from preschool children to university students. She has conducted workshops throughout North and South America for physical education teachers, classroom teachers and other caregivers who work with children in activity settings. Her passion is to equip teachers to provide fun-filled, high-quality activity programs for children of all ages.

Playful Exploring: Learning About the World Around Me – COE 145

Ms. Linda Prichard

The session will include hands on activities as well as a Power Point presentation centered on developmentally appropriate social studies activities in early childhood classrooms. Participants will leave with many simple ideas to immediately implement in lessons and in centers.

Linda Prichard has a M.S. in Early childhood Education and has spent 30 years working in the early childhood area. She has been both a teacher and an administrator in private and public settings. She has served 20 years as instructional specialist and administrator going into classrooms helping teachers, faculties and administrators by modeling lessons, delivering staff development, developing and helping to implement curriculum and strategies to improve instruction. She authored curriculum units for the Tennessee State Department of Education and was one of the six reviewers for the TN edition of the McGraw /Hill reading series *Treasures*. In her current position with Rutherford County Schools in TN, Linda is the Instructional Specialist for Pre-k – Fifth Grade. She often serves as a speaker/presenter for conferences and other school districts.

Using Play to Help Your Special Needs Children: Information, Ideas, and Inspiration – COE 141

Ms. Michele Slusher and Ms. Jennifer McDonald

Come and join us for great ways to help special needs children in your class through play. We will look at ways to help the special needs child feel at ease with their learning, ways to help the other children include and befriend a special needs child, and ways to help all of your children together to learn various concepts through play.

Michele Slusher is a 23 year veteran teacher. Most of this time has been in the early primary grades where she has seen the amazing value of play. She has many years of experience working with children with Muscular Dystrophy as one of the directors for the Alliance for Recreational Empowerment as well as working with children with many various disabilities in her classroom. She is happily married and has one son who is 12. She enjoys cooking and crafting. She looks forward to sharing ideas and experiences together!

Jennifer McDonald is an 11 year veteran elementary teacher. She is happily married and is the proud mother of 9-year-old twins. One of her twins has autism and the other has ADHD. Her son's early diagnosis and early intervention has given him the ability and success he has today. She has experience with sensory light therapy, ABA therapy, play therapy, music therapy, speech therapy, OT therapy, and biomedical approaches to autism from a parent's perspective. She enjoys reading and cooking. It's a pleasure to share her experiences and thoughts together.

## Concurrent Sessions C

### Exploring Play, Environment, and Emergent Literacy – COE 146

Ms. Allison Brown

Can toddlers talk about books? Do children use real life experiences to create understanding for books? How important is the “real life” part? Can we play to create understanding? Can we play to build book language? Can we build book language to support play? These are just some of the questions that started my exploration.... In this session we will briefly explore the research on the benefits of play and environment on emergent literacy development. I will share my experience of creating a literature centered classroom for children ages 1-3 years. We will explore book selection, materials used in large group and independent play, lessons, and observations.

Allison Brown has been an educator of young children for 15 years. She currently teaches at the MTSU Child Development Center and teaches four classes of young children. The children enrolled in the part-time program vary in age from 12 months to 40 months. She also serves as a mentor teacher to pre-service teachers in the Early Childhood Program at MTSU. She is married and has two sweet children of her own.

### STEM-Tastic Fun with Young Explorers – COE 153

Ms. Sarah Jessie

Carl Sagan wrote, “All children start out as scientists, full of curiosity and questions about the world around them.” Our job as their teachers and learning guides is to encourage that curiosity and provide opportunities for them to explore their world. The more they learn, the more they want to know. We simply provide the materials, facilitate the learning and watch them soar! Do you want more science for your classroom? I will share lots of science teaching ideas that you can immediately use to engage and excite your students. Join me for a little mess, a little music, some great books, a little science magic, and, of course, a lot of curious fun! “Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known.” (Carl Sagan). Young children believe that everything around them is incredible and are eager to test and experience the world of science. We just need to let them!

First, know that Sarah Jessie (me) did not like science until ninth grade. It was boring! Then I had a marvelous high school teacher, Mr. Warner, who allowed me to participate in the amazement, magic, and constant curiosity that is science. It was love at first Bunsen Burner! So when I started teaching Kindergarten, all my lessons were integrated around an Inquiry science theme. I became the District lead teacher for a NSF funded project to train teachers and to provide them with Inquiry, Hands-on science materials. Eventually, I was given the “Teacher of Excellence Award” and spent several years at Tennessee State University being educated and facilitating training on Inquiry Science methods and modules. In 2001, I became the director of Rutherford County Schools’ Elementary Science program. Needless to say, now I LOVE science. I love the way students get involved and excited about science and the natural curiosity they exhibit. I love to amaze adults and inspire children with the magic of science. I even take science activities with me on vacations to share with family and people I meet! I am a self-proclaimed science geek!

