

Peter Gray, Curriculum Vitae, Updated April 23, 2026

Current Positions and Address:

Research Professor, Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA 02167. [Retired from teaching.]

Science Director, National Institute for Play. [Volunteer position for this nonprofit organization.]

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Website: <https://www.petergray.org/>

Education: Columbia College, New York, NY, Psychology & Biology, Phi Beta Kappa, Magna cum Laude. The Rockefeller University, New York, NY., Ph.D. in Biological Sciences, 1972, with specialties in animal behavior, general physiology, and neurobiology.

Academic Positions:

The City University of New York. Adjunct Lecturer in Psychology, 1970-71.

The Rockefeller University. Guest Investigator in Neuroscience, 1972.

Boston College, Department of Psychology Faculty, 1972-2002 (resigned from full professorship in 2002).

Boston College, Research Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience, 2002-present.

Administrative and Editorial Positions:

Director of the Rockefeller University Summer Biology Program for High-School Students, 1969.

Director of NIMH-supported project to study the cue value of hormones, 1973-1975.

Chair of the Boston College Psychology Department, 1978-1980.

Director of National Science Foundation CAUSE project to develop laboratories and undergraduate practicum courses in psychology at Boston College, 1977-1981.

Director of the Graduate Program in Psychology at Boston College, 1987-1989.

Trustee, The Sudbury Valley School, Framingham, MA, 1984-2011.

Director of Undergraduate Program in Psychology at Boston College, 1993-1995.

Book Review Editor, *Human Ethology Bulletin*, 2002-2006.

Editorial Board, *Journal of Social, Evolutionary & Cultural Psychology*, 2008-2013.

Organizer (with David Sloan Wilson) of Empowering Neighborhoods and Restoring Outdoor Play: Workshop and Symposium. Held in Binghamton, NY, Sept. 18-19, 2010.

Guest Editor for Special Issue, *American Journal of Play*, 2010-2011.

Editorial Board, *Evolutionary Behavioral Sciences*, 2013-present.

Advisory Board, *Evolution Institute*, 2009-present.

Advisory Board, *Save Childhood Movement*, 2013-present.

Organizer of team creating the website *AlternativesToSchool.com*, 2012-present.

Co-editor of *Ancestral Landscapes in Human Development*. Oxford University Press, 2014.

President of Board of Directors, Alliance for Self-Directed Education, 2016 to 2020.

Editorial Advisory Board, *American Journal of Play*, 2017 to present.

Board of Directors, Let Grow Foundation, 2017 to 2025.

Director of research project concerning libraries as centers for Self-Directed Education, supported by the Woodhouse Foundation. 2019-2021.

Director of Research, National Institute for Play, 2025-present.

Areas of Academic Specialization:

Evolutionary psychology. (Especially as applied to exploration and play.)

Developmental psychology and learning. (Intrinsic motivation, self-directed learning, and play).

General psychology. (Author of an introductory psychology textbook and associated instructional materials.)

Behavioral biology. (Neurobiology of motivational mechanisms).

Awards for Play Research

USA International Play Association (IPA) Doctor of Play Award, 2024. "The IPA USA Doctor of Play

Award is a prestigious recognition bestowed upon individuals who have dedicated their lives to advocating

for play and demonstrated lifelong passion, service, and commitment to advancing play in children's lives."

US Play Coalition, Joe L. Frost Award for Distinguished Research. 2026. "This award is given in recognition of a body of exceptional research that has enhanced and expanded the study of play."

Books

Textbook in General Psychology:

Peter Gray. Psychology. (An introductory psychology textbook) New York: Worth Publishers, 1991. 2nd edition 1994. 3rd edition 1999. 4th edition 2002. 5th edition 2007. 6th edition 2010.

Peter Gray & David Bjorklund. Psychology. 7th edition, 2014. 8th edition 2018.

Major Trade Books:

Peter Gray. Free to Learn: Why Unleashing the Instinct to Play Will Make Our Children Happier, More Self-Reliant, and Better Students for Life. Basic Books, 2013. Paperback edition, Basic Books, 2015. [As of Dec. 8, 2022, it has been translated and published in 18 languages in addition to English.]

Peter Gray. Restoring Childhood: How to Set Kids Free in the Age of Anxiety. In press for 2026 publication by Penguin Random House.

Smaller Books

Peter Gray. Mother Nature's pedagogy: Biological foundations for children's self-directed education. Tipping Point Press. 2020.

Peter Gray. The harm of coercive schooling. Cambridge, MA: Tipping Point Press. 2020.

Peter Gray. How children acquire "academic" skills without formal instruction. Cambridge, MA: Tipping Point Press. 2020.

Peter Gray. Evidence that Self-Directed Education works. Cambridge, MA: Tipping Point Press. 2020.

Peter Gray (2012). Svoboda Ucení. Translation by Jiri Kosarek. Vydal. This is a Czech book that consists of translations of 15 of my *Freedom to Learn* essays. 2012, 2nd edition 2015.

Peter Gray (2024). Fri Lek (Free Play). Translation by Sara Hofgren. This is a Swedish book consisting of translations of 16 of my essays about play. 2024.

Coedited Academic book:

D. Narvaez, K. Valentino, A. Fuentes, J. McKenna, & P. Gray (2014). Ancestral landscapes in human evolution: Culture, childrearing and social wellbeing. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Academic Publications in Behavioral Biology:

Bruce Pappas and Peter Gray. Cue value of dexamethasone for fear-motivated behavior. Physiology and Behavior, 6, 127-130, 1970.

Peter Gray. Pituitary-adrenocortical response to stress in the neonatal rat. Endocrinology, 89, 1126-129, 1971.

Jay M. Weiss and Peter Gray. Hormones and avoidance behavior: A different approach points to a role for mineralocorticoids. Progress in Brain Research, 39, 471-480, 1973.

Peter Gray. Effect of adrenocorticotrophic hormone on conditioned avoidance in rats interpreted as state-dependent learning. Journal of Comparative and Physiological Psychology, 88, 281-284, 1975.

Peter Gray. Effect of prestimulation on avoidance responding in rats, and hormonal dependence of the effect. Journal of Comparative and Physiological Psychology, 90, 1-17, 1976.

Peter Gray, Jolane Solomon, Marilyn Dunphy, Frances Carr, and Michael Hession. Effects of lithium on open field behavior in "stressed" and "unstressed" rats. Psychopharmacology, 48, 277-281, 1976.

Peter Gray. Effect of the estrous cycle on conditioned avoidance in mice. Hormones and Behavior, 8, 235-241, 1977.

Peter Gray. Correlation between estrus and reduced light avoidance in mice. Hormones and Behavior, 10, 277-284, 1978.

Peter Gray and John Cooney. Stress-induced responses and open-field behaviors in estrous and nonestrous mice. Physiology and Behavior, 29, 287-292, 1982.

Peter Gray and Shelley Chesley. Development of maternal behavior in nulliparous rats: Effects of sex and early maternal experience. Journal of Comparative Psychology, 98, 91-99, 1984.

Peter Gray and Philip J. Brooks. Effect of lesion location within the medial preoptic-anterior hypothalamic continuum on maternal and male sexual behaviors in female rats. Behavioral Neuroscience, 98, 703-711, 1984.

Academic Publications in Developmental Psychology, Education, Evolutionary Psychology, & Anthropology:

Peter Gray and David Chanoff. When play is learning: A school designed for self-directed education. Phi Delta Kappan, 65, 608-611, 1984.

Peter Gray. Sudbury Valley students thrive in a setting founded on democratic principles. Changing Schools, 13, Issue 2, 3-5, 1986.

Peter Gray and David Chanoff. Democratic schooling: What happens to young people who have charge of their own education? American Journal of Education, 94, 182-213, 1986.

Peter Gray. Engaging students' intellects: The immersion approach to critical thinking in psychology instruction. Teaching of Psychology, 20, 68-74, 1993.

Peter Gray. Book reviews in duplicate: The author speaks Teaching of Psychology, 20, 50-51, 1993.

Peter Gray. The freedom to learn. The Washington Post Education Review, pp 25-26, Oct. 31, 1993. (An invited article.)

Peter Gray. Using evolution by natural selection as an integrative theme in psychology courses. APS Observer, May/June, pp. 26-27 & 37, 1996. (An invited article.)

Peter Gray. Incorporating Evolutionary theory into the teaching of psychology. Teaching of Psychology, 23, 207-214, 1996.

Peter Gray and Jay Feldman. Patterns of age mixing and gender mixing among children and adolescents at an ungraded democratic school. Merrill-Palmer Quarterly, 43, 67-86, 1997.

Peter Gray. Teaching is a scholarly activity. pp. 49-64, In R. J. Sternberg (Ed.), Teaching introductory psychology: theory and practice. APA Press. (An invited chapter.) 1997.

Jay Feldman and Peter Gray. Some educational benefits of freely chosen age mixing among children and adolescents. Phi Delta Kappan, 80, 507-512. 1999.

