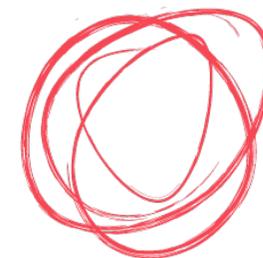


Understanding Learning Through Play Across Cultural Contexts: The Indicators of Playful Learning

From the Pedagogy of Play Team
Project Zero



pedagogy of play



Play is both universal and culturally determined

- Who children play with
- How they play
- Where and when they play
- When/if they should stop playing



...all of these ideas are culturally constructed





What does playful learning in schools look and feel like in different cultural contexts?

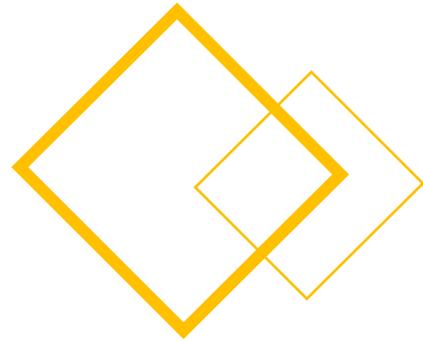


International School of Billund

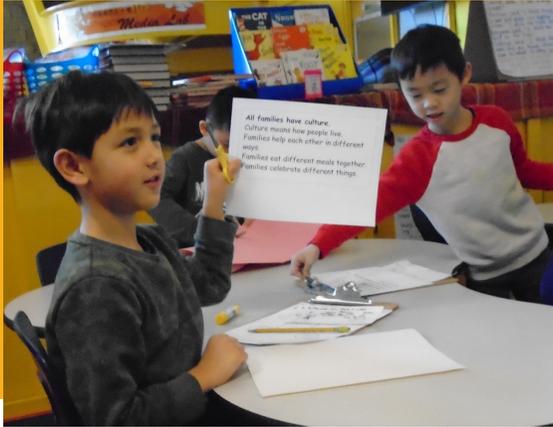


Denmark





3 South African Schools



6 Schools in the Boston Area



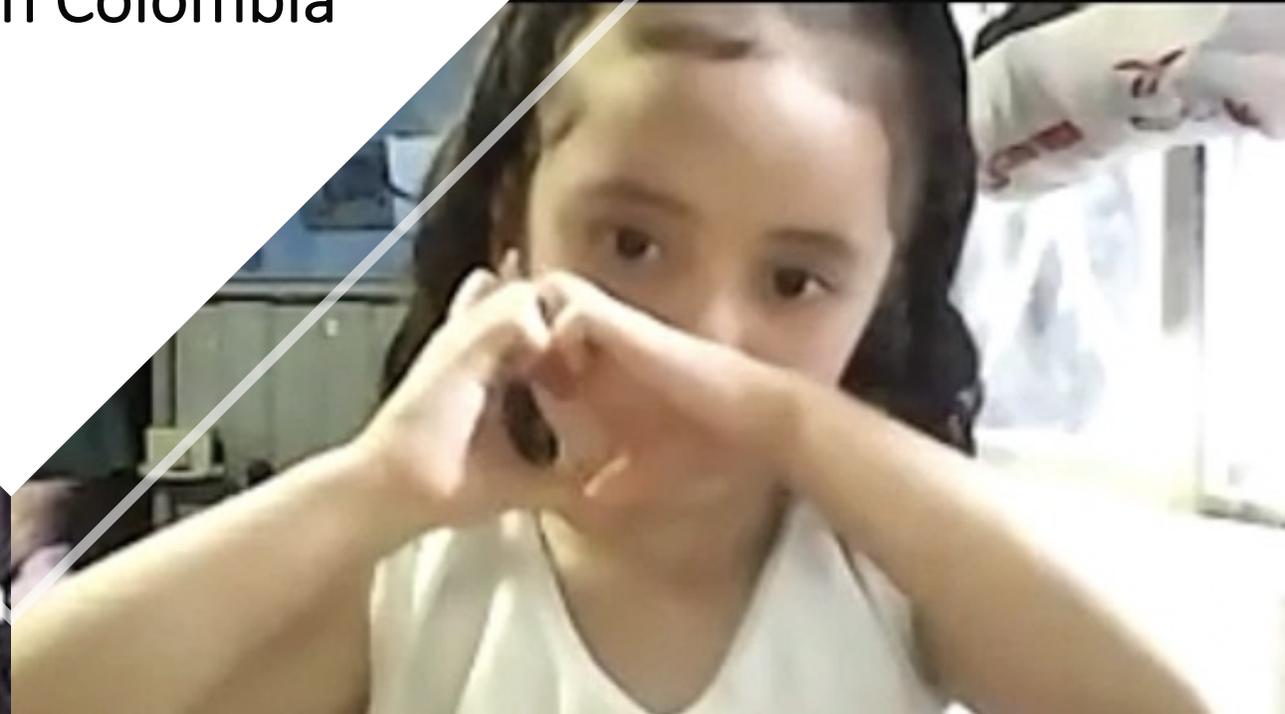
5 Schools in Colombia



a Gonzalez ...



