

Preparing 21st Century Children for a Global World



A Collaborative Community Workshop on Playful Learning: An Evidence-Based Model for Early Education with Dr. Kathryn Hirsh-Pasek

Decades of research confirm the value of playful learning for both academic and social development in the early years. With this research at its core, Canada is leading the way in creating evidence-based education in childhood curricula and pedagogy. This seminar offers a working definition of playful learning and presents scientific evidence in support of three points: 1) young children need both unstructured free play and guided play under the gentle supervision of adults to best prepare them for formal schooling, 2) academic and social development are so inextricably intertwined that attention must be given to both areas, and 3) learning and play are not incompatible — it is possible to have a strong curricular program, that is delivered in a playful pedagogy in which children are engaged and having fun. Children who learn in a playful pedagogy not only master content in reading and math, but also learn important 21st Century skills like critical thinking and emotion regulation that will support their learning across the lifespan.

Kathryn Hirsh-Pasek, Ph.D. is Director of the Infant Language Laboratory at Temple University. Her research in the areas of early language development and infant cognition has resulted in 11 books and over 100 publications. Her book, *Einstein Never Used Flashcards* won the prestigious Books for Better Life Award in 2003. Kathryn has been a spokesperson on early development for national magazines and newspapers (The NY Times, People, Parent's Magazine, Parenting, etc.) radio and television (The View, The Today Show, Good Morning America, 20/20, ABC News, etc.), and is an advisor for Sesame Workshop, Fisher Price Toys, Highlights, K'NEX, The Cartoon Network, and a host of Children's Museums across North America.

Thursday October 20, 2011
6:30 to 9:00 pm
Quality Hotel Parkway Convention Centre
325 Ontario Street, St. Catharines

\$25/person includes nutrition break

To register please contact the Early Childhood
Community Development Centre at
905.646.7311 ext. 304 or eccdc@eccdc.org