Peter Gray. Using evolution by natural selection as an integrative theme in psychology courses. In Perlman, B., McCann, L. I. & McFadden, S. H. (Eds.) Lessons learned: Practical advice for the teaching of psychology. Washington, DC: The American Psychological Society. 1999.

Peter Gray. Incorporating evolutionary theory into the teaching of psychology. In M. R. Hebel, C. L. Brewer, L. T. Benjamin (Eds.), Handbook for teaching introductory psychology, Vol. II. Mahway, NJ: Erlbaum. 2000.

Peter Gray. Review of Glenn Weisfeld's "Evolutionary Principles of Human Adolescence." Human Ethology Bulletin, 16, 14-15. 2001.

Peter Gray. Review of Melvin Konner's "The tangled wing: Biological constraints on the human spirit." Human Ethology Bulletin, 17 (2), 14-16. 2002.

Peter Gray. Review of Thomas Power's "Play and exploration in children and animals." Human Ethology Bulletin, 17 (4), 7-9. 2002.

Peter Gray. Review of Robert Mitchell's "Pretending and imagination in animals and children." Human Ethology Bulletin 18 (4), 10-11. 2003.

Peter Gray. Review of Tiffany Field's "Touch." Human Ethology Bulletin, 19 (2), 14-15. 2004.

Peter Gray and Jay Feldman. Playing in the zone of proximal development: qualities of self-directed age mixing between adolescents and young children at a democratic school. American Journal of Education, 110, 108-145. 2004.

Peter Gray. Using evolutionary theory to promote critical thinking in psychology courses. In B. Perlman, L. I. McCann, & W. Buskist (Eds.) Voices of Experience: Memorable Talks from the National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology, Volume 1. Washington D. C.: The American Psychological Society. 2005.

Peter Gray. Misuse of evolutionary theory to advocate for racial discrimination and segregation: A critique of Salter's *On Genetic Interests*. Human Ethology Bulletin, 20 (2), 10-13. 2005.

Peter Gray. Nature's powerful tutors: The educative functions of free play and exploration. Eye on Psi Chi, 12 (#1), 18-21. 2007.

Peter Gray. The value of age-mixed play. Education Week, April 16, 2008.

Peter Gray. The value of Psychology 101 in liberal arts education: A psychocentric theory of the university. APS Observer, 21(#9), 29-32. October, 2008.

- Peter Gray. Play as a foundation for hunter-gatherer social existence. *American Journal of Play*, 1, 476-522. 2009.
- Peter Gray. Lessons from hunter-gatherers and Sudbury Valley schools. *The Florida Humanist Journal*, 3 (Spring), 21-24, 2009.
- David Myers, Peter Gray, James Kalet, et al. Changes in psychology: Perspectives from textbook authors. *Observer*, 23, #4-cover story. 2010.
- Peter Gray. Don't throw Mother Nature out the window: An evolutionary perspective on childhood education. *Children Our Concern*, Spring, 2010.
- Peter Gray. The evolutionary biology of education: How our hunter-gatherer educative instincts could form the basis for education today. *Evolution, Education, and Outreach*, 4, 428-440. 2011.
- Peter Gray. The decline of play and the rise of psychopathology in childhood and adolescence. *American Journal of Play*, 3, 443-463. 2011.
- Peter Gray. The special value of age-mixed play. *American Journal of Play*, 3, 500-522. 2011.
- Bruce J. Ellis, Marco Del Giudice, Thomas Dishion, Aurelio José Figueredo, Peter Gray, Vladas Griskevicius, Patricia H. Hawley, W. Jake Jacobs, Jenee James, Anthony A. Volk, & David Sloan Wilson. The evolutionary basis of risky adolescent behavior: Implications for science, policy, and practice. *Developmental Psychology*, 43, 598-623, 2012.
- Peter Gray. Review of Dennis Krebs's "The Origin of Morality: An Evolutionary Account." *Journal of Moral Education*, 41, 264-266, 2012.
- Peter Gray. Playborhood: Turn your neighborhood into a place to play (book review). *American Journal of Play*, 4, 508-510. 2012.
- Peter Gray. The value of a play-filled childhood in development of the hunter-gatherer individual. In Narvaez, D., Panksepp, J., Schore, A., & Gleason, T. (Eds.), *Evolution, Early Experience and Human Development: From Research to Practice and Policy*, pp 252-370. New York: Oxford University Press, 2012.
- Peter Gray. Hunter-Gatherers and Play. *Scholarpedia* 7(10): 30578 (2013).
- Peter Gray. Definition of play. *Scholarpedia* 8(7): 30578 (2013).
- Peter Gray and Gina Riley. The challenges and benefits of unschooling according to 232 families who have chosen that route. *Journal of Unschooling and Alternative Learning*, 7, 1-27, 2013.
- Peter Gray. Play as preparation for learning and life: An interview with Peter Gray. *American Journal of Play*, 5 (#3), 271-292, 2013.
- Peter Gray. Hunter-gatherer egalitarianism as a force for decline in sexual dimorphism. *Psychological Inquiry*, 24, 192-194. 2013.
- Peter Gray. The play theory of hunter-gatherer egalitarianism. In D. Narvaez, K. Valentino, A. Fuentes, J. McKenna, & P. Gray (Eds.), *Ancestral landscapes in human evolution: culture, childrearing and social wellbeing* (pp. 190-213). New York: Oxford University Press. 2014.
- Darcia Narvaez, Peter Gray, James McKenna, Krisin Valentino, & Agustin Fuentes. Children's development in the light of evolution and culture. In D. Narvaez, K. Valentino, A. Fuentes, J. McKenna, & P. Gray (Eds.), *Ancestral landscapes in human evolution: culture, childrearing and social wellbeing* (pp. 3-17). New York: Oxford University Press. 2014.
- Peter Gray. Evolving the Future of Education: Problems in Enabling Broad Social Reform. Commentary on target article by David Sloan Wilson, Steven C. Hayes, Anthony Biglan, and Dennis Embry. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 37,395-460, 2014.
- Peter Gray. Video game addiction: Does it occur? If so, why? In Mark Milne (Ed), *Opposing viewpoints: Addiction*. Cengage, 2014.
- Peter Gray. The ADHD personality: Its cognitive, biological, and evolutionary foundations. In Mary Bonk (Ed.), *Opposing viewpoints: Behavioral disorders*. Cengage, 2014.
- Peter Gray. School overload: How the schoolish approach to child rearing is hurting children. *Education Canada*, 54, 9-11. 2014.
- Peter Gray. The essential benefits of free play. *Heinemann Digital Campus*, Sept., 2014.
- Peter Gray. Playing to win: Raising children in a competitive culture (book review). *American Journal of Play*, 7, 120-121.
- Peter Gray. Studying play without calling it that: Humanistic and positive psychology. In J. Johnson, S. Eberle, T. Henricks, & D. Kushner (eds), *Handbook for the study of play* (pp 121-138). New York: Rowman & Littlefield, co-published with the Strong National Museum of Play. 2015.