Xion Naiomi Ospina

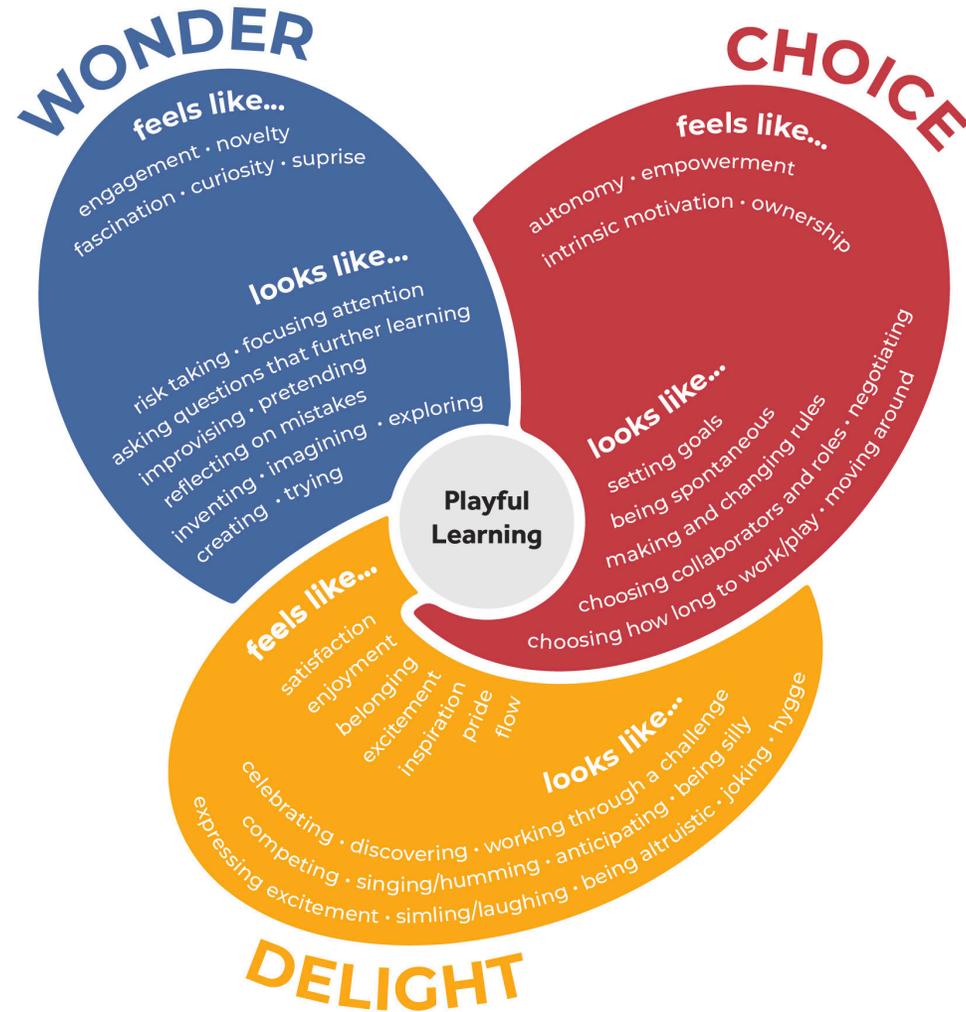


Methodology: Developing the Indicators

- Site selection – purposive sampling:
 - Variety of SES, school type
 - Interested in incorporating playful learning
- Data sources:
 - Extensive classroom observations
 - In-depth semi-structured interviews with classroom teachers, administrators, and children
 - Focus groups with children
 - Playful activities to surface playful learning experiences
- Analysis:
 - Emic, open coding
 - Thematic analysis
 - Return to the conceptual literature to inform analytic approach
 - Co-construction through iterative analysis and feedback with local educators



