



The Play Project: Brief Overview

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Educator, Consultant, Advocate

*Specializing in Autism Spectrum Disorder and
other Neurodevelopmental Conditions*

Certified Expert Level DIR/Floortime®

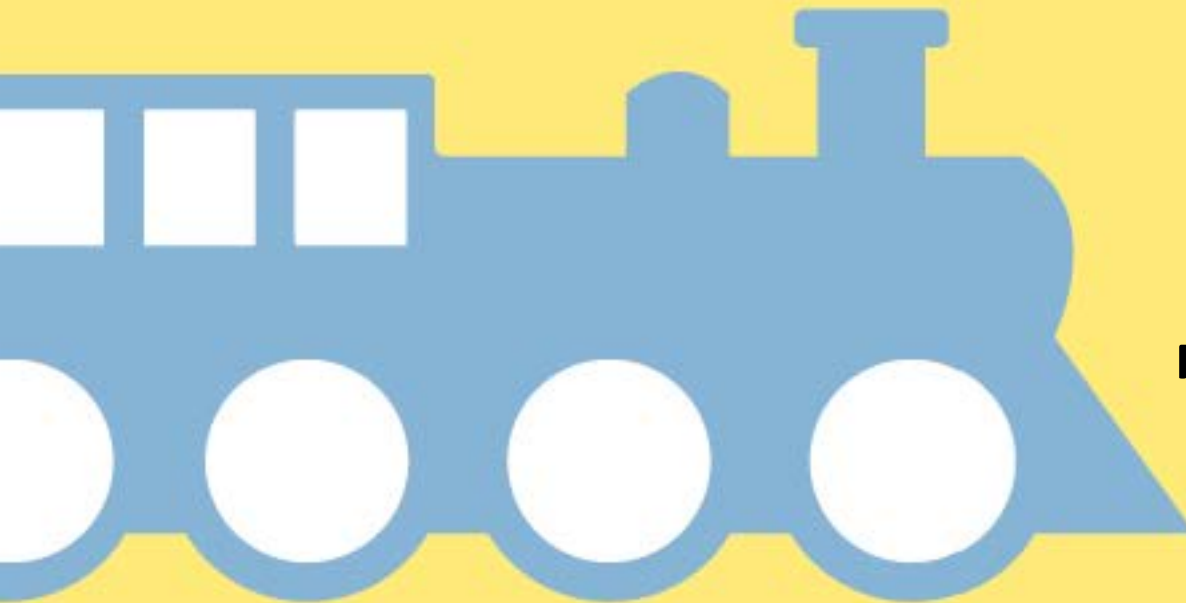
and PLAY Project® Practitioner

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THE PLAY PROJECT™

What is The PLAY Project?



Richard Solomon, MD
Medical Director, PLAY Project
Pediatrician, Ann Arbor Center for
Developmental and Behavioral
Pediatrics

www.playproject.org



What is The PLAY Project?

- Evidence based
- Parent implemented
- Autism Early Intervention
- (18 mo-6year) model
- Serving 1000s of families
- Nationally and internationally
- Over the last 15 years
- Fun, Developmental &
- Relationship-based





Mission & Vision

The PLAY Project's Mission

“To support families in having a joyous and playful relationship with their children with autism spectrum disorders so each child can reach his or her full potential.”

PLAY Project's Vision

“To train a global network of pediatric professionals and child development experts to provide The PLAY Project's autism intervention program to serve as many families as needed.”



Parent Implemented Model (PIM)

Teaches parents to become their child's best play partner.





Taps the Power of the Parent/Child Relationship

To:

- Activate
- Motivate
- Engage
- Reinforce





Philosophical Foundation = The DIR Model ©

- D=Developmental
- I=Individual Differences
- R=Relationship-Based





Developmentally Appropriate

- *Recognizes and addresses the child's developmental level through developmentally appropriate activities.*





The Six Functional Developmental Levels

- Regulation and Shared Attention (FDL 1)
- Engagement (FDL 2)
- Two-way Purposeful Interactions (FDL 3)
- Two-way Purposeful Problem-solving Interactions (FDL 4)
- Elaborating Ideas and Symbolic Play (FDL 5)
- Emotional Thinking -- building bridges between ideas (FDL 6)

(Greenspan, 1998)





