



THE PLAY PROJECT

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Jess Baird

Jess Baird is an Early Childhood Behavior Support Coordinator and PLAY Project Supervisor with over a decade of experience supporting young children on the autism spectrum, specializing in addressing challenging behaviors. She has served as a certified PLAY Project Consultant to her local community for 10 years, and 6 years supervising both PLAY Project and Teaching PLAY consultants in training.

Working within Ohio's early intervention system, Jess collaborates closely with families and school districts to deliver individualized behavior support and developmental intervention rooted in the PLAY Project model. She holds a Master's degree in Developmental Disabilities with a focus on early childhood.

In addition to her professional roles, Jess is a devoted mom to four energetic, neurodivergent kids and keeps busy on a lively hobby farm that's just as energetic as her household.



Courtney Bardelang

Courtney Bardelang, MA, CCC-SLP, is a dedicated speech-language pathologist, early intervention fidelity coach, and a certified PLAY Project Consultant and Supervisor. She specializes in working with young children who have autism and other developmental disabilities. Courtney's passion for supporting children with special needs was inspired by her personal experience growing up with a brother who has Down syndrome. She is deeply committed to not only helping children find their words but also empowering them to use communication to connect with their families and communities.

Courtney's expertise is enhanced by her training in PLAY Project, which has become an invaluable asset in her work with families. She earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees in Speech-Language Pathology from the University of Akron. With experience in both early intervention and preschool classrooms as well as home-based settings, Courtney brings a comprehensive and compassionate approach to her practice.

Outside of her professional work, Courtney enjoys spending time camping with her husband and two boys, visiting family, and reading a good book.



Stephanie Bondra

Stephanie Bondra, MEd, has been providing PLAY Project services to children and families since 2014. She is a certified PLAY Project Consultant and Supervisor.

In the state of Ohio, she is a Developmental Specialist providing PLAY services for the

Clearwater Council of Governments (COG). Stephanie received an undergraduate degree in Music Therapy from UW-Eau Claire and a Master's Degree in Education from Cleveland State University. She is dedicated and passionate for the work she provides for individuals with disabilities, along with their families, for over 20 years. Stephanie enjoys spending time with her husband boating and kayaking on Lake Erie in the summer and hiking and birding year-round.



Jenny Boyden

Jenny Boyden, M.Ed., is an Autism Spectrum Intervention Specialist with over 30 years of experience working with children and families. She earned her Master's of Education in Special Education and an Autism Spectrum Intervention Specialist Certificate from Kent State University.

She holds an Ohio Department of Education Teaching license for Special Education and Preschool Special Education. Jenny has been a Developmental Specialist at the Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities in Ohio since 1998. She is a PLAY Project and Teaching PLAY consultant and supervisor. Jenny is also a co-owner of the private practice Play on Words LLC and has been a guest speaker and adjunct instructor at Kent State University.



Kirsten Brown

Kirsten has worked as a pediatric occupational therapist with children and families since 1991 in a variety of settings including NICU follow-up clinic, hospital outpatient clinic, the Purdue University preschool lab, and home based early intervention in both Indiana and Kentucky. Kirsten is currently a primary level evaluator for the Kentucky Early Intervention system. She also sees children privately in KY and OH. Kirsten completed PLAY Project certification in 2012. She is a PLAY Project Supervisor and Master Trainer. She has supervised numerous PLAY Project consultants in the US, Canada, China, and Europe. She has presented the PLAY Project Two Day Intensive workshop many times virtually and facilitated the online Implementation course. Kirsten also completed the DIRFloortime Advanced Certificate training.



Christy Coles

Christy Coles, MA, Ed., is one of Dr. Solomon's first ever PLAY Consultants and has been a PLAY supervisor for almost 25 years. She received her bachelor's degree in Therapeutic Recreation and master's degree in Special Education, both from Michigan State University. While continuing with the PLAY Project, she is also the Program Manager and Director of Special Education at LEAP for Kids in Rochester, NY. She is married and has 3 children that keep her very busy. In whatever free time she has, she likes to travel, read and spend time with family and friends.