- Peter Gray and Gina Riley. Grown unschoolers' evaluations of their unschooling experiences: Report I on a survey of 75 unschooled adults. Other Education, 4(#2), 8-32, 2015.
- Gina Riley and Peter Gray. Grown unschoolers' experiences with higher education and employment: Report II on a survey of 75 unschooled adults. Other Education, 4(#2), 33-53, 2015.
- Peter Gray. Rousseau's errors: They persist today in educational theory. Issues in Early Education, 3, 23-28, 2015.
- Peter Gray. Children's natural ways of learning still work—even for the three Rs. In D. C. Geary & D. B. Berch (eds), Evolutionary perspectives on child development and education (pp 63-93). Springer. 2016.
- Peter Gray. Mother Nature's pedagogy: How children educate themselves. In H. Lees & N. Noddings (eds), Palgrave international handbook of alternative education (pp 49-62). London: Palgrave, 2016.
- Peter Gray. Review of Jamie Madigan's "Getting gamers: The psychology of video games and their impact on the people who play them." American Journal of Play, 8, 405-407, 2016.
- Peter Gray. Self-directed education—unschooling and democratic schooling. In G. Noblit (Ed.), Oxford research encyclopedia of education. New York: Oxford University Press. 2017.
- Peter Gray. What exactly is play and why is it such a powerful vehicle for learning? Topics in Language Disorders, 37, 217-228. 2017.
- Peter Gray. Forward. In S. Aquillano & A. Hawkins (eds), Design and play: Imagination needs places to thrive (p 7). Boston: Design Museum Press. 2017.
- Peter Gray. Play: The most powerful vehicle for learning. In S. Aquillano & A. Hawkins (eds), Design and play: Imagination needs places to thrive (pp 163-169) Boston: Design Museum Press. 2017.
- Peter Gray. How hunter-gatherers maintained their egalitarian ways. In K. Arford (Ed.) Coming full circle: Rediscovering ancient wisdom for the modern world through cultural anthropology. Cognella, 2018.
- Peter Gray. Evolutionary functions of play: Practice, resilience, innovation, and cooperation. In P. K. Smith & J. Roopnarine (Eds.), The Cambridge Handbook of Play: Developmental and Disciplinary Perspectives (pp 84-102). Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. 2019.
- Peter Gray. Children educate themselves: Lessons from Sudbury Valley. In R. H. Shea, J. Golden, & L. Balla (Eds), Advanced language and literature: For honors and pre-AP English courses, 2e. Bedford, Freeman & Worth, 2019.
- Peter Gray. Playful intelligence: The power of living lightly in a serious world. Review of book by Anthony T. DeBenedet. American Journal of Play, 11, 132-133. 2019.
- Peter Gray. La compétence cognitive des enfants: Données récoltées en laboratoire et sur le terrain. [Children's cognitive competence: Evidence from lab and field.] In Plavis, M., Milovanovic, D., & Bideaux, V. (Eds.) Qu'est-ce que l'agisme? (pp 135-146). Editions Le Hetre Myriadis. 2019.
- Peter Gray. Forward to Kerry McDonald, Unschooling: raising curious, well-educated children outside the conventional classroom. Chicago Review Press, 2019.
- Peter Gray. Risky play: Why children love and need it. In J. Loebach, S. Little, A. Cox, & P. E. Owens (Eds.), Fostering the inclusion of youth in the public realm: Design processes, practices, and policies for the creation of youth-inclusive public outdoor environments (pp 39-51). Routledge. 2020.
- Peter Gray. How children coped in the first months of the pandemic lockdown: Free time, play, family togetherness, and helping out at home. American Journal of Play, 13, 33-52. 2020.
- Peter Gray. COVID Disruption of schooling and radical reform in education. In Joe Gray (ed.) Visions for a post-covid world: Defining a radically new normal. Dixi Books, 2021.
- Peter Gray. Preface to N. Fisher Changing our minds: how children can take control of their own learning. Robinson. 2021.
- Peter Gray, Gina Riley, and Kevin Curry-Knight. Former students' evaluations of experiences at a democratic school: Roles of the democratic processes, staff, and community of students. Other Education: The Journal of Educational Alternatives, 10, 4-25, 2021.
- Peter Gray. Forward to C. Clausen & A. Browder, Empowered kids liberated parents. Wonderfall Books. 2022.
- Peter Gray, Autumn Solomon, & Leah Tatgenhorst. Public libraries as centers for play: A survey and case examples. American Journal of Play, 14, 131-148, 2022.
- Peter Gray. Deb O'Rourke's Can this be school? Fifty years of democracy at ALPHA. Review essay. Other Education, 11(2), 68-71, 2022.
- Ian Cunningham, Peter Gray, Martin Illingworth, Trevor Sutcliffe, & Jo Symes. Beyond the conventional. In Fran Morgan (ed.) Square pegs. Crown House Publishing. 2023.

- Peter Gray. Forward to Lisa Forbes & David Thomas (eds) *The playbook: Professors at play*. Carnegie Mellon University Press. 2023.
- Peter Gray, David F. Lancy, & David F. Bjorklund. Decline in independent activity as a cause of decline in children's mental wellbeing: summary of the evidence. *Journal of Pediatrics* 260 (2), 1-8. 2023. Available at <https://authors.elsevier.com/a/1hHlp55Cs8MmT>
- Peter Gray. Self-Directed Education—Unschooling and democratic Schooling. In Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Education. Ed. George Noblit. New York: Oxford University Press, 2023. doi:10.1093/acrefore/9780190264093.013.ORE_EDU-01940
- Peter Gray. What exactly is play and why is it such a powerful vehicle for children's social, moral, emotional, and intellectual development? In Karel Lam, Marike Lancel, Frans Koenraadt (eds) *Spel, soornis en delict*. Den Haag: Boom Juridisch. 2023.
- Peter Gray. Play among adults: Its role in counteracting dominance and aggression and promoting cooperation. In Karel Lam, Marike Lancel, Frans Koenraadt (eds) *Spel, soornis en delict*. Den Haag: Boom Juridisch. 2023.
- Peter Gray. Play is nature's way of teaching cooperation: a reply to 'Building a cooperative child: evidence and lessons cross-culturally' by Tanya Broesch and Erin Robbins. *Global Discourse*, 13, (3-4), 1-5. 2024.
- Peter Gray. Editorial: What is self-directed education and why is now the time for it to take wings? *On the Horizon: The International Journal of Learning Futures*, 32 (2&3), 56-59. 2024.
- Peter Gray. Forward to Ida Rose Florez, *The end of education as we know it*. New Society Publishers. 2025.
- Peter Gray. Play makes us human: Commentary on adult and juvenile play in humans and other primates. *Neuroscience & Biobehavioral Reviews*, 169, 2025.
- Peter Gray. Societal changes, children's play, and children's mental health. *The Lancet Child and Adolescent Health*, July issue, 2025. Available online [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2352-4642\(25\)00160-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2352-4642(25)00160-9)
- Peter Gray. Children's natural curiosity, playfulness, sociability, and future orientation as forces for cultural adaptation and innovation. Commentary on Lew-Levy & Amir, Children as agents of cultural adaptation. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*. In press, 2025. Published online Dec., 2024.
- Peter Gray. The biology of education. Chapter insert in Sophie Smith-Tong, *Teacher autonomy: Where has it gone and why we need it back*. Routledge. 2026.

Popular Media

- Blogger for Psychology Today Magazine**, *Freedom to Learn: The Roles of Play and Curiosity as Foundations for Learning*. July 9, 2008 – present. <http://blogs.psychologytoday.com/blog/freedom-learn> (234 essays posted, with over 19 million non-redundant views as of March 13, 2024. Many of these have been republished on other sites or in print magazines, and many translated and published in other languages).
- Author of Substack**, *Play Makes Us Human*. April 8, 2023 – present. <https://petergray.substack.com/> (~120 articles posted, with over 23.3K subscribers and 40K followers as of April 23, 2026).

Other recent (since 2011) popular articles, including (as sole author unless otherwise noted) the following:

- *Boston Magazine*. Dec. 1, 2011, The need for freedom from adult supervision.
- *Readers' Digest*, Jan., 2014, issue. School is a prison—and damaging our kids. Originally published in *Salon.*, Aug. 26, 2013. *Salon*. Aug. 26, 2013. http://www.salon.com/2013/08/26/school_is_a_prison_and_damaging_our_kids/
- *Salon*. Schools don't have to fail: Here's how we fix education. Sept. 7, 2013.
- *Aeon*. The play deficit. Sept. 18, 2013. <http://www.aeonmagazine.com/being-human/children-today-are-suffering-a-severe-deficit-of-play/>
- *Huffington Post*. Reviving Karl Groos's evolutionary theory of play. Nov. 1, 2013. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/peter-gray/reviving-karl-groos-evolutionary-theory_b_4181241.html
- *The Independent* (UK daily newspaper), Jan. 12, 2014. Give childhood back to children: If we want our offspring to have happy, productive, moral lives, they need more time to play, not less. Online version is here: <http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/give-childhood-back-to-children-if-we-want-our-offspring-to-have-happy-productive-and-moral-lives-we-must-allow-more-time-for-play-not-less-are-you-listening-gove-9054433.html>
- *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Sunday Extra, March 23, 2014, p C2. Free play teaches kids how to work with one another.