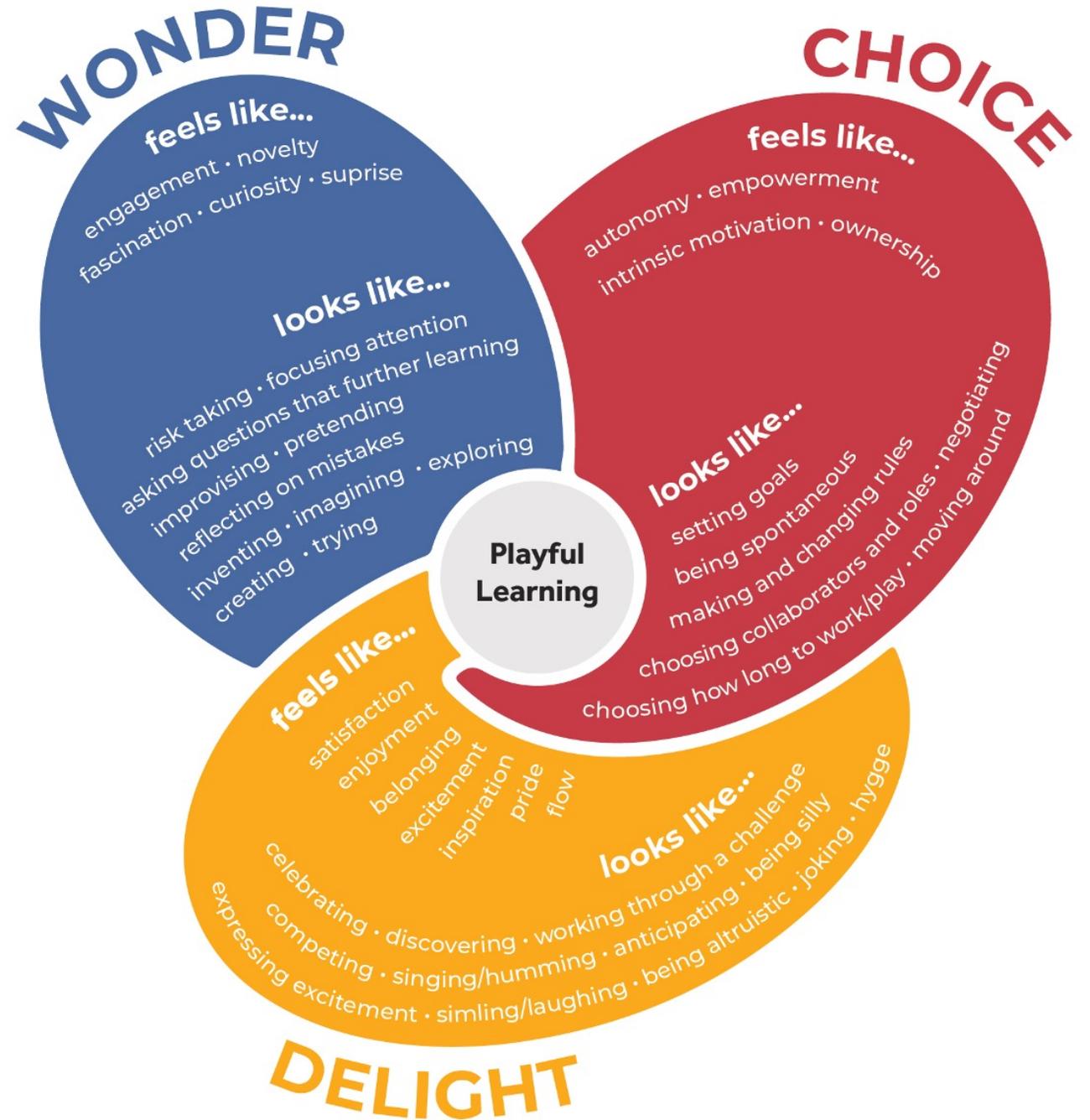
Indicators of Playful Learning from the International School of Billund in Denmark



Subjective and Objective

What does playful learning look like? (objective)

What does it feel like? (subjective)



Choice

feels like...

autonomy
empowerment
intrinsic motivation
ownership

looks like...

setting goals
negotiating
choosing how long to work/play
choosing collaborators and roles
influencing the direction of learning
making and changing rules
being spontaneous
moving around

Wonder

feels like...

engagement
novelty
fascination
curiosity
surprise

looks like...

risk taking
trying
reflecting on mistakes
asking questions
focusing attention
improvising
pretending
inventing
imagining
exploring
creating

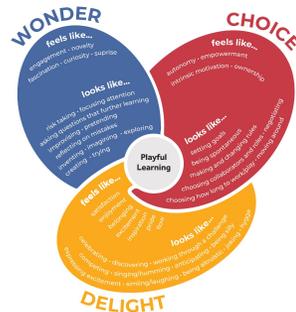
Delight

feels like...

