

Facilitating Play or Play in the Learning Domains

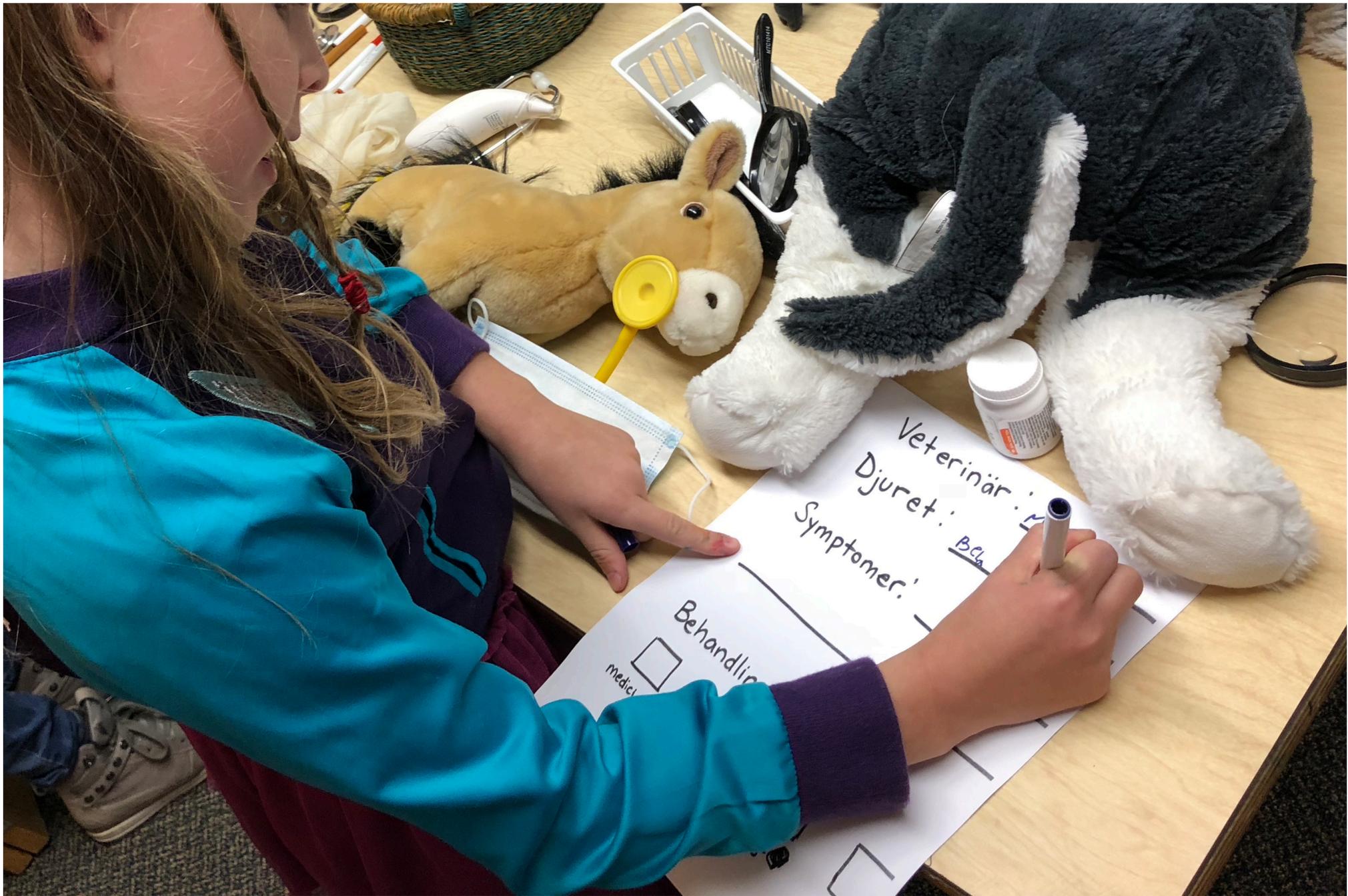
Gameplan

Today is all about learning how to scaffold and facilitate play, ensuring that learners explore and learn concepts in specific learning domains (e.g., literacy, mathematics, science) through play.