Bekah Doak

Bekah Doak, M.Ed, holds a Bachelor's degree in psychology from Otterbein University and a Master's degree in Education from American InterContinental University. She has provided services in daycare, classroom, and home-based settings to children and families for over 25 years, including experience as a Developmental Specialist, PLAY Project Consultant, and Teaching PLAY Consultant. Her professional background includes mentorship, staff training and curriculum development, and leadership.

Rebekah (or Bekah, but never Becky) has two adult daughters, a cat, and a penchant for coffee and books. She volunteers as a board member for the alumni chapter of her college sorority. Her favorite destination is Myrtle Beach (since one daughter lives there!) but she aspires to be a word traveler.



Tiffany Eckland

OTR/L graduated from the University of Kansas in 1999 with a B.A. in Occupational Therapy. Tiffany has worked with children on the autism spectrum and sensory processing disorders for over 15 years in school, home and outpatient clinic settings. Tiffany is a certified PLAY Project Consultant as well as supervisor. Tiffany is also certified in both the Sensory Integration and Praxis Test (SIPT) as well as Integrated Listening System (iLS). Tiffany is a level CI DIR/Floortime certificate candidate. Tiffany is married and has two children.



Maggie Gons

Maggie Gons, M.A., CCC-SLP, obtained her MA in speech-language pathology from the University of Cincinnati. Over the past 15 years, she practiced as a speech-language pathologist in early intervention, private practice, telepractice and preschools in both Missouri and Ohio.

She is certified in both PLAY Project and Teaching PLAY and has experience as a PLAY Project Supervisor and Master Trainer. Maggie currently works for OCALI (Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence) and Relate & Grow. She has presented at local, regional, statewide and national conferences and enjoys running long distances to explore new places.



Diana Holderman

Diana Holderman, M.A., Psych, received her PLAY Project Consultant training in 2005 when it was done in Dr. Solomon's home. Diana was actively involved in the Teaching PLAY pilot projects, received TP Certification in 2016, and was the co-recipient of the Mick Katshor Leadership Award that year, along with Katie Scott. She is a PLAY Project Supervisor, a Teaching PLAY Mentor, and is also a Master Trainer for the PLAY Project. She has a Master's degree in Counseling Psychology, is a Licensed Professional Counselor in the state of Ohio, and is certified in Trauma Responsive Care (TRCC). She currently has a private practice – Strategies for Behavior Management: Consulting and Counseling, LLC, and provides a variety of services. She has specialized in the area of working with dually diagnosed (MI/ID), aggression management, and those on the Autism spectrum for 40 plus years using eclectic mental health, trauma responsive, and ABA models. She has worked with all age ranges – early intervention through adult. Diana developed the unique Awaken Program to serve kids needing complex behavioral health services in a nontraditional manner by combining the use of PLAY, ABA, and trauma responsive strategies. She received the Ed Comer Award for excellence in service to individuals with co-occurring mental illness and intellectual disability in 2011. She is a Master Level CPI Instructor and Strategies is a Licensed PLAY Project agency. Diana lives in Englewood, Ohio and enjoys her home, family, friends, church and staying physically active.



Sara Huvaere

Sara Huvaere, M.Ed, is a Master's level Educator and Specialist who uses her extensive PLAY Project training to support and train families and school staff. Sara obtained her Bachelors of Science in Special Education with a specialization in Early Intervention and Family Studies from Lesley College in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She holds a Masters of Education with a major in Special Education with focus on autism from Wayne State University in Michigan. Sara is a former Special Education teacher with the following three Special Education endorsements: Learning Disabilities, Autism Spectrum Disorders and Cognitive Impairments. She is a Licensed PLAY Project® Consultant and Provider as well as a Teaching PLAY Consultant, trained directly by its founder, Dr. Richard Solomon M.D. Her services include training to parents, as well as professionals in this model. Sara helps families build a relationship with their child through PLAY. As well as being a master clinician in this model, Sara is a PLAY Project Supervisor who provides training and supervision globally, for professionals who are pursuing the PLAY Project and Teaching PLAY Certification. Sara currently works as an Educational Advocate and Consultant, helping to guide and support families navigate their child's educational experience. She also serves as an Executive Functioning and Wellness coach helping medical students as residence obtain functional and healthy lifestyles.