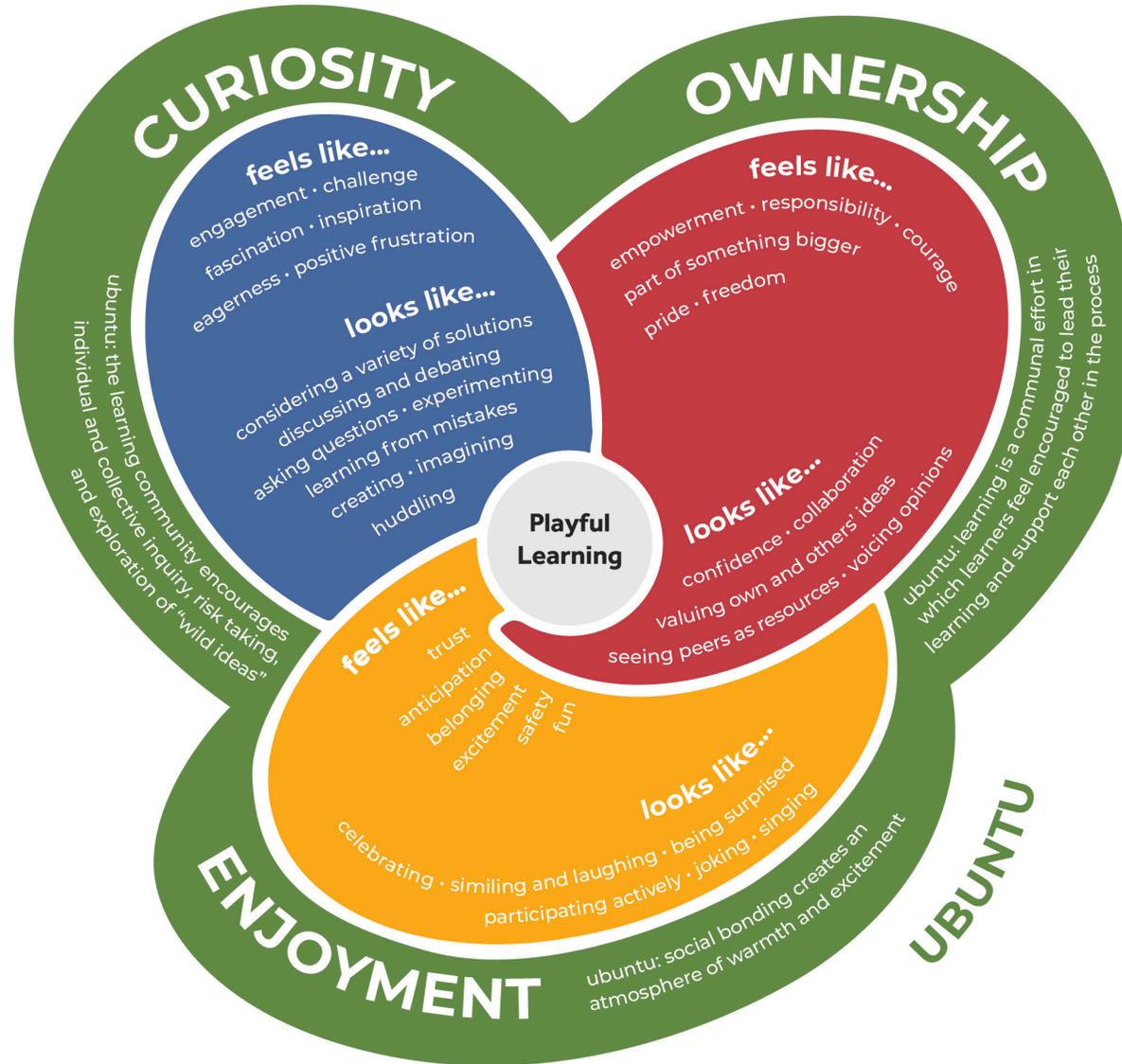
satisfaction
enjoyment
belonging
pride
excitement
inspiration
flow

looks like...

celebrating
discovering
being silly
competing
singing/humming
smiling/laughing
anticipating
joking
hygge
being altruistic
expressing excitement
working through a challenge



Indicators of Playful Learning from 3 South African Schools



Ownership

feels like...

empowerment
responsibility
courage
pride
freedom
part of something bigger

looks like...

valuing own and others' ideas
seeing peers as resources
confidence
collaboration
voicing opinions

ubuntu

learning is a communal effort in which learners feel encouraged to lead their learning and support each other in the process



Curiosity

feels like...

engagement
challenge
fascination
inspiration
eagerness
positive frustration

looks like...

considering a variety of solutions
discussing and debating
asking questions
learning from mistakes
experimenting
creating
imagining
huddling

ubuntu

the learning community encourages individual and collective inquiry, risk taking, and exploration of "wild ideas"

Enjoyment

feels like...

trust
anticipation
belonging
excitement
safety
fun

looks like...

celebrating
smiling and laughing
being surprised
participating actively
joking
singing

ubuntu

social bonding creates an atmosphere of warmth and excitement



Ownership

feels like...

