

DECEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

THE PLAY PROJECT



National Impact

“The best play-based parent training program in the country for young children with autism. Evidence based, compassionate and beneficial for parents and participants.”

—Stuart Brown MD, National Institute For Play.

The PLAY Project's Two-Day Intensive Workshop

California | Florida | Michigan | Ohio | Virginia | Illinois | Indiana

The PLAY Project trainers presented our intensive workshop to hundreds of professionals and parents in 2018. The workshop consists of case studies, video analysis of parent and child interaction, and group activities. The workshop also provides developmental and behavioral techniques for engaging children with autism and other developmental delays.

National Partnerships

The PLAY Project team has partnered with organizations and important agencies such as OCALICON, The Childhood League, The Illinois Developmental Therapy Association, LEEP Forward and Kaiser Permanente to implement change in public policy and disseminate evidence-based, parent implemented intervention.



Over one-hundred professionals and parents attended our training in Indiana.

Dr. Solomon presented The PLAY Project's Intensive Workshop in Indiana.

The PLAY Project | (734) 585-5333 | info@playproject.org | 3031 Miller Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103



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Adventures in China

Dr. Solomon toured five cities in Southern China this fall to discuss disseminating The PLAY Project and the potential impact it could have throughout the country. Dr. Solomon presented to hundreds of Chinese parents and professionals and also met with a dozen autism leaders during his trip. See more on our China blog post by clicking [here](#).



Dr. Solomon hosting The PLAY Project Workshop in China.

Dr. Solomon's Publications

Commentary Publication

Dr. Solomon's article: "Commentary: Evidence based interventions for children and adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorders" has been accepted for publication in *Current Problems in Pediatric and Adolescent Health Care*. The commentary article describes evidence for parent implemented models. Email info@playproject.org to request a copy.



Autism: The Potential Within

Autism: The Potential Within

★★★★★ on Lulu and Amazon

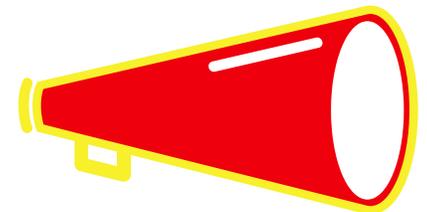
Based on scientific research and decades of practice, this guide, written by Dr. Solomon, provides parents and professionals with a new way of working and interacting with young children with autism.

Purchase Dr. Solomon's book today by visiting this [link](#).

Increasing Insurance Coverage

CALL TO ACTION!

Inform your insurance provider today of the evidence and research to back up parent implemented models (see commentary above). The PLAY Project is dedicated to continue seeking support - we have already had success with Kaiser Permanente and Minnesota Medicaid and are hoping to experience the same with Tricare and Blue Care Network.



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Blurbs and Blogs

Autism Speaks, *Detroit Jewish News* Share PLAY Story

The Detroit Jewish News caught up with Ben Gretchko, a 19-year-old who once journeyed through The PLAY Project. Ben Gretchko has not just survived his first year of college but thrived! Ben finished his first year at Western Michigan University, where he is a journalism student, with a 3.77 GPA, second semester A's, a place on the Dean's List, and an invitation to the Honors College. Not only did Ben achieve academically, but he also formed new friendships and was involved in campus life activities. To read the full update, click [here](#).

Ben may be recognizable to some; Ben's high school commencement speech went viral and has over 2 million views. To watch "Graduating with Autism: The Ben Gretchko Story" visit PLAY's blog post: [Graduating with Autism](#).

Northeast Ohio Parent

The PLAY Project was featured in "The Power of Play" article in November's issue of *Northeast Ohio Parent*. The article discusses the importance of play and introduces readers to The PLAY Project, Teaching PLAY, and Dr. Solomon. Click [here](#) to read "The Power of PLAY."

"Research shows young children learn best through play and relationships with others. If you want a lifelong learner, learning has to be fun. Play has a quality of joy, intimacy and richness that direct interactions don't have."

– Richard Solomon, MD, Founder of The PLAY Project, for *Northeast Ohio Parent*.

The Mom Kind

The Mom Kind, a website dedicated to parenting in neurodiverse families and a "Top 30 Autism Parenting Blog," wrote about The PLAY Project and shared their take on our organization and *Autism: The Potential Within*. Read the full blog post [here](#).