- *Boston Globe*, Opinion, June 20, 2014. Let kids take risks when they play.
<http://www.bostonglobe.com/opinion/2014/06/19/let-kids-take-risks-when-they-play/mnkjUrMrjZzQDA6xweAvJ/story.html>
- *Life Learning Magazine*. July/August, 2014, pp 15-22. A survey of grown unschoolers.
- *Wall Street Journal*, Opinion. August 28, 2014. Child's play is about more than games. Peter Gray and Lenore Skenazy. <http://online.wsj.com/articles/peter-gray-and-lenore-skenazy-childs-play-is-about-more-than-games-1409179516>.
- *Pathways to Family Wellness*, issue 43, pp 68-71, Sept., 2014. Routes toward trustful parenting in our time.
- *Wall Street Journal*, Oct. 7, 2015. Notable and Quotable: Fragility on Campus.
<http://www.wsj.com/articles/notable-quotable-fragility-on-campus-1444257093>
- *Pathways to Family Wellness*, issue 51, pp . Sept., 2016. Play makes us human.
- *GE Reports*, Oct. 17, 2016. A 10-hour work week? How robots can make us happy.
<http://www.gereports.com/10-hr-workweek-anyone-robots-taking-jobs-wont-bad-think/>
- *Camping Magazine*, Nov.-Dec., 2016, Vol. 89, #6, pp 30-33. Children need play: Can they get it at camp?
- *Pathways to Family Wellness*, issue 54,, July, 2017. Five myths about young people and social media.
- *The Mission*. Oct. 3, 2017. The decline of play and rise of children's mental disorders.
- *The Mission*. Oct. 12, 2017. Biological foundations for self-directed education.
- *The Mission*. Oct. 27, 2017. Social norms, moral judgments, and irrational parenting.
- *The Mission*. Oct. 30, 2017. They dream of school, and none of the dreams are good.
- *Pathways to Family Wellness*, issue 57, pp 68-71, March., 2018. How to ruin children's play: Praise, supervise, intervene.
- *Pathways to Family Wellness*, Issue 60, pp 57-59. Winter, 2018. Rereading *How Children Learn*: The joy and sorrow of revisiting the work of John Holt.
- *New York Times*. Opinion. Dec. 28, 2018. With Lenore Skenazy. Finding that parenting sweet spot.
- *This View of Life* (publication of the Evolution Institute). May 2, 2019. Mismatch between our biologically evolved educative instincts and culturally evolved schools.
- *New York Post*. March 29, 2020, op-ed with Lenore Skenazy. Coronavirus is providing the course correction kids desperately need.
- *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. April, 16, 2020 op-ed. with Sean Durham. When school resumes, it shouldn't be a frenzied game of catch-up but chance for better balance.
- *Pathways to Family Wellness*, Issue 66, pp 60-65. 2020. Don't leash the puppy: When children play they follow the golden rules of fairness.
- *Psychology Today* (the print magazine). July, 2020, Issue. A pause that may refresh childhood.
- *TechTrends* August 8, 2020. "Let the children play!" Connecting evolutionary psychology and creativity with Peter Gray. Rethinking Technology and Creativity in the 21st Century. With R. Mehta, D. Henriksen, & P. Mishra. Association for Educational Communications and Technology.
- *SmartBrief*. May 27, 2021, With Lenore Skenazy. Level the playing field with the playing field.
- *District Administration*. Sept. 3, 2021. Why children's mental wellbeing improved during the early months of COVID lockdown.
- *Pathways to Family Wellness*, Issue 75, 2022. How early academic training stifles children's learning.
- *Pathways to Family Wellness*, Issue 78, 2023. How to ruin children's play: Supervise, praise, intervene.
- *Pathways to Family Wellness*, Issue 79, 2023. Risky play.
- *Independent School*. In press, 2023. With Lenore Skenazy. For mental health, children need more free play and other independent activities.
- *Pathways to Family Wellness*, Issue 81, 2024. Parent-child play: When is it real and when is it not?
- *Pathways to Family Wellness*, Issue 83, 2024. How the leash chokes the spirit.
- *Plough Quarterly*, 42, Dec 18, 2024. Let the children play.
- *Pathways to Family Wellness*, Issue 87, Fall 2025. What good is recess?

Interviewed for and quoted in stories for many newspapers & magazines, including (since 2010) New York Times (several times), New York Times Magazine (several times), Wall Street Journal, Washington Post (several times), Chicago Tribune, Boston Globe, Boston Globe Sunday Magazine, USA Today, Time magazine, Newsweek magazine, The Atlantic (several times), Redbook magazine, Parents' magazine, Boston magazine, Christian Science Monitor (several times), Irish Independent, The Times (UK),

McClean's magazine, Montreal Gazette, Wired magazine, Times Higher Education magazine, New Jersey Sky-Ledger, La Presse (Canada), Globe and Mail (Canada), Oya magazine, First magazine, Scouting magazine, Outside magazine, Men's Health magazine, Scholastic Parent and Child magazine, Weekly Reader, Reason Magazine (interview available on YouTube), Daily News (Stockholm), Harvard Ed magazine. Inverse. Times of London. Business Insider. The Nation's Health. US News & World Report. Parents. National Geographic. Tampa Bay Times. Harvard Public Health. Boston Globe. Esquire. Rolling Stone. The Guardian (London) (several times). Newsweek. Tech Trends.

Television appearance, 2010 to present, include: CNN International TV News; Fox 25 Morning News; Happening Now program on Fox News; The Literati Scene, BNN-TV Boston; Documentary on play, Korean Education Broadcasting System; Interview with Ron Paul, Ron Pau Channel (subscription TV); Greater Boston show, WGBH-NPR affiliate; Hindsight; Dutch Public Television; Twenty-Twenty Television, UK documentary on free-range parenting; Fox and Friends, Fox News Channel; WBZ-TV News, Boston; PBS News Hour segment "Why helicopter parenting may jeopardize kids' health".

Radio talk shows, 2010 to present, include:

The Takeaway, Public Radio International and WGBH;
The Bob Edwards Show, nationally syndicated;
Innovation Hub with Kara Miller, NPR from WGBH;
World Update, BBC Worldservice News;
Interview, BBC News and World Affairs;
Your Health and Fitness Show, KPFA
FM, San Francisco;
Emerson College Radio, WERS;
WIBC Afternoon News, Indianapolis;
101.9 FM News, New York;
Joy Cardin Show, Wisconsin Public Radio (twice);
Blunt Youth Radio, WMPG;
Nightside with Dan Rea,
WBZ-AM Boston (3 times);
Positive Parenting Show, KOIT (nationally syndicated);
Human Lab Radio with Amy Alkon, Advice Goddess;
The Roundtable; WAMC/Northeast Public Radio;
Think, with Jeff Whittington, Dallas TX/NPR;
Black Dog Radio, WGN-AM, Chicago;
Radio West, KUER/NPR Salt Lake City;
Radio Boston, WBUR/NPR;
Free Radio Santa Cruz;
The Buzz, KRBZ 96.5 Kansas City;
Gil Gross Show, Talk 910, San Francisco (twice);
Tommy Schnermacher Show, CJAD, Montreal;
The Burt Cohen Show, Keeping Democracy Alive, WBCN FM, New Hampshire;
Uprising, Pacifica Radio, KPFFK;
Bring Back Play program;
Chorus Radio, Calgary, Canada;
Janine Turner Show, iHeart Radio, Clear Channel;
Mike Slater show, The Blaze Radio Network;
Interview with Richard Glover, ABC Sydney, Australia;
Bill Carroll Show, KFI AM 640, Los Angeles;
Bill Good Show, CKNW AM940, Vancouver;
The Motts Show, Newstalk 1010 Toronto;
Truth For Our Time, American Family Radio;
Interview with Matt Weld, BBC News;
MPR News with Kerri Miller, Minnesota Public Radio;
Stand Up with Pete Dominick, SiriusXM Satellite Radio;

Q, CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Company, national);
Kinkade & Breakenridge Show, News Talk 770, Calgary;
Interview on religion and play, Talk Radio 702, South Africa;
Mid-Morning Talk, BBC Radio Guernsey;
Moncreiff Show, News Talk Radio, Ireland;
On Second Thought, Georgia Public Broadcasting/NPR affiliate;
Dr. Drew Mid-Day, KABC Radio, Los Angeles;
Michele McPhee Show, 1510 WMEX Boston;
Dr. Katherine Albrecht Show, Nationally Syndicated Talk Radio;
Interview, Reno Public Radio, NPR-KUNR FM;
About Our Kid, Doctor Radio, Sirius XM110;
The Point with Mindy Todd, WCAI-NPR, the Cape and Islands, MA;
Jose Garcia Sports Talk, 98.7 FM; Arizona.
Morning commute program, 55KRC Radio, Southwest Ohio;
NPR On Point program entitled The 'unschooling' movement: Letting children lead their learning."
NPR The Takeaway program segment on unschooling.
WNYC Brian Lehrer Show.
BBC "Bringing Up Britain" show.
Wisconsin Public Radio Central Time show.
NPR All Things Considered program.
NPR Hidden Brain program. Twice. "Parents Keep Out" and "Your Questions Answered"
KPBS News.
Voice of Islam Radio UK.
WRPO (Providence).
Big Picture Science, SETI.
WBUR Radio Boston.

Guest on more than 180 podcasts since 2010.

Invited Addresses and Colloquia, 1991 – present.