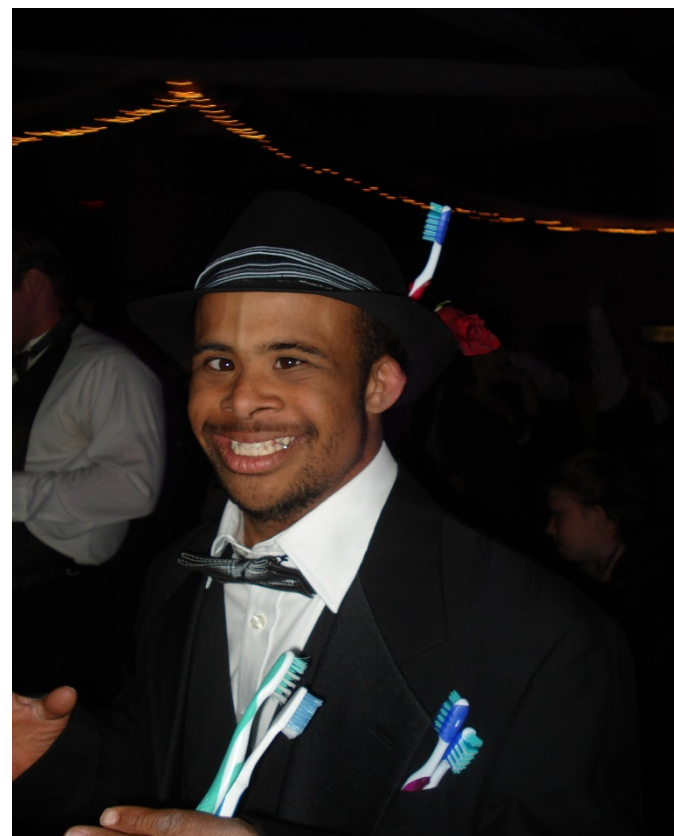
Individualized

Identifies and supports each child's unique sensory and motor processing differences.





Individualizing for Sensory Processing Challenges





Relationship-based

- Recognizes the power of the parent-child relationship to motivate interaction, ignite social engagement and transform learning.





Teaches Parents How to Connect with their Child

Supporting the parent/child connection can change the trajectory of the child and family's life.





- Parents learn to join their child in play and promote learning and relating.

By first identifying the child's Comfort Zone the next levels of development can be promoted through play and interaction.



The Powerful Role of Affect and Relationships in Learning!



“When affect is at the heart of intervention it activates all parts of the brain!”

Stanley Greenspan



When you engage a child affectively, learning explodes



*Go For the Twinkle
in Their Eye!*

*You want it to matter
to the child that you
are there.*



The PLAY Project Motto

**“When you do what the child loves,
the child will love to be with you.”**

—Dr. Rick



7 Circles of the PLAY Project





What Does a PLAY Consultant Do?