empowerment
responsibility
courage
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freedom
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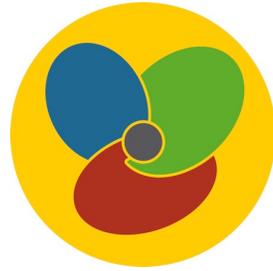
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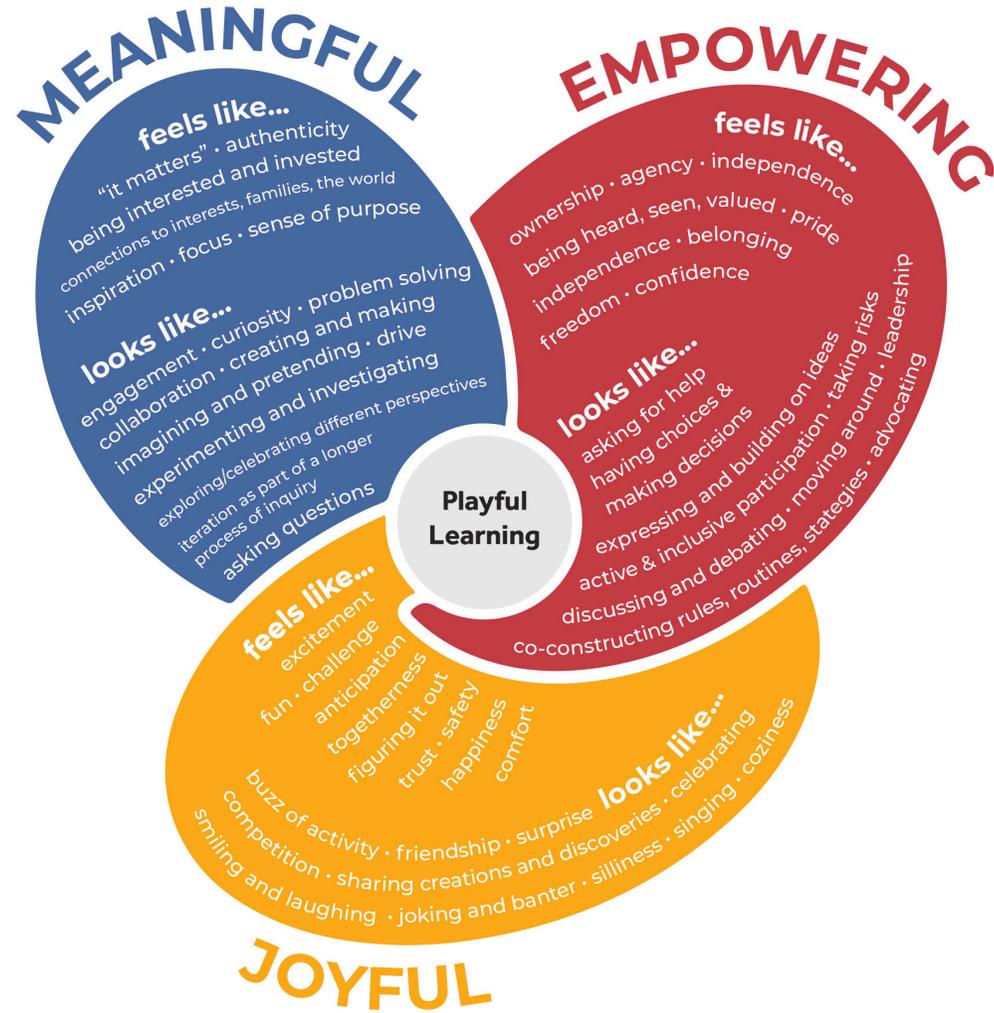
looks like...

celebrating
smiling and laughing
being surprised
participating actively
joking
singing

ubuntu

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Indicators of Playful Learning from 6 U.S. Schools



Empowering

feels like...

Ownership
Agency
Being heard and seen
Independence
Belonging
Pride
Freedom
Confidence

looks like...

Having choices and making decisions
Leadership
Taking risks
Co-constructing rules, routines,
strategies
Active and inclusive participation
Expressing and building on ideas
Discussing and debating
Asking for help
Moving around

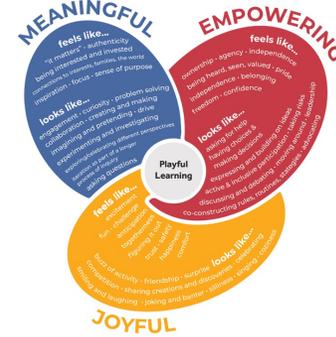
Meaningful

feels like...

"It matters"
Being interested and invested
Connections to interests, families, the world
Authenticity
Inspiration
Sense of purpose

looks like...