Techniques for engaging students' intellects. British Columbia Psychology Articulation Meeting, May 14, 1991.
Teaching students to question (delivered twice). Fourteenth National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology, Jan. 3 & 4, 1992.
Toward an ecological theory of education. Colloquium, Department of Psychology, Western Ontario University, Jan. 17, 1992.
A functional analysis of play. Colloquium, Department of Psychology, The University of New Mexico, Oct. 1, 1992.
Engaging students' intellects. A colloquium presented to faculty and graduate students in psychology departments at: (a) Queens University (Canada), Jan, 1992; (b) University of New Mexico, Oct. 1, 1992; (c) University of Minnesota, Feb. 12, 1993; & (d) Ohio State University, Sept., 1994.
The immersion approach to critical thinking in psychology instruction. Southwestern Psychological Association, 39th Annual Meeting, April 9, 1993.
The immersion approach to critical thinking in college teaching. University lecture, University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire, Nov. 5, 1993.
An idea-based, question-based approach to psychology instruction. Regional workshop on the teaching of psychology sponsored by the University of Cincinnati, April, 1994.
Incorporating evolutionary theory into psychology instruction. Seventeenth National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology, Jan., 1995.
Stimulating critical thought in the introductory psychology course. Colloquium, University of Tennessee, March, 1995.
A functional analysis of play and the value of age mixing. Colloquium given at (a) Department of Psychology at Brandeis University, Feb., 1995, (b) Department of Psychology and Psi Chi, The University of Tennessee, March, 1995; Department of Psychology, University of Houston, April, 1997.
Teaching is a scholarly activity. Plenary address national meeting of the American Psychological Society, Washington, D. C., May, 1998.
Some basic principles of college teaching. Colloquium at Ohio State University, Oct., 1998.
Play and exploration: Insights from an evolutionary analysis. Colloquium at Department of Psychology, The University of Maine, Orono, Nov. 9, 1998.
Beyond the nurture assumption: How children create their selves. Boston Ethical Society. Jan. 24, 1999.
An evolutionary analysis of animal and human play. Harvard/MIT Seminar on Evolutionary Psychology. April 14, 1999.
Appreciating human nature: A Darwinian perspective on the future of psychology. University Lecture, University of Alberta, Oct. 21, 1999.
The educative value of free age mixing among children and adolescents. Colloquium, Psychology Department, University of Alberta, Oct. 22, 1999.

- The educative functions of play and the value of age mixing. Address to psychology students, University of Houston, Nov. 22, 1999.
- The educative functions of children's play: A Darwinian analysis. Intramural colloquium, Psychology Department, Boston College, Dec. 3, 1999.
- How to engage students' interest, involvement, and intelligence. Plenary address, National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology. Saint Petersburg, Florida. January 2, 2000.
- Evolution by natural selection as an integrative theme in psychology. Colloquium, Department of Psychology, University of New Mexico. Oct. 20, 2000.
- An evolutionary analysis of play. Lecture for undergraduates at (a) Columbia University (April, 2000); (b) University of New Mexico (Oct., 2000), and Yale University (Nov., 2000).
- The educative functions of play: A Darwinian perspective. Annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association. March 9, 2002.
- Evolution by natural selection as a unifying theme in introductory psychology. Annual meeting of the American Psychological Society. June 6, 2002.
- Age-mixed play: A natural foundation for education. Conference of the International Society for Human Ethology, Ghent, Belgium. August 28, 2004.
- Nature's powerful tutors: The educative functions of free play and exploration. Psi Chi distinguished address at Southwestern Psychological Association Conference, Fort Worth, Texas, April 6, 2007. Similar address also given as colloquia or lecture at (a) Brigham Young University, Oct. 30, 2006; (b) University of California at San Diego, Oct. 31, 2006; (c) Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, Nov. 2, 2006; (d) University of California at Los Angeles, Nov. 3, 2006; (e) University of Houston, Nov. 9, 2006; (f) University of Nebraska at Reno, April 23, 2007; and University of California at Berkeley, April 25, 2007.
- Ideas about teaching. Led discussion for graduate students and faculty at (a) Brigham Young University, Oct. 30, 2006; (b) Loyola Marymount University, Nov. 2, 2006; and (c) University of California, Berkeley, April 25, 2007.
- The value of Psych 101 for liberal arts education. National Institute of the Teaching of Psychology. Saint Petersburg, Florida, January 4 and 5, 2008.
- Applying evolutionary psychology to questions of child development. Plenary address. New England Evolutionary Psychology Society Conference. May 3, 2008.
- Engaging students' intellects: Teaching psychology as ideas to think about. Teaching of Psychology in Secondary Schools division. American Psychological Association Convention. Boston. August 16, 2008.
- The social psychology of social change. Presentation at colloquium, Designing interventions to address human rights, climate change and create a sustainable peace. United Nations. New York. Aug. 19, 2008.
- Optimal conditions for self-education: Lessons from Hunter-gatherer bands and the Sudbury Valley School. Evolutionary Institute Workshop on Early Education, at Miami University, Nov. 14-17, 2008.
- The human ancestral environment for education, and its relevance for education today. Evolutionary Studies Program (EvoS) at Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY, Oct. 2, 2009.
- How children educate themselves through free play and exploration: A Darwinian perspective. The 24th Learning & the Brain Conference, Marriott Hotel and MIT, Cambridge, MA, Nov. 21, 2009.
- The special value of age-mixed play. Symposium on Children's Play, Children's Pleasures. Hofstra University, March 20, 2010.
- Mother nature's pedagogy: Lessons from hunter-gatherers and the Sudbury Valley School. Northeast Unschooling Conference. Wakefield, MA, Aug. 27, 2010.
- The decline of play and the rise of anxiety, depression, helplessness, and narcissism. Symposium on Empowering Neighborhoods and Restoring Outdoor Play, Binghamton, NY, Sept. 18, 2010. Talk also given at Boston College, Oct. 20, 2010, and at New York University, Nov. 4, 2010.
- How children educate themselves through free play and exploration. Trust in Learning Conference. Austin, Texas, Feb. 12, 2011.
- Is freedom scary? The best and the worst things about being in charge of your own education. (With Melisa Bradford.) Fourteenth Annual Inhome Conference, St. Charles, IL, March 25, 2011.
- Mother nature's pedagogy: Lessons from hunter-gatherers and the Sudbury Valley School. Fourteenth Annual Inhome Conference, St. Charles, IL, March 25, 2011. (Talk also presented at Tallgrass Sudbury School, Riverside IL, March 24, 2011.)
- Free age mixing among children and adolescents: The key ingredient to self-directed education. Fourteenth Annual Inhome Conference, St. Charles, IL, March 26, 2011.
- The value of free age mixing among children and adolescents. Northeast Unschooling Conference. Wakefield, MA, Aug. 26, 2011.
- The decline of play and the rise of psychopathology among children and adolescents. Northeast Unschooling Conference. Wakefield, MA, Aug. 27, 2011.
- Evolutionary mismatch and children's education. Duke University, National Evolution Synthesis Center, Durham, NC. Nov. 19, 2011.
- Freedom to learn: Why children need free play. Walden Forum, Wayland, MA. Dec. 1, 2011.
- Mother Nature's pedagogy. New York University, Department of Applied Psychology. Feb. 29, 2012.
- How children learn the three Rs without formal instruction. Fifteenth Annual InHome Conference, St. Charles, IL, March 16, 2012. (Talk also presented at Tallgrass Sudbury School, Riverside IL, March 15, 2012.)
- Freedom to learn: The roles of play (and curiosity) in children's natural ways of learning. Early Educators' Conference, Center for Parents and Teachers, Carlisle, MA. March 9, 2012.
- The decline of play and the rise of psychopathology in children and adolescents. Fifteenth Annual InHome Conference, St. Charles, IL, March 17, 2012.
- What is play, and why is it so valuable? Address to Boston Playworks coaches. March 22, 2012.
- Freedom to learn: Mother Nature's exquisite design for educating our children. April 27, 2012.
- Homo Ludens II: The role of play in human biological and cultural evolution. University of Leiden, the Netherlands. May 9, 2012.
- Mother Nature's Pedagogy: Children are exquisitely designed to direct their own education. De Kampanje Sudbury School, the Netherlands. May 11, 2012