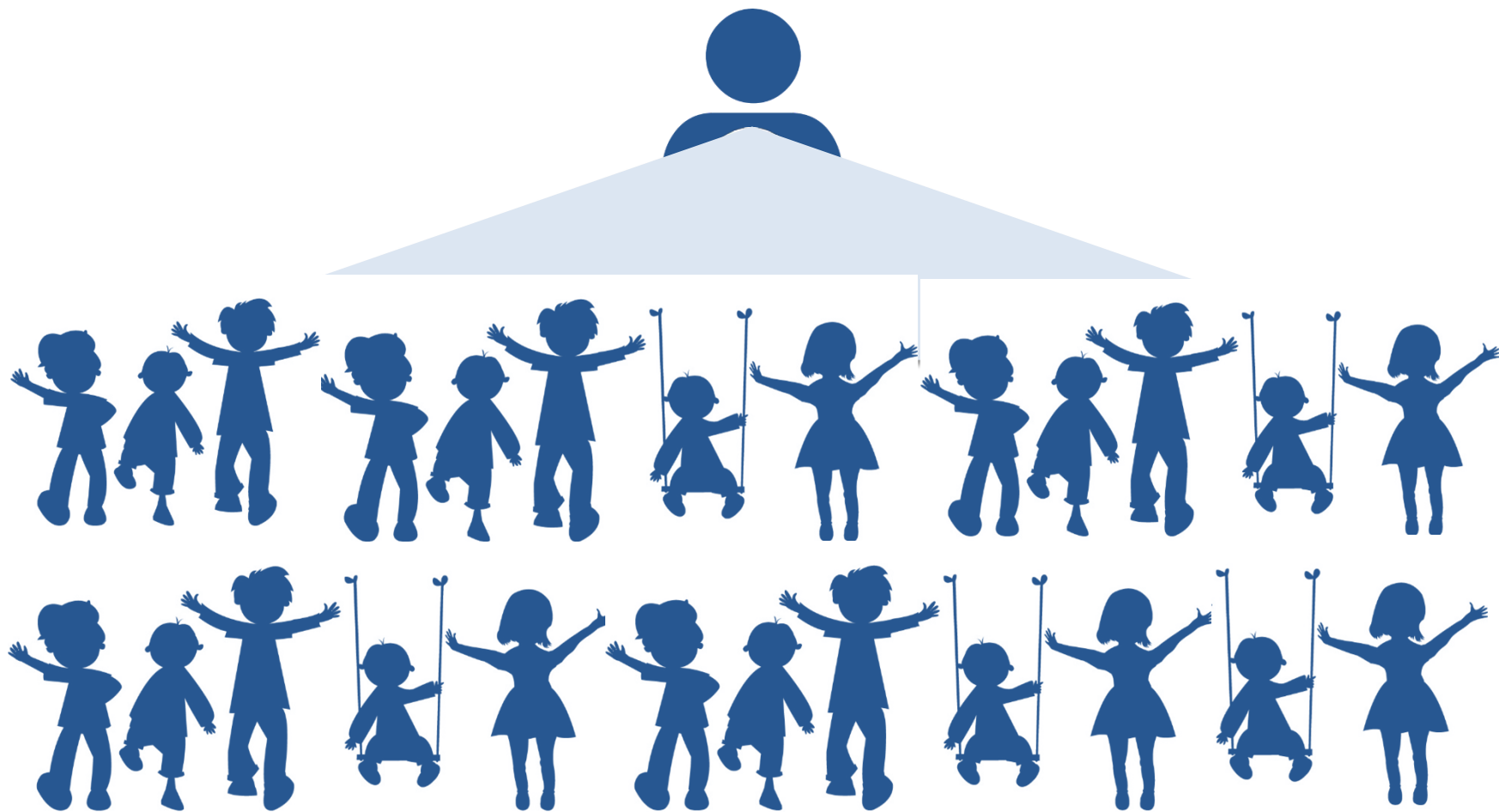
- Make **home visits** once a month for a 2-3 hours* or once a week in Early Intervention settings.
- **Coach** the parents and **model** for the parents
- **Videotape** parents' play & provide detailed midmonth **video review & written feedback**
- Encouraged parents to PLAY 2 hours per day in 15-20 minutes sessions & during daily activities.
- Follow the 7 Circles of The PLAY Project and do what the child loves. . .

*Clinic & office settings too



PLAY Efficiency

- 1 PLAY Project Consultant Can Serve 25 Children





PLAY Consultants Provide the Service

- **PLAY Consultants are masters level pediatric professional and child development experts**
- **Speech/Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, Social Workers, Early Intervention Providers, Psychologists, & Physicians**
- **Coach parents to connect with their child in a joyous, playful way that helps the child's social development**
- **Addresses the core deficits of the DSM-5**



PLAY Research*

- NIH funded Randomized Controlled Trial
- Largest study of its kind in the U.S. with 128 study children/families from four states
- Results:
 - Parents can learn the methods;
 - Children improved in their social interaction, functional development, and autism severity
 - PLAY Consultants showed fidelity in implementing the program.

