



Playing with Light and Shadow



Playful Learning Activity Card

A Playful Teacher Education Resource

Purpose

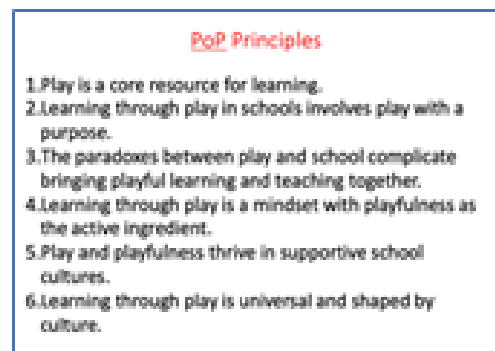
To engage in a quick, simple experience of playful learning in order to have a shared experience while unpacking the Principles of Playful Learning

Materials

- ▷ A light source for each learner (the flashlight function on a smartphone works well, or a standard flashlight)

Process

- ▷ Introduce the activity: Invite learners to play with their light source, either individually, with a partner, or small group. Ask them to think about what discoveries they are making about light and shadow and what questions come up as they play
- ▷ Learners play for 5-7 minutes.
- ▷ Come back together. Briefly discuss discoveries and questions that arose – either in a turn-and-talk pair, in a chat (if remote), or as a whole group discussion
- ▷ Do a simple rating of the experience – how playful was it for you? Show the “Play Meter” and ask students to hold up 0-5 fingers, 5 for very playful, 0 for not playful at all (can preview that there are other, more nuanced ways to assess and reflect on playful learning that you will discuss this later)
- ▷ Use this small experience of playful learning as a touchpoint for unpacking other topics related to learning through play, for example:
 - ▽ Talk through the PoP Principles, referencing the flashlight play as you discuss (e.g., for Principal #4, could discuss whether students who found this playful did so because of coming to it with a playful mindset)



More than One Way

- ▷ There are many other ways you could use this play activity with your teacher education students. Some other examples:
 - ▽ Consider learning domains activated during the play experience and consider when a similar activity might be meaningful for children's learning.
 - ▽ When discussing the Indicators of Playful Learning, have learners complete a self-reflection using the indicators (version of your choice or the indicators you create for your context) and discuss as a group which indicators were activated for each learner