- The role of play in the development of social and emotional competence: Hunter-gatherers, 1950s America, and now. Ancestral Health Symposium, Harvard University, Aug. 11, 2012.
- What 232 families told me about the benefits and challenges of unschooling: Findings from a large survey. Northeast Unschooling Conference, Wakefield, MA. Aug. 25, 2012.
- The role of play in the development of social and emotional competence: Hunter-gatherers, 1950s America, and now. Human Evolution and Development Symposium, Notre Dame University, Illinois, Oct. 6, 2012.
- What have we done to childhood? Meeting of early childhood educators from Acton, Concord, and surrounding areas. Karem Shalom, Concord, MA Nov. 8, 2012.
- Freedom to learn: the roles of play in children's natural ways of learning. Needham Early Childhood Council. Nov. 14, 2012.
- Trustful parenting may require an alternative to conventional schooling. Public lecture sponsored by the TING-Schule, Berlin, Germany. Dec. 3, 2012.
- Mother Nature's pedagogy: play and self-education. Talk given at (a) SXSW.edu conf., Austin, March 4, 2013; (b) Clearview Sudbury School event, Austin, March 5, 2013; and (c) Freedom in Education Conference, Riverside, IL, March 9, 2013.
- What and how children learn in play. Public lecture given at the Concord Children's Center, Concord, MA. March 20, 2013.
- Freedom to learn: how and what children learn through their self-directed play and exploration. Workshop for preschool and early elementary school teachers in Waltham, MA, sponsored by EDCO, CASE, and LABBB. April 2, 2013.
- Mother Nature's pedagogy: children are exquisitely designed to control their own education. Symposium via Skype to Dept. of Psychology, Trondheim University, Norway, April 5, 2013.
- The evolutionary functions of children's play. Conference on Evolutionary Psychology, University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, April 10, 2013.
- Free to learn: children educate themselves through free play and exploration. Public lecture in Amersfoort, the Netherlands, April 11, 2013.
- Free to learn. Public lecture presented by Google Hangout at Festival Evolution, in Prague, the Czech Republic, April 20, 2013.
- The evolutionary functions of children's play. Alternatives to Compulsory Education Conference, Harvard University Graduate School of Education, April 27, 2013.
- The value of free play. Address to the National Conference of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Orlando, FL, May 2, 2013.
- Free to learn: how children educate themselves through play. Keynote address at Alternative Education Resources Organization conference, at CW Pst/LIU in Brookville, NY, May 24, 2013. Also delivered at Open Connections, Haverford, PA, May 21, 2013; at Jersey Shore Free School, Little Silver, NJ., May 23, 2013; as plenary address at European Union Democratic Education Conference, Amersfoort, the Netherlands, Aug. 2, 2013; at Northeastern Unschooling Conference, Wakefield, MA, Aug. 23, 2013; at Hardagon Online Conference, Aug. 24, 2013; at Rethinking Everything Conference, Dallas, TX, August 25, 2013.
- The evolutionary biology of education: children's educative instincts can work well today. Plenary address to the national conference of the Human Behavior and Evolution Society, Miami Beach, Florida, July 20, 2013.
- How children learn the three Rs. Rethinking Everything Conference, Dallas, TX, August 25, 2013.
- Free to learn: how children educate themselves through play. Talk given at Fairhaven School, Upper Marlboro, MD, Oct. 5, 2013, and at Arts and Ideas School, Baltimore, MD, Oct 6, 2013.
- The roles of play in children's intellectual, social, moral, and emotional development. Wellesley Mothers' Forum, Wellesley, MA. Oct. 8, 2013.
- Children's natural ways of learning still work, even for the three Rs. Nov. 8, 2013. Conference on Evolutionary Perspectives on Educational Research, Policy, and Practice. Sponsored by the Evolution Institute and the American Education Research Association. Arlington, Virginia, Nov. 8, 2013.
- Free to learn: how children educate themselves through play. Learning and the Brain Conference: Engaging Minds and Student Centered Learning, Boston, MA, Nov. 16, 2013.
- The roles of play in children's intellectual, social, moral, and emotional development. YMCA of the USA, Chicago, IL. Workshop for directors of YMCA day camps. Dec. 3, 2013.
- The biology of education: how children learn through self-directed play and exploration. Alpine Valley School, Wheat Ridge, CO, Jan. 15, 2014.
- Free to learn: how and what children learn through free play and exploration. All-day workshop sponsored by the Iowa Child Care Resource and Referral network. Jan. 25, 2014.
- The biology of education: how children learn naturally through play and exploration. A 3.5-hour workshop for early educational professionals. Opening Minds: Early Education, Child Care, and School Age Conference, Chicago, IL, Jan. 29, 2014. Also presented as public lecture at Boston Public Library, Feb. 12, 2014.
- Free to learn: how children educate themselves through play. Public lecture, Ann Arbor District Library, Ann Arbor, MI. March 8, 2014.
- How free play promotes children's intellectual, social, moral, and emotional development. Keynote address to the 23rd Annual Conference of the Family Child Care Association of New York State, Callicoon, NY, March 29, 2014.
- Freeing the Instinct to Play: Allowing Children to Learn as Nature Designed Them to Learn. Distinguished lecture at the LEGO Foundation Ideas Conference, Billund, Denmark, April 9, 2014.
- The biology of education: how children learn through self-directed play and exploration. Roskilde University, Denmark. April 11, 2014.
- The Decline of Play and Rise of Mental Disorders. **TEDx talk**, TEDxNavesink, Red Bank, NJ. May 10, 2014.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bg-GEzM7iTk>
- A survey of grown unschoolers. Keynote address at Life Rocks Conference, Conway, NH, June 3, 2014.
- What exactly is play, and why is it so valuable for children's healthy intellectual, social, and emotional development? Public lecture, San Francisco Public Library, San Francisco, CA. Oct. 2, 2014.
- The biology of education: how children learn through free play and exploration. Keynote address. IntegratED Conference. San Francisco CA. Oct. 3, 2014.

- What exactly is play, and why is it crucial for healthy mental development? workshop, integrated conference. San Francisco CA. Oct. 4, 2014.
- The purposes of play: insights from evolutionary psychology. DePaul University, Chicago. Oct. 14, 2014.
- Mother Nature's design for education: insights from evolutionary psychology. **Chicago Ideas Week**. Thorne Auditorium, Chicago. Oct. 15, 2014. <https://www.chicagoideas.com/videos/560>
- The purposes of play: insights from evolutionary psychology. Tallgrass Sudbury School. Riverside, IL. Oct 16, 2014.
- What exactly is play, and why is it so valuable for children's healthy intellectual, social, and emotional development? Atrium School, Watertown, MA. Oct. 21, 2014. Also presented at Clearview Sudbury School, Austin, TX. Nov. 1, 2014.
- How children learn through self-directed exploration and play. Lecture to staff of Discovery Toys, Inc. Nov. 4, 2014.
- What exactly is play, and why is it so valuable for children's healthy intellectual, social, and emotional development? Keynote address, Hollingworth Preschool 30-year Anniversary Conference. Teachers' College, Columbia University, NY, NY, Nov. 8, 2014.
- The decline of play and rise of mental disorders over the past 60 years. Plenary address, Freedom for Family Wellness Conference, Reston, VA, Nov. 14, 2014.
- Play makes us human: the role of play in human biological and cultural evolution. Keynote Address, Freedom for Family Wellness Conference, Reston, VA, Nov. 15, 2014.
- The decline of play, and its consequences. Keynote address, Fifteenth Anniversary Celebration of the Institute for Global Leadership, Worcester, MA. [Received a Life Leadership Award at this celebration.] Nov. 20, 2014.
- What is play? University lecture, Clark University, Worcester, MA. Feb. 10, 2015.
- What is play and why is it such a powerful vehicle for learning? Keynote address, US Coalition for Play, Clemson University, Clemson, S. Carolina. Feb. 17 (via Skype because blizzards prevented travel). Also presented via Skype at National Playwork Conference. Eastbourne, UK. March 3, 2015.
- The biology of education: how children learn through free play and exploration. Keynote at Texas Unschoolers' Conference. New Braunfels, TX. April 25, 2015.
- Why free play is essential to children's healthy social, emotional, and intellectual development. Resurrection Episcopal Day School, NY, NY. April 27, 2015. Also presented at Gan Elohim Nursery School (staff and parents), Wellesley, MA. April 30, 2015.
- The biology of education: how children learn through free play and exploration. Keynote address, Brooklyn Conference on Self-Directed Learning. Brooklyn, NY, NY. May 9, 2015.
- The biology of education: how children learn through free play and exploration. Keynote address, Irish Unschooling Conference. Galway, Ireland. May 16, 2015.
- The biology of education: how children learn through free play and exploration. Collegiate Peaks Forum Series, Buena Vista, CO, May 28, 2015.
- Play deficit disorder, and how schools could be part of the solution rather than part of the problem. Address to Buena Vista public school teachers and administrators. Buena Vista, CO May 29, 2015.
- Play deficit disorder: a worldwide crisis and how to solve it locally. Early Childhood Consultancy Conference, Inspired EC. Nelson, Bay, NSW, Australia, June 20, 2015.
- How to create educational settings that work with, not against, children's natural ways of learning. Early Childhood Consultancy Conference, Inspired EC. Nelson, Bay, NSW, Australia, June 21, 2015.
- How to design educational settings that build upon children's natural playfulness, curiosity, and creativity. Preconference workshop, INTASE Early Childhood Leadership Summit. Singapore. June 24, 2015.
- Mother Nature's pedagogy: how children learn through free play and exploration. Keynote address, INTASE Early Childhood Leadership Summit. Singapore. June 25, 2015.
- What exactly is play, and why is it so valuable for children's healthy intellectual, social, and emotional development? Plenary address, INTASE Early Childhood Leadership Summit. Singapore. June 26, 2015.
- The biology of education. Keynote address, Homeschooling Association of California. San Jose, CA. Aug. 7, 2015.
- How children learn reading and math without formal instruction. Plenary address, Homeschooling Association of California. San Jose, CA. Aug. 7, 2015.
- What exactly is play? Plenary address, Homeschooling Association of California. San Jose, CA. Aug. 8, 2015. Also given as plenary address, Children's Play Summit. Sacramento, CA. Sept. 12, 2015.
- Play deficit disorder. Public presentation at Fairytale Town, Sacramento, CA., Sept 12, 2015.
- A survey of grown unschoolers: their life experiences and retrospections. Plenary address, Life Without Instruction Conference. East Rutherford, NJ. Oct. 5, 2015.
- Why we should stop segregating children by age. Plenary address, Life Without Instruction Conference. East Rutherford, NJ. Oct. 6, 2015.
- What is self-directed education, and how do we know it works? Separate presentations to the staff, parents, and students of Castle View High School, Castle Rock, CO. Nov. 3 & 4, 2015.
- What exactly is play? Sister's U. Perkasio, PA. Nov. 19, 2015.
- The long-term harm of early academic training. Pennsylvania Early Childhood Education Summit. State College, PA. Dec. 3, 2015.
- What exactly is play, and why is it such a powerful vehicle for learning? Keynote address. Pennsylvania Early Childhood Education Summit. State College, PA. Dec. 4, 2015.
- Play deficit disorder and how to solve it locally. Follow-up to keynote. Pennsylvania Early Childhood Education Summit. State College, PA. Dec. 4, 2015.
- How free play promotes children's social, emotional, and intellectual development. Plenary address. Texas Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (TEHPERD) Convention. Dallas, TX. Dec. 5, 2015.
- Trustful parenting. Bay State Learning Center, Dedham, MA. Jan. 27, 2016.
- Education evolved. Agile Learning Center of New York. New York, NY. Jan. 28, 2016; also presented at Mosaic Agile Learning Center. Charlotte, NC. Jan. 30, 2016.