Revisiting: PoP Practices and Strategies

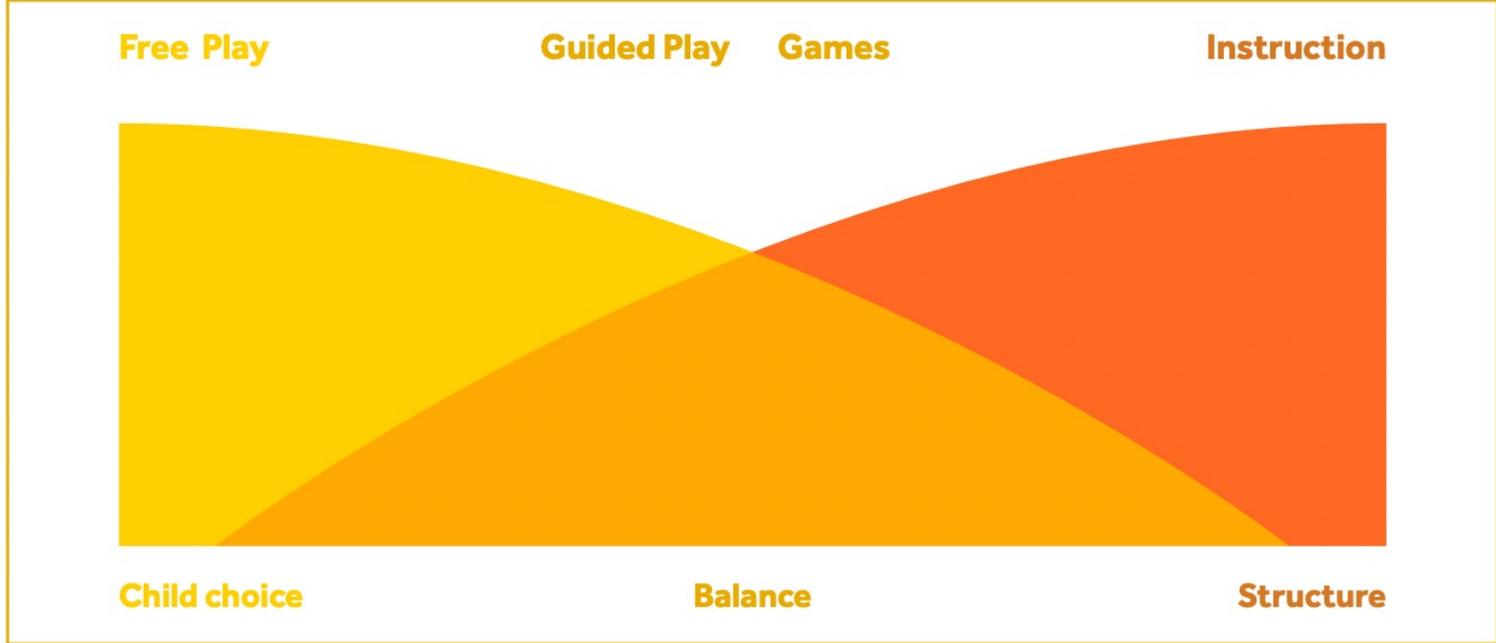
- **Empower learners to lead their own learning**
 - Get to know your learners
 - Involve learners in decision-making
 - Co-construct rules
 - Say yes to students' spontaneous ideas
 - Reflect on learning with learners
- **Build a culture of collaborative learning**
 - Use play to build relationships
 - Facilitate purposeful conversations to build knowledge
 - Nurture a culture of feedback
 - Document learning through play
 - Foster peer-to-peer teaching
- **Promote experimentation and risk-taking**
 - Design open-ended investigations
 - Value risk-taking as a strategy for learning
 - Focus on process as well as product
 - Model risk-taking and experimentation
- **Encourage imaginative thinking**
 - Share stories to engage and enhance learning
 - Ask questions that invite curiosity
 - Use role play and pretend scenarios
 - Provide materials that encourage hands-on learning
- **Welcome all emotions generated through play**
 - Design for joy
 - Make learning meaningful and relevant
 - Use play to explore complicated issues
 - Support learners in working through frustration





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During play you can...

Questions to extend play and deepen thinking

- How did you create this?
- What part did you do first?
What could you add?
- What else could you try?
- Tell us more about your (painting, structure, game...)
- What do you notice about (that structure, object, etc...)?
- What do you wonder?
- What do you think is going on?
- Why do you think that?
- What might happen if....?
- What is the problem? What ideas do you have to solve that problem?
- Can you teach me/us how to...?



Play Facilitation Tool

During play you can...



Be a player.

Take on a role in the play and follow the children's lead.



Be a connector.

Scaffold children to connect with each other around a common goal or play theme.



Be a rubber band.

Stretch and extend the play through open-ended questions, embedding vocabulary and reinforcing teaching of concepts. Try the question stems to the right.



Be a documenter.

Record learning processes in order to deepen and extend learning



Be a mirror.

Describe in detail what children are doing, using rich vocabulary. E.g. "you're drawing a curved yellow line using the thin paintbrush..."



Be a steering wheel.

When play becomes unproductive, repetitive, or unsafe, steer it back in a positive direction.

Questions to extend play and deepen thinking:

- How did you create this?
- What part did you do first?
What could you add?
- What else could you try?
- Tell us more about your (painting, structure, game...)
- What do you notice about (that structure, object, etc...)?
- What do you wonder?
- What do you think is going on?
- Why do you think that?
- What might happen if....?
- What is the problem? What ideas do you have to solve that problem?
- Can you teach me/us how to...?

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The Play's the Thing

Second
Edition

Teachers'
Roles in
Children's
Play



ELIZABETH JONES & GRETCHEN REYNOLDS
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Jones & Reynolds – Roles for Supporting Play

- Observer
- Stage Manager
- Mediator
- Player
- Interrupter
- Scribe
- Assessor & Communicator
- Planner

Observer

- Carefully watching and listening to children at play
- Documenting
 - To understand the learning taking place
 - To share back with learners to relaunch and deepen learning
 - To share more widely (with other educators, with families...)

Stage Manager

- Prepares the environment for play
- Organizes and reorganizes materials
- Prepares provocations to spark children's thinking and interest
- Creates and provides physical scaffolds (e.g. graphic organizers, templates) to scaffold play

PoP Practices

- Empower learners to lead their own learning
- Build a culture of collaborative learning
- Promote experimentation and risk-taking
- Encourage imaginative thinking
- Welcome all emotions generated through play

Principles Guiding Play Orchestration

1. Taking the child's view
2. Being a keen observer
3. Seeing meaning as it is constructed
4. Being a stage manager

From Van Hoorn et al. (2015) p.81-83

Figure 4.1
Continuum of Play
Orchestration Strategies

