

# Investigating the Theories of Play and the Principles of Playwork



**Playwork** and the term **Playworker** are commonly used terms in the United Kingdom and in many parts of the world, and is rapidly spreading throughout North America. In the UK, Playworkers work with children and young people from 4-16 years in school-age programs, holiday programs, adventure playgrounds, on playbus' and as play rangers. Playwork has evolved since post war Britain and is a profession in its own right. Although it shares some aspects of early and learning and child care, it has philosophies, principles, and practices unique to Playwork.

Play is seen as a process, not a product. Does that sound familiar? And one of the roles of a Playworker is to enrich the environment to provide 'playable spaces' for children, restoring play and lost experiences.

Playwork practice aligns very nicely with *How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years*. So if this excites you and you would like to find out more about Playwork, and how to include these practices within your program, please join the ECCDC's Early Learning and Program Consultant Ginette Wilson for lively, engaging discussion and hands-on experiences.

## **Workshop Series Session One: Theories of Play**

During session one participants will have an opportunity to drive deeply into what play is for older children and the role of the adult within children's play, thus supporting a move towards a child-led agenda. Participants will be introduced to the 'Playwork Principles' and the 'Play Types' as tools to support practice and playfulness.

**Tuesday October 24, 2017** • 6:30 to 8:30 pm • ECCDC Conference Room, 3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold • \$45 includes materials and nutrition break • **To register**, call 905.646.7311 ext. 304, email [eccdc@eccdc.org](mailto:eccdc@eccdc.org) or visit [www.eccdc.org](http://www.eccdc.org).

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## **Workshop Series Session Two: Removing the Barriers to Play**

In session two, participants will be introduced - in a playful way - to some of the underpinning theories of Playwork. These will include flexible environments, intervention strategies to facilitate the play process, and responding to children's play cues to support free play and to remove barriers to play.

**Thursday November 9, 2017** • 6:30 to 8:30 pm • ECCDC Conference Room, 3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold • \$45 includes materials and nutrition break • **To register**, call 905.646.7311 ext. 304, email [eccdc@eccdc.org](mailto:eccdc@eccdc.org) or visit [www.eccdc.org](http://www.eccdc.org).



## **Ginette Wilson**

In her role as ECCDC's Early Learning and Child Care Program Consultant, Ginette Wilson, BA (Hons), RECE supports early years sites with environmental design, curriculum planning, play based learning kit highlights and other consultation needs. She facilitates our Professional Network Sessions and ongoing professional learning opportunities. Additionally, Ginette offers guidance with the ongoing development of lending library resources.

Ginette has enjoyed a 30 year career in early learning and child care in North America and the United Kingdom in a variety of positions including working directly with children, managing early learning and child care teams and consulting with not for profit and private organizations and government and social service agencies. Most recently, Ginette has worked with DSBN as a Designated Early Childhood Educator and with Rosalind Blauer as a Registered Early Childhood Educator. In the United Kingdom, Ginette worked as a Childcare Development Officer, promoting high quality child care services for children from birth to 16 and their families. She also worked as a Play Training Development Instructor; developing, delivering and coordinating a variety of workshops and network sessions. Ginette also served as a Childcare Manager in addition to holding various early childhood educator positions.