- How free play promotes children's intellectual, social, moral, and emotional development. Noroton Presbyterian Nursery School and Darien YWCA. Darien, CT., Feb. 4, 2016.
- The biology of education: how children's natural curiosity, playfulness, and sociability serve their education. San Francisco Bay Area Democratic School Startup Group. Pleasant Hill, CA. Feb. 11, 2016.
- What is play? Lextended Day, Lexington, MA, Feb. 22, 1016.
- Play deficit disorder: a national problem, and the role of cities in remedying the problem. Plenary Address. North Carolina State University College of Design, Growing IN Place Symposium, Raleigh, NC. March 17, 2016.
- The decline of play in America: Its causes, consequences, and how camps can be part of the solution. Conference of the American Camp Association, New England. Manchester, NH, April 1, 2016.
- What exactly is play, and why is it so crucial to children's social, emotional, and intellectual development? Conference of the American Camp Association, New England. Manchester, NH, April 1, 2016.
- Play deficit disorder: a national crisis and how to solve it locally. Opening Address. US Play Coalition Conference 2016: Rebooting Play. Clemson, SC. April 3, 2016.
- Decline of emotional resilience among college students: causes and potential solutions. Plenary address. Missouri State Public Affairs Conference, Building Healthy Communities. Missouri State University, Springfield, MO. April 7, 2016.
- The biology of education: how children learn through free play and exploration. Symposium on Democratic Education. Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic. April 15, 2016.
- Panel discussion of *Extraordinary Playscapes Exhibition*. Sponsored by the Design Museum Foundation, at Boston Society of Architects headquarters, Boston, MA. June 8, 2016.
- The biology of education. Keynote address at Asia Pacific Democratic Education Conference. [Also led two workshops at this conference.] Miaoli, Taiwan. July 23, 2016.
- Panel discussion of *The Land* (a film about an adventure playground in Wales). Boston Children's Museum. July 28, 2016.
- What exactly is play? Invited lecture at the University of Washington, Seattle, WA. August 4, 2016.
- Self-directed education: What is it? How does it work? how do we know it works? Annual Conference of the Alternative Education Resources Organization, Portland, OR. August 5, 2016.
- Mother Nature's pedagogy. Congres International of Ecologie de l'Enfance. Montreal, Quebec, Canada. September 24, 2016.
- What is self-directed education? AEROx conference (sponsored by the Alternative Education Resources Organization). Petersham, MA. October 1, 2016.
- What is play, and why is it such a powerful vehicle for learning? Keynote at celebration of 10th anniversary of Pacem School, Montpelier, VT.
- Schools for self-directed education: Can Guernsey lead the world into the future? TED-style talk at Thrive2020—How can Guernsey become the happiest country on earth? Guernsey. Oct. 10, 2016.
- What exactly is play? Lecture sponsored by the Discovery Museum, held at Belmont Day School, Belmont, MA. November 2, 2016.
- What exactly is play, and why is it such a powerful vehicle for learning? Keynote address at It's Child's Play and It Matters Symposium, Haliburton, ON, Canada. Nov. 4, 2016.
- Play deficit disorder. Workshop It's Child's Play and It Matters Symposium, Haliburton, ON, Canada. Nov. 4, 2016.
- Mother Nature's pedagogy: How children educate themselves through free play and exploration. Sponsored by We Learn Naturally, at McMaster Innovation Park, Hamilton, ON, Canada. Nov. 5, 2016.
- The power of play. Presentation in the Eliot Family Council Speaker Series, held at the Eliot Upper School, Boston, MA Nov. 16, 2016.
- Panel discussion of *The Land* (a film about an adventure playground in Wales). Northeastern University, Boston, MA. Nov. 21, 2016.
- Mother Nature's pedagogy: How children's natural curiosity, playfulness, and sociability serve their education. South Shore Homeschoolers group, Plymouth, MA, Jan. 9, 2017.
- What exactly is play, and why is it such a powerful vehicle for learning? Northborough Free Library, Northborough, MA: Jan. 30, 2017.
- "Free to Learn" book presentation and discussion. University Clergy-Pontoise, Paris, France, via Skype. Feb. 3, 2017.
- Mother Nature's pedagogy: How children's natural curiosity, playfulness, and sociability serve their education. Kwynote. EDiversity conference, Hong Kong, Feb. 24, 2017.
- Why we should stop segregating children by age. EDiversity conference, Workshop. Hong Kong, Feb. 24, 2017.
- Why free play is essential to children's healthy social, emotional, and intellectual development. Workshop. EDiversity conference, Hong Kong, Feb. 25, 2017.
- What exactly is play and why is it such a powerful vehicle for learning? Public talk, EDiversity conference, Hong Kong, Feb. 25, 2017.
- Biological foundations of self-directed education. Rock Tree Sky, Ojai, CA., March 5, 2017.
- Film discussion, film *Being and Becoming*. Los Angeles, CA, March 6, 2017.
- Decline of emotional resilience among adolescents and young adults: Causes and potential solutions. Flintridge Prep, LaCanada Flintridge, CA, March 7, 2017.
- Self-Directed Education. New York Agile Learning Center, March 23, 2017.
- The power of play and the joy of learning. Thacher Montessori School, Milton, MA. April 12, 2017.
- Rethinking physical activity in school settings: What kids learn in play that they can't learn in adult-direted sports or gym classes. Keynote at Healthy School Environment Conference, Texas Department of State Health Services, Corpus Christi, TX, April 25, 2017.
- Decline of play and rise of mental disorders in young people. Keynote address Association for Applied and Therapeutic Humor Preconferene Academy, Orlando, FL, April 27, 2017.

