

Let the Children Play!

An opportunity for people in your community, who live and work with young children and their families, to learn and share together about the science of early brain development and how young children learn.

Sponsored by:
Healthy Child Manitoba Office
Manitoba Education: Early Childhood Education Unit
Family Services and Labour: Early Learning and Child Care
And Manitoba's Parent Child Coalitions



THE MOST EFFECTIVE KIND OF EDUCATION IS THAT
A CHILD SHOULD PLAY AMONGST LOVELY THINGS

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Speakers

Dr. Rob Santos, Healthy Child Manitoba Office
Gayle Robertson, University of Winnipeg

Registration

To Register, see attached information for your region.

Questions:

Contact Healthy Child Manitoba Office: 945-8796



Let the Children Play

☆ Our Speakers

Dr. Rob Santos

Dr. Rob Santos will provide an overview of the latest research in early brain development and will discuss the massive inequity in children's early development at age 5 in Kindergarten. He will share national, provincial and community level data on how well we are serving our youngest children and will lead a discussion on why we all need to work together at a community level in each region of Manitoba to support investments in early child development.

Dr. Santos is the Associate Secretary to Healthy Child Committee of Cabinet, and Executive Director of Science and Policy at the Healthy Child Manitoba Office, Government of Manitoba. Rob has a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Manitoba, specializing in community psychology, child development, population health, and prevention science and policy. He is also a Research Scientist at the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy, and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba.

Gayle Robertson:

The importance of play in children's healthy development and learning has been documented beyond question. Research directly links play to children's ability to master academic content as well as to control their own behaviour. And yet recent studies report that children have less and less time to engage in playful learning. So why don't we "let the children play"? Why do so many programs limit the time children have for free play?

Gayle's session will provide information about the research and best practice around the issue of children's play. There will be opportunities for participants to discuss what they have heard, share their own best practice and learn some new ways to help children grow and develop in the way they do best – through play!

Gayle Robertson, B.A., M.Ed., currently teaches in the Faculty of Education at the University of Winnipeg and also works as a consultant with several school divisions in Manitoba. She was the Early Years Consultant for Winnipeg School Division (1998-2005), Early Years Consultant for Manitoba Education (1985-1991) and has many years of experience teaching children 3 to 9. She is a member of the Manitoba Coalition for Reggio Inspired Educators (MB RICE), is a past-president of The Canadian Association for Young Children and has presented workshops on child development, assessment, early literacy development, play and more at many conferences.