Autism Speaks' Retweet of *Detroit Jewish News*' Ben Update



"The Power of Play" in *Northeast Ohio Parent*



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Teaching PLAY Gaining Momentum! By: Diana Holderman

*Teaching PLAY has taken root in over 100 Ohio preschool and kindergarten classrooms! Teaching PLAY is an adapted version of PLAY. It brings techniques and strategies for building social communication/social emotional skills for students with autism. One of the primary premises is that **improved interaction leads to academic readiness**. It is exciting to see this staff development program grow and benefit many children both directly and indirectly.*

I presented at the Illinois Association of School Social Workers in Chicago in late October. What a great experience to share this powerful program with a room full of teachers and social workers! This program provides a basic framework that can be used by a variety of professionals to better understand children with autism.

I have had the pleasure of mentoring several Teaching PLAY trainees over the past several years. It is rewarding to see PLAY Consultants grow and learn how to take their PLAY Consultant skill set into the classroom. It is quite rewarding to see the changes in the children, and staff, over the course of a year!

Get on board with Teaching PLAY! Become a Consultant or take the intensive workshop to better understand this relationship based, developmental model. Help spread the word for those children in need. Contact PLAY Headquarters for more information.



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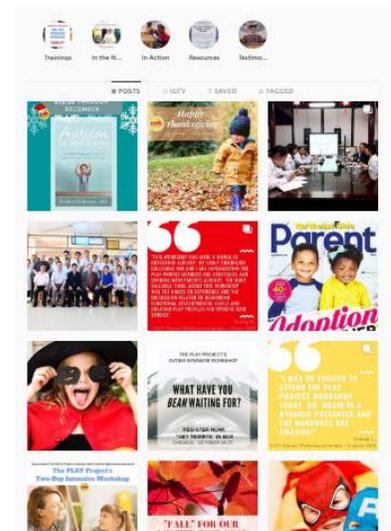
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Media Moves

Instagram

Gain access to the latest PLAY Project event updates, promotional exclusives, and other resources by following our newly active Instagram page: www.instagram.com/playprojectasd



Website

The new PLAY Project website has launched! Check out our various resources including online courses, chapters from Dr. Solomon's book, and blog posts by visiting: www.playproject.org



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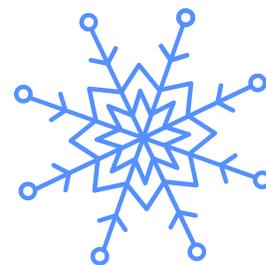
Holiday Tips and Tricks for Children with Autism

1) Expect the Worst and Plan for the Best

Make a plan for holiday activities (write it out!)

How will you transition from your house, to the car, to the restaurant or party?

Don't sweat the small stuff - keep it simple!



2) Honor Your Child's Profile

Bring along your child's comfort zone activities for outings (stuffed animal, car, blanket)

Use sensory barriers/blinders (headphones, hats)

Bring cause and effect toys (simple puzzles, pop up push button toys)

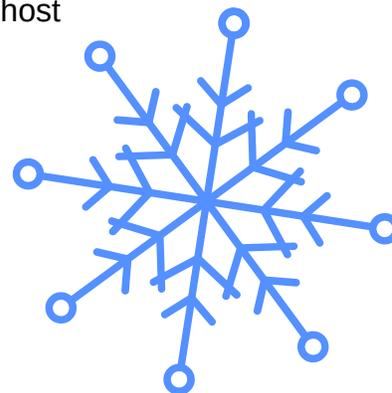


3) Arrange the Holiday Environment

Use calendars/schedules

Call ahead to your destination and disclose your child's condition to the host

Plan to have a cozy and familiar safe space in the house



4) Use PLAY Methods and Principles

Read the child's cues

Follow the child's lead

Mirror and reflect feelings

5) The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

Plan on whining and temper tantrums

Don't ask questions - make statements: "You're mad because your brother took your toy!"

Rule by the rules and not emotions

For more ideas on misbehavior, watch our online course: "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly" by clicking [here](#).

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*Thank you for being a part of
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Happy holidays!*



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