Engagement
Curiosity
Collaboration
Drive
Creating and making
Imagining and pretending
Experimenting and investigating
Problem solving
Asking questions
Exploring different perspectives
Iteration as part of a longer
process of inquiry



Joyful

feels like...

Excitement
Challenge
Anticipation
Togetherness
Figuring it out
Trust
Safety
Comfort
Happiness
Fun

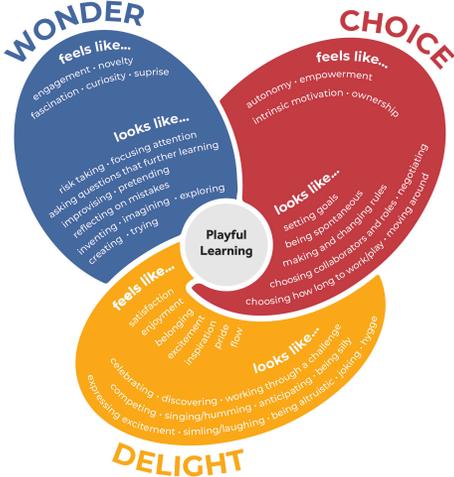
looks like...

Smiling and laughing
Surprise
Joking and banter
Friendship
Sharing creations and discoveries
Buzz of activity
Silliness
Competition
Singing
Celebrating
Coziness

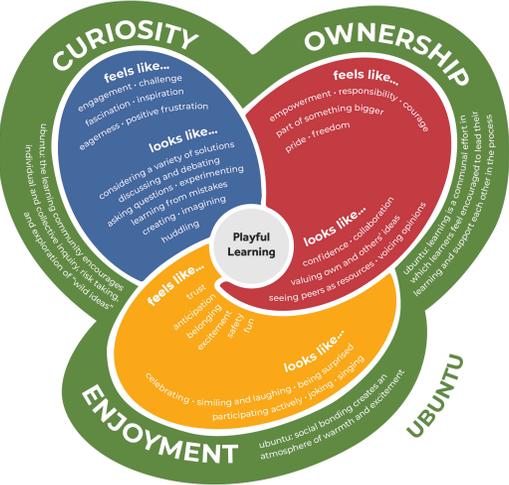
Insert a U.S.-based video here from the video library to try out using the indicators from the U.S. schools

Indicators of Playful Learning

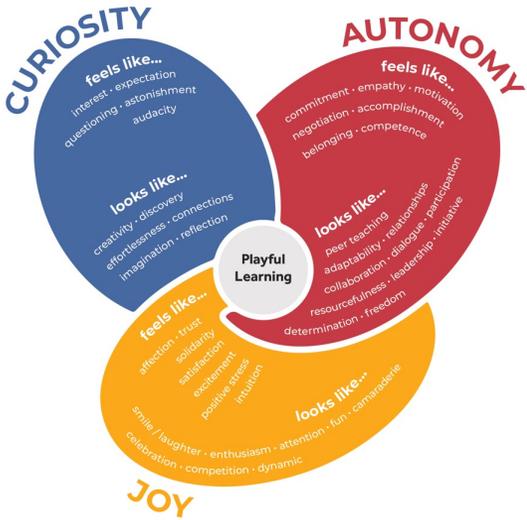
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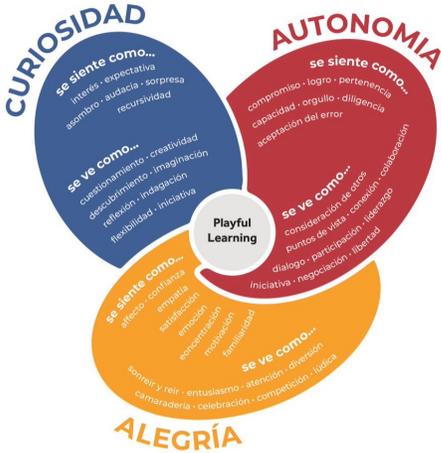
Indicators of Playful Learning from 3 South African Schools



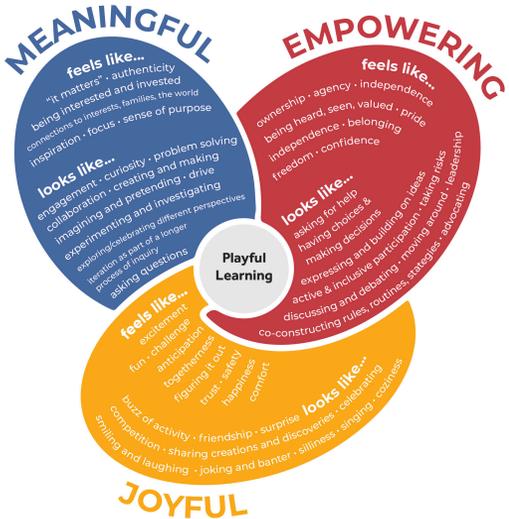
Indicators of Playful Learning from 5 Colombian Schools