Tracy Kempton

Tracy is a licensed Child Clinical Psychologist who currently serves military families with autism and other developmental disabilities at the Wright Patterson AFB Medical Center. She received her master's and doctorate degrees in child clinical psychology from the University of Georgia. From there, she served on the faculty of the Medical College of Ohio before starting a private practice in the Toledo, OH area, where she saw a variety of clients for the next 20 years. Moving to the PLAY Project at Wright Patterson AFB has been a refreshing change. She loves the team with whom she gets to work, and the opportunities to help military families. With three children grown and out of the nest, Tracy enjoys exercise, making plant-based recipes, gardening, and lots of reading!



Heather Knoble

Heather is currently working as a supervisor for the Early Intervention Program at the Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities in Ohio. Previously she was a Developmental Specialist for 15 years. She became a PLAY Consultant in 2016 and obtained Teaching PLAY Certification in 2019. She holds a B.S. in Child and Family Community Services and a M. Ed in Special Education with a specialization in Autism Spectrum Disorder, both through Bowling Green State University. In her spare time, she enjoys golf, spending time with family and friends, and traveling.



JanMarie Popovich-Love

JanMarie Love currently serves as the Director of Behavioral Health Easterseals of North Georgia's (ESNG) Children's Services. She has served young children and families with disabilities for over 30 years. She is an LPC (Licensed Professional Counselor), NCC (National Certified Counselor) and RPT (Registered Play Therapist). She was one of the first PLAY Project Consultants trained in Dr. Solomon's living room.

JanMarie began her career as a preschool lead teacher, first for infants and toddlers, then for pre-K managing intergenerational programming for preschoolers and senior citizens with Alzheimer's disease at the Alzheimer's Care Center. Then she spent several years providing direct services and enrichment activities for senior citizens with developmental disabilities at Goodwill Columbus' SAGE program.

Upon relocating to Atlanta, GA in 1998, JanMarie decided to pursue her passion of working with young children directly. Her career path took her to Marcus Center, United Cerebral Palsy, Inc., then to Quality Care for Children (QCC). The skills she honed during the next few years include directing pre-school programming and training trainers on how to include children with disabilities into typical classrooms.

In 2003, JanMarie began working for Easterseals North Georgia as a disability/mental health specialist, then worked as an autism specialist for Babies Can't Wait (BCW), providing home visits and Family Training and Counseling (FTC) to families with young children with disabilities. Currently serving as Director of Behavioral Health at ESNG, JanMarie provides oversight for five mental health professionals, serving children and families at ESNG's 20 early education and care centers. Given her passion for young children, she continues to provide counseling to children, staff and families using evidence-based CCPT (Child Centered Play Therapy).



Robin Vettraiño

My name is Robin Vettraiño. I live in Grosse Pointe, MI with my husband and two boys. I graduated from Western Michigan University with a Bachelors in Occupational Therapy and have worked in a variety of settings, serving mostly the pediatric population. I have been a PLAY Project consultant since 2005 and a PLAY supervisor since 2013. Currently I enjoy substitute teaching and volunteering at my children's schools. My family and I enjoy taking our dog for walks, bike riding, going on vacations and playing board games.



Malinda Cumbow Radloff

Malinda Radloff, M.Ed., is the founder of Connected Pediatric Intervention in Morton, IL. Malinda has dedicated her life's work to ensuring children with autism and other developmental delays experience joyful relationships and reach their full potential. Malinda received her undergraduate degree from Illinois State University and her M.Ed. from the University of Illinois. She continues to train and grow her professional knowledge in relationship-based focused interventions and executive functioning.

Malinda has been a credentialed Developmental Therapist for over 25 years in the Illinois Early intervention System. In addition, she is the Medical and Developmental Consultant for the regional Early Intervention providers within the state of Illinois.