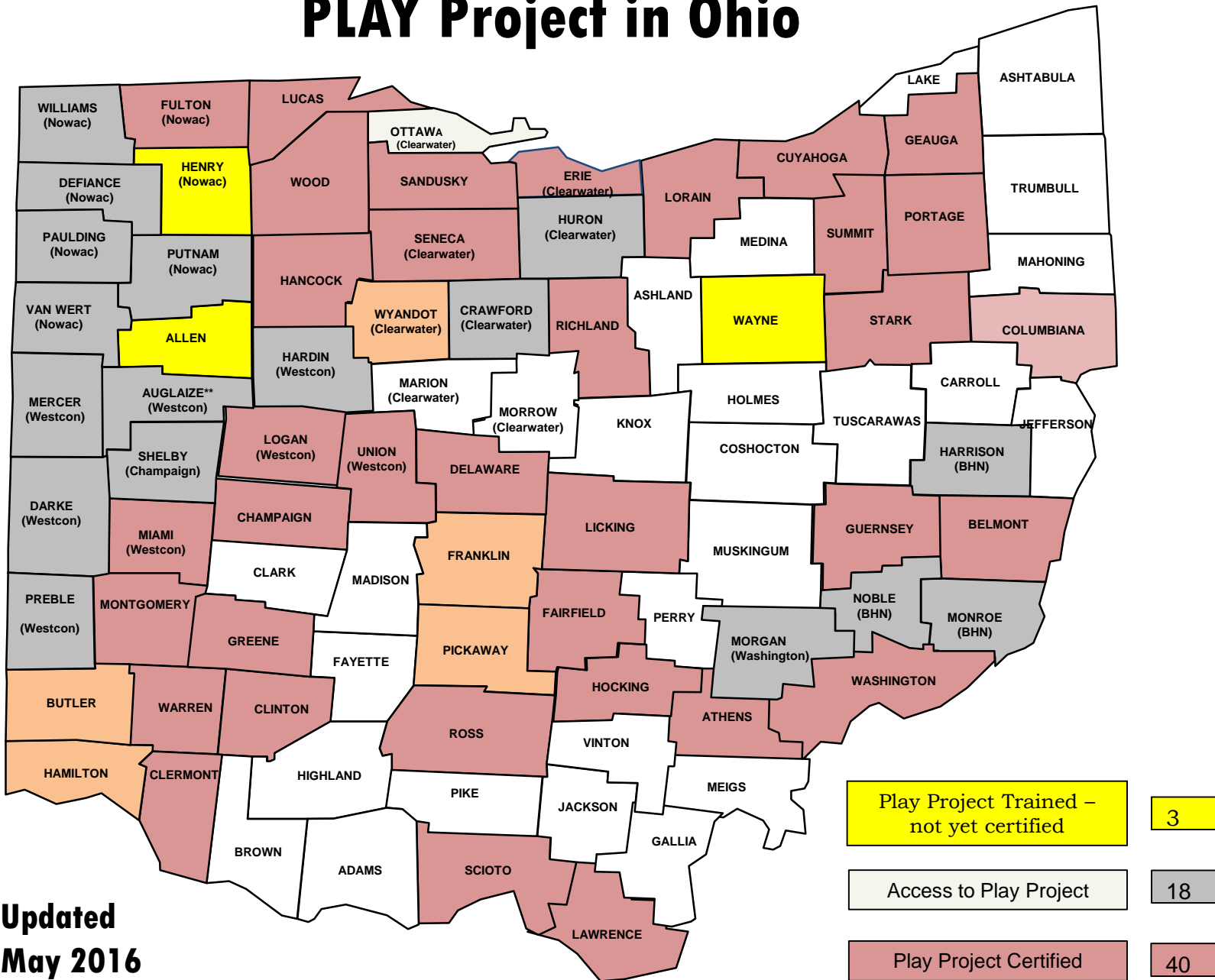
****J Dev Beh Pediatr. 2014; 35(8): 475-485***



What Agencies Use PLAY?*

- **Medical rehabilitation (SLP, OT)**
 - Often covered by private insurance*
- **Early Intervention (Birth to 3 programs)**
- **Ohio adopted PLAY for its Early Intervention (B-3) system, training 120 consultants over a two year period with 80% of Ohio counties providing services free to over 500 children per year!**
- **Behavioral health agencies (private insurance and Medicaid)**

PLAY Project in Ohio



**Updated
May 2016**

Play Project Trained – not yet certified	3
Access to Play Project	18
Play Project Certified	40



How are PLAY Consultants Trained

Application

Masters Trained Child
Development Professionals

2 day workshop

Open to the public

Online 6-week Course

Supervision 12-18 months

PC start serving families

Certified!!

Complete supervision



Train More Providers

Train More Parents

Help More Children



Impact

**Together we can
change the course of
life for children with
autism.**



Gratitude !



- ***With deepest gratitude to all of the families and children who have allowed me into their lives and to my own children. You are my heroes and my best teachers.***

Anne