

OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS

A play community initiative welcoming families and caregivers with a child with a disability through play



Creating a Culture of Inclusion and Participation

A play space for children with disabilities

A child's developmental needs and the family's well-being concern us all. Support comes in many ways. For example, when a child receives a developmental assessment, initial early intervention plays a vital role in nurturing specific areas of development. Yet, many other factors are essential, such as building peer relationships and community inclusion.

A playground is a unique place where children first learn about the world. Participating in play opens doors to the world for young children and inclusion in the community. Children learn about differences and negotiate, accept, and celebrate friendship through play. The Dews of Joy Foundation financially support this community initiative and unique play program where children and parents are welcomed to engage through play in a venue supported by SG Enable. The program organisers invite parents to learn about the value of play and how their child(ren) develops 21st-century skills, executive functions and social-emotional skills and peer relationships through play.

AT A GLANCE

CREATING A CULTURE OF INCLUSION

Opening the play ground for children with varying disabilities.

THE ROLE OF PLAY

Exploring the playground as the a source for development and nurturing 21st century skills

WHAT TO EXPECT

12 weeks of play and knowledge building from July to October 2022.

THE INVITATION

Find out more during our information sessions on the participation.



Why play? From 2019 to 2020, Dr Esther Joosa researched young children with disabilities at play. She also studied parents' perspectives and found that play is often overlooked as an essential source for children's learning because of its familiarity. What became evident for children who attended ten sessions or more was that play significantly enhanced their peer relations, communication skills, creative problem-solving, and collaboration. Play also provided excellent holistic learning opportunities and enhanced language. Parents' understanding of how play empowered their children in decision-making, negotiation, and emotional control brought new hope.

What to expect

When parents learn to see what their children can do, rather than cannot do, this opens up our minds to new possibilities.

The program is free of charge and financially supported by the Dews of Joy Foundation with venue support of SG Enable. Playeum, in collaboration with Dr Esther Joosa, will host this free play initiative. Twelve Saturdays from 01 July to 01 October 2022 are set aside for twelve selected families with a young child with a disability. The program timings are from 09.30 am to 12.30 pm at SG Enable. With a flexible arrival time and duration of attendance, Selected parents do not need to attend all twelve sessions. However, the program expects a commitment to at least eight sessions.

The program includes parents participating in a knowledge-sharing journey to learn about play and child development. Six sessions are set aside to support child development and play information. During these sessions, local art, play and disability expert Dr Esther Joosa will guide parents, listen to concerns, impart child development knowledge and share possible ideas.



THE INVITATION

We invite twelve families who await placement for their children for intervention to join this unique play program free of charge. Two information sessions provide more detailed information on the selection, commitment and willingness to participate in the documentation.

For more information and/or to reserve a place please e-mail: jodi@playeum.com
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