A Certified PLAY Project Consultant since 2004, she has extensive experience in the DIR/Floortime model of intervention and has parlayed that expertise into a supervisory role. Currently Malinda focuses on providing evidenced-based interventions using the PLAY Project Model, supervises new PLAY consultants and provides educational and developmental consultation. In 2009, as part of Easter Seals, she had the opportunity to participate in Dr. Rick Solomon's NIH research study. The PLAY Project is the basis of her company's philosophy and mission.



Sheryl Rosin

Sheryl Rosin Ph.D.-SLP is a speech- language pathologist and Certified Autism Specialist with 20 years' experience in the field. Dr. Rosin has presented nationally and internationally on topics related to evidence- based practices in assessment and intervention for individuals with ASD. She is the owner and director of Palm Beach Speech-Language Specialists in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida and serves as adjunct professors at: 1) Nova Southeastern University, 2) University of Vermont, 3) Mass General Hospital Institute of Health Professions, and 4) Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions. Dr. Rosin is the President of the Caribbean Autism Project - a nonprofit organization supporting international autism programs within the Caribbean and the consulting director of The St. Kitts Spectrum Services Centre in St. Kitts. Dr. Rosin currently serves on the board of the Florida Speech-Language Hearing Association (FLASHA) as the chair of the tele-practice committee and the Vice President for Continuing Education. She is the winner of the 2016 Florida Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Clinician of the Year Award and the 2017 Louis M. DiCarlo Award for Recent Clinical Achievement from the American Speech-Language Hearing Association.



Drea Strompf

Drea Strompf is a Certified PLAY Project Consultant with Easter Seals Central California and oversees the in-home parent mediated program. Drea is also a PLAY Project Supervisor with PLAY Project Headquarters where she and other Supervisors oversee Consultants in training. She recently obtained a certificate as a Teaching PLAY Consultant. Before becoming certified as PLAY Project Consultant in 2009 she worked, trained and was certified as a Child Facilitator by the Autism Treatment Center of America in the Sonrise Program where she worked with hundreds of children diagnosed with ASD and other developmental disabilities. She holds a BA in Psychology from University of California Santa Barbara and obtained a Profectum Academy certificate in the DIR Model and the Foundational Capacities for Development with Profectum. She has dedicated herself for the past 14 years to working with children and families within a developmental framework and has had the privilege to see families come together. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time laughing and playing with her family and friends. The PLAY Project has had such a huge impact on my life personally and professionally.



Ginny Viafore

Ginny Viafore, M.Ed., received her Masters degree in Applied Behavioral Therapy from University of Arizona in 2015. Ginny has been a Certified P.L.A.Y Project Consultant for over 15 years and a Play Project Supervisor for 3 years. Ginny has also worked as an ABA therapist and a developmental therapist through the early intervention for 10 years and has training in Verbal Behavior.

Ginny has been trained in sensory motor, reflex integration and neurodevelopment through the Handle Institute and Janet Oliver at Plan for Learning. Ginny works with clients of all different ages and abilities and with many different types of disabilities. Ginny's services include providing weekly or bi-monthly in-home coaching and therapy sessions implementing the principles of the P.L.A.Y project and Neurodevelopment to enhance language, self regulation, and learning readiness.



Julie Windham

Julie has been a PLAY Project Supervisor for 5 years. PLAY Project and PLAY Intervention have been an integral part of her years working with children with ASD and their families. One of the most rewarding roles has been supporting PLAY Consultants to implement this intensive, developmental intervention that impacts the relationships between a family and their child. Julie is a speech-language pathologist in pediatrics in a private pediatric clinic and graduated with her Master's in Communication Disorders from Emerson University in Boston, Areas of focus include working with families and children with social language/communication challenges, regulatory issues of behavior and affect, discourse and narrative skills, language processing and of course early intervention. She lives with her Golden Retrievers in northern Michigan. In her free time finds herself at sunsets on Lake Michigan whenever possible!