Playful Exploring: Learning About the World Around Me – COE 145

Ms. Linda Prichard

The session will include hands on activities as well as a Power Point presentation centered on developmentally appropriate social studies activities in early childhood classrooms. Participants will leave with many simple ideas to immediately implement in lessons and in centers.

Linda Prichard has a M.S. in Early childhood Education and has spent 30 years working in the early childhood area. She has been both a teacher and an administrator in private and public settings. She has served 20 years as instructional specialist and administrator going into classrooms helping teachers, faculties and administrators by modeling lessons, delivering staff development, developing and helping to implement curriculum and strategies to improve instruction. She authored curriculum units for the Tennessee State Department of Education and was one of the six reviewers for the TN edition of the McGraw /Hill reading series *Treasures*. In her current position with Rutherford County Schools in TN, Linda is the Instructional Specialist for Pre-k – Fifth Grade. She often serves as a speaker/presenter for conferences and other school districts.

A Blast from the Past – COE 149

Ms. Debbie Seigfried and Ms. Melissa Flowers

In this session learn the how and why of keeping good Kindergarten practices of the past alive, while still meeting the needs of the 21st century child. Preschool necessities will be addressed. Activities to take back to your classroom immediately will be given.

Debbie taught and directed daycare and preschool for 3 years and is in her 33rd year teaching Elementary School. She currently teaches kindergarten at Campus School and has taught various Elementary Grades. Debbie earned her B.S. and M.S. degree in Elementary Ed and Early Childhood from Peabody College of Vanderbilt University. She has achieved many honors in her career, including being in the final running for Tennessee Teacher of the Year. Debbie is married and the mother of 3 children and the Grandmother of 5. Her passion is teaching young children.

Melissa Flowers is an Early Childhood Education graduate of MTSU and holds a Masters degree in Administration/Supervision. Throughout her teaching career she has taught preschool through 1st grade. In 2003 she was awarded Teacher of the year by her co-workers. Melissa spent 11 years teaching in Rutherford County Schools before becoming a stay at home mom. While staying at home with her children she also worked with Murfreesboro City Schools as a mentor teacher to 1st year teachers in their system. After 5 years at home she returned to RCS in 2012 and transferred to Homer Pittard Campus School in 2014. Melissa is married and is the mother to 5 young children.

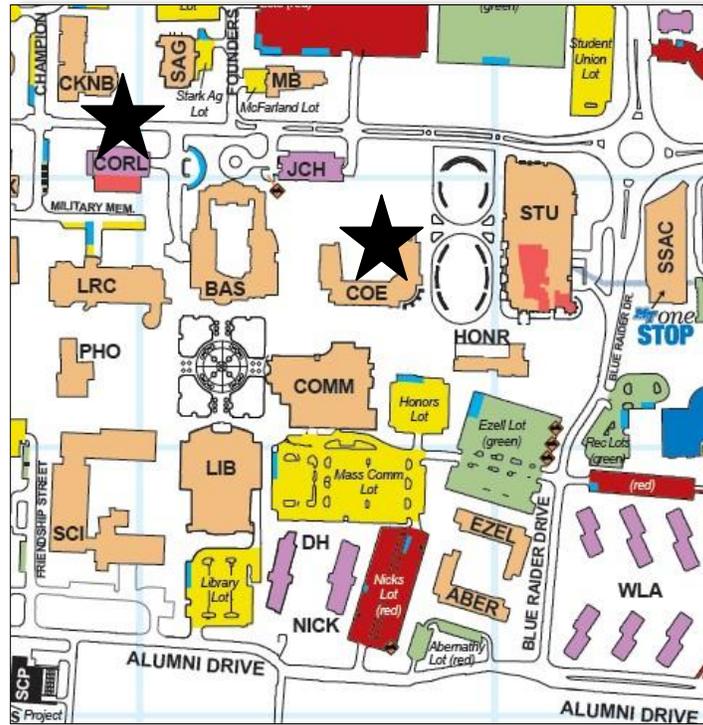
Notes



Notes



## Campus Map



COE: College of Education

CORL: McCallie Dining Hall

### Play Symposium 2015 Training Hours

Keynote (2 hrs.)	Concurrent Session A (1 hr.)
Concurrent Session B (1 hr.)	Concurrent Session C (1 hr.)