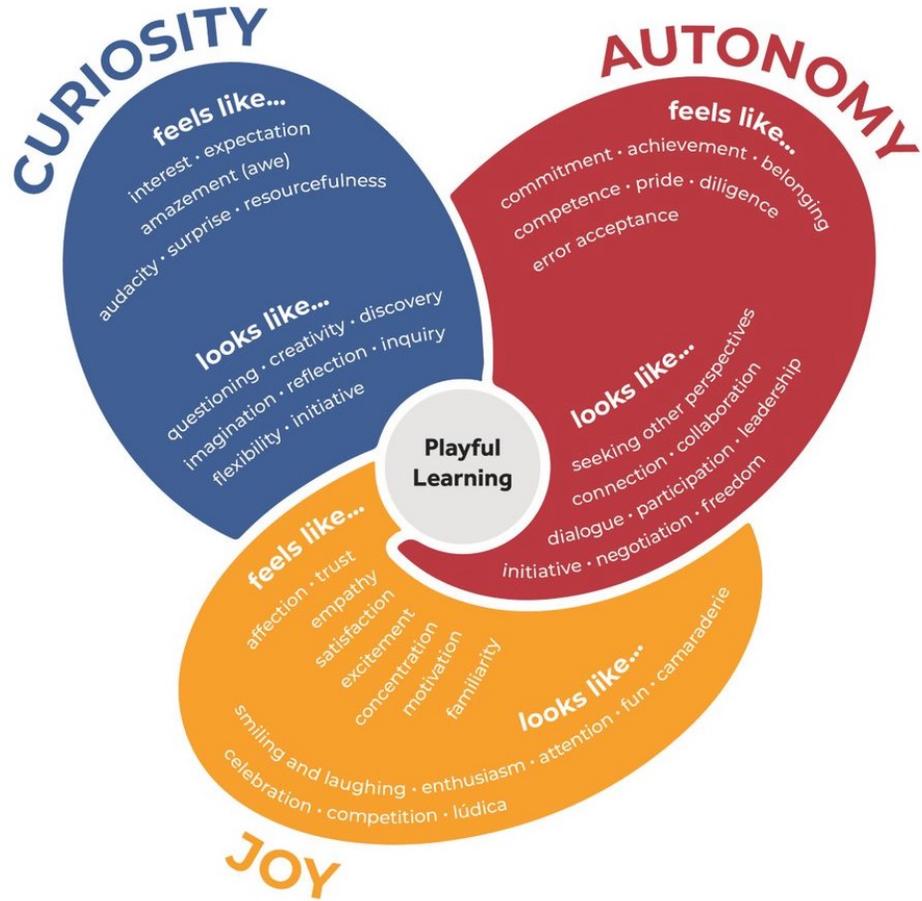
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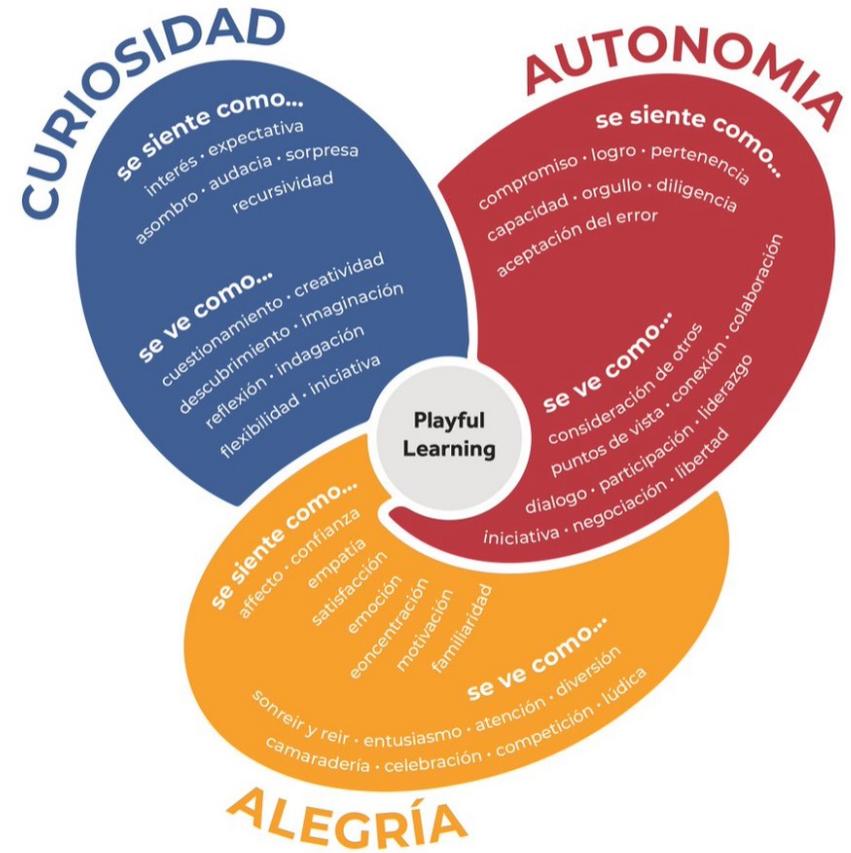
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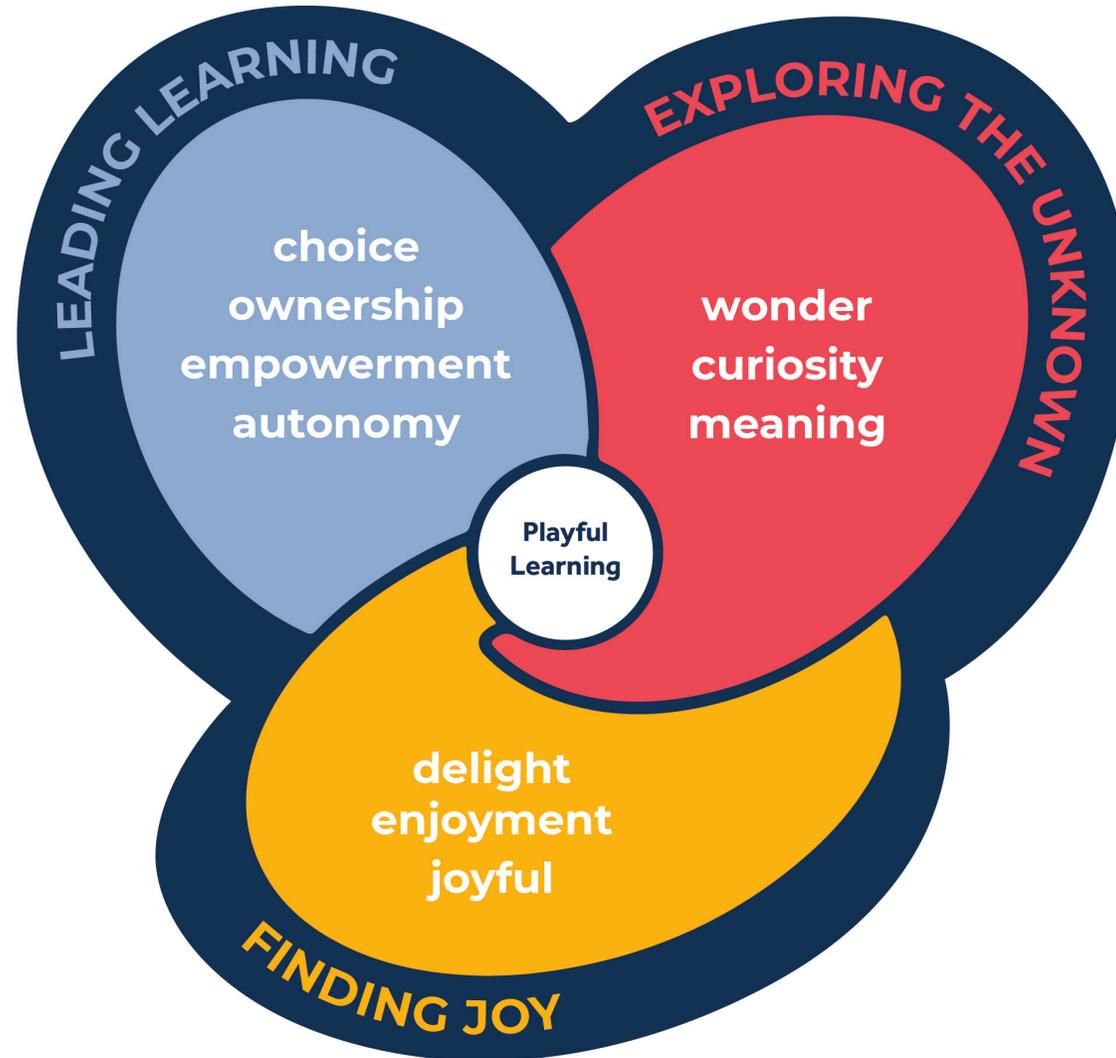


Indicators of Playful Learning from 5 Colombian Schools



Cross-cultural Indicators of Playful Learning

Patterns from schools in Denmark, South Africa, the U.S., and Colombia



Breakout Discussions: PoP Pictures of Practice

- In the Picture of Practice you read:
 - What indicators of playful learning did you see evident in the examples shared?
 - What intrigued or puzzled you?



Our Indicators of Playful Learning