- How play and humor made human beings possible: Homo Ludens revisited. Keynote address, Association for Applied and Therapeutic Humor Conference, Orlando, FL, April 28, 2017.
- What exactly is play and why is it such a powerful vehicle for learning? Doglando University, Orlando, FL, April 29, 2017.
- Play deficit disorder: A worldwide crisis and how to solve it locally. Doglando University, Orlando, FL, April 29, 2017.
- Mother Nature's pedagogy: How children's natural curiosity, playfulness, and sociability serve their education. Tampa, FL, April 30, 2017. Sponsored by NaturePlay and Real Life Learning ALC.
- What is Self-Directed Education? How does it work? How Do We Know It Works? Sponsored by Sudbury Schule Ammersee, Lake Ammersee, Bavaria, Germany. May 13, 2017.
- Learning from evolution about childhood and education. Webinar presentation sponsored by the Evolution Institute. July 19, 2017.
- Play deficit disorder: A national crisis and how to solve it locally. Home Schoolers of California Conference, San Francisco, CA, July 28, 2017.
- Self-directed education: What it is, how it works, and why ever more families are choosing it. Home Schoolers of California Conference, San Francisco, CA, July 29, 2017.
- Grown unschoolers: Their experiences with higher education, careers, and life. Home Schoolers of California Conference, San Francisco, CA, July 30, 2017.
- Gallup study on children's free time: How it is spent, prioritized and valued. Panel discussion for public, at Gallup World Headquarters, Washington, D.C., Aug. 1, 2017.
- Four reasons why now is the time for self-directed education to take wings. Annual conference of Alternative Education Resources Organization, Post Campus of Long Island University, Aug. 4, 2017.
- Self-directed education: Why its time is now. Skype presentation to European Democratic Education Conference (held in Paris, France), Aug. 20, 2017.
- Self-directed education: What it is, how it works, and why ever more families are choosing it. Sponsored by FabNewport, Newport, RI, Aug. 27, 2017.
- The decline of play and mental health consequences of that decline. Plenary talk at triennial conference of the International Play Association, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Sept. 13, 2017.
- How to restore children's play in today's world. Plenary talk at triennial conference of the International Play Association, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Sept. 13, 2017.
- Unleashing the power of play. Kentucky Idea Festival, Louisville, KY, Sept. 27, 2017.
- What is play, and why is it such a powerful vehicle for learning? Groton-Dunstable schools, Groton, MA., Oct. 3, 2017.
- Four keynote/plenary presentations: (1) The long-term harm of early academic training; (2) The human instincts to learn; (3) What do children learn in play; and (4) How can we restore play to children's lives in and out of school? Jumpstart Early Years Leadership Symposium, sponsored by Rethasia International and Miriam College. Manila, the Philippines, Oct. 7, 2017.
- Play deficit disorder: A worldwide crisis and how to solve it locally. Presentations sponsored by Inspired EC in Australia. (1) In Melbourne, Oct. 9, 2017; (2) at Central Coast Council Admin Building, NSW, Oct. 12, 2017.
- Protecting our children from play deficit disorder: How to support children's learning through unstructured outdoor play. Sponsored by Nature Play QLD and Protecting Childhood, at St. Laurence's College, Brisbane, QLD, Australia, Oct. 13, 2017.
- Play deficit disorder: A worldwide crisis and how to solve it locally. Milford Lodge, Sunshine Coast, QLD, Australia, Oct. 14, 2017.
- Play and the Freedom to Learn. Sponsored by alumni of Boorobin Sudbury School. Gympie, QLD, Australia, Oct. 16, 2017.
- Play deficit disorder: A national crisis and how to solve it locally. Brookline public schools. Brookline, MA., Nov. 1, 2017.
- Self-Directed Education and Sudbury schools. Houston Sudbury School, Houston, TX, Nov. 4, 2017.
- Play deficit disorder: A national crisis and how to solve it locally. NAMI-NYS (National Alliance on Mental Illness, New York State) conference. Albany, NY, Nov. 10, 2017.
- Play deficit disorder: A national crisis and how to solve it locally. Wilton Youth Council and Wilton Women's Club, Wilton, CT, Nov. 15, 2017.
- The decline of play and rise of mental disorders. Ithaca Youth Bureau, Ithaca, NY. Nov. 30, 2017.
- Mother Nature's pedagogy. Philly Free School, Philadelphia, PA. Jan. 31, 2018.
- How children's natural curiosity, playfulness and sociability serve their education. Arts & Ideas School, Baltimore, MD. Feb. 1, 2018.
- Brian Sutton-Smith Lecture: The promise of play. TASP (The Association for the Study of Play) conference. Feb. 29, 2018.
- Play deficit disorder. TASP (The Association for the Study of Play) conference. Feb. 29, 2018.
- The long-term harm of early academic training. PAL conference, Lexington, MA March 19, 2018.
- What is play and why is it such a powerful vehicle for learning? PAL conference, Lexington, MA March 19, 2018.
- Self-Directed Education as a worldwide movement: Why the time is now. Freedom to Learn Forum, Summer Hill School, UK. [My presentation was remote, via Skype.] April 6, 2018.
- Self-Directed Education as a worldwide movement: Why the time is now. AEROx conference, Bethel, CT. April 7, 2018.
- Biological foundations of Self-Directed Education. MIT Media Lab. MIT, Cambridge, MA. April 18, 2018.
- What is Self-Directed Education and how do we know it works? Abrome Academy. Austin, TX. April 25, 2018.
- Play deficit disorder: A national crisis and how to solve it locally. Westbank Laura Bush Community Library, Austin, TX April 26, 2018.
- The biology of education: How children's natural curiosity, playfulness, and sociability serve their education. April 27, 2018.
- Research on outcomes of Self-Directed Education. Self-Directed Path Conference. Dallas, TX. April 28, 2018.
- Community leadership: Work of the Let Grow Foundation. Self-Directed Path Conference. Dallas, TX. April 28, 2018.
- Self-Directed Education: What is is, how it works, and why ever more families are choosing it. Tallgrass Sudbury School. Riverside, IL. May 1, 2018.
- What exactly is play and why is it such a powerful vehicle for learning? DePaul University, Lincoln Park Campus. Chicago, IL. May 2, 2018.
- The power of play and self-directed learning. Prioritizing Play Conference, KOOP Adventure Play and Popup Adventure Play. University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL. May 3, 2018.

- Trusting the child: Self-directed play and adult discomfort. Prioritizing Play Conference, KOOP Adventure Play and Popup Adventure Play. University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL. May 4, 20118.
- Play deficit disorder: A worldwide crisis and how to solve it locally. Prioritizing Play Conference, KOOP Adventure Play and Popup Adventure Play. University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL. May 5, 2018.
- Play deficit disorder: A national crisis and how to solve it locally. What's Great in Our State—Children's Mental Health Conference. New York State Museum. Albany, NY. May 8, 2018.
- How our schools thwart passions. A TEDx talk. TEDxAsbury Park, Asbury Park, NJ. May 19, 2018.
- The power of play. Pathfinder Community School. Durham, NC. June 1, 2018.
- The decline of play and rise of mental disorders. Amphitheater lecture, Chautauqua Institute. Chautauqua, NY. July 11, 2018.
- Master class on play and learning. Chautauqua Institute. Chautauqua, NY. July 11, 2018.
- Self-Directed Education, play, and language learning. Professional Development Service for Teachers workshop. Limerick, Ireland. Sept. 14, 2018.
- Play deficit disorder: A worldwide crisis and how to solve it locally. Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, Ireland. Sept. 15, 2018.
- What exactly is play, and why is it such a powerful vehicle for learning? Keynote address, Prioritizing Play Conference. Limerick, Ireland, Sept. 15, 2018.
- Mother Nature's pedagogy: How children's natural curiosity, playfulness, and sociability serve their education. Children as Citizen's Conference, Wonder of Learning. Boston, MA. Oct. 20, 2018.
- What exactly is play, and why is it such a powerful vehicle for learning? Touchstone Community School. Grafton, MA. Nov. 13, 2018.
- What exactly is play, and why is it such a powerful vehicle for learning? College lecture, Smith College. Northampton, MA. Nov. 27, 2018.
- What exactly is play, and why is it such a powerful vehicle for learning? Friends Academy. Dartmouth, MA. Nov. 28, 2018.
- How play promotes children's self-regulation, independence, and emotional resilience. Youth Thrive Initiative. Newburyport, MA. Dec. 5, 2018.
- Evolutionary perspectives in psychology and their applications to child development. Bridgewater State College, Bridgewater, MA. Dec. 11, 2018.
- Self-Directed Education as a civil rights movement. Online conference of the Alternative Education Resources Organization. Feb. 23, 2019.
- The biology of education and the value of play. An all day workshop. Child Care Aware of Minnesota: Kids First Early Childhood Conference. March 1, 2019.
- The developmental value of play. Online conference organized by Inspired EC of Australia. March 9, 2019.
- Lifelong consequences of early play. Keynote address at the U.S. Play Coalition Conference. Clemson University, Clemson, SC. April 1, 2019.
- What exactly is play, and why is it such a powerful vehicle for learning? Keynote address at Play on Early Education international conference, Athens, Greece. April 12, 2019.
- What is Self-Directed Education, and how do we know it works? Free to Learn conference sponsored by EUDEC of Greece, Athens, Greece, April 14, 2019.
- How free play promotes children's healthy social, emotional, and intellectual development. The Chestnut Hill School, Chestnut Hill, MA. April 22, 2019.
- The decline of play and rise of psychopathology. Keynote. Early Childhood Physical Activity Institute. Raleigh, NC. May 20, 2019.
- What exactly is play? Workshop. Early Childhood Physical Activity Institute. Raleigh, NC. May 20, 2019.
- Mother nature's pedagogy. Keynote. SEA Homeschoolers Online Symposium. July 24, 2019.
- Mother nature's pedagogy. Keynote. Nature-Based Early Learning Conference, North American Association for Environmental Education. July 31, 2019.
- Play deficit disorder. Early Childhood Family Education Program, Play and Early Childhood Mental Health. Hutchinson, MN. Aug. 26, 2019.
- The biology of education and the long-term harm of early academic training. Presentation to educators in Hutchinson school district. Hutchinson, MN. Aug 27, 2019.
- Why play is far more valuable than academic training for young children's mental growth. Keynote. KLAY early education conference, Bangalore, India. Sept. 5, 2019.
- What are the barriers to free play in your center and how can you overcome them? Workshop, KLAY early education conference, Bangalore, India. Sept. 5, 2019.
- How children learn. Quest Learning Community, Chennai, India. Sept. 7, 2019.
- What exactly is play and why is it such a powerful vehicle for learning? Keynote, Montana Child Care Resource and Referral Network Conference. Fairmont, Montana, Sept. 15, 2019.
- Play deficit disorder: A national crisis and how to solve it locally. Workshop, Montana Child Care Resource and Referral Network Conference. Fairmont, Montana, Sept. 16, 2019.
- Why play and self-directed education are crucial to prepare children for an ever-changing future. Harderwijk Sudbury School, Harderwijk, Netherlands. Sept. 21, 2019.
- Why play and self-directed education are crucial to prepare children for an ever-changing future. De Vrije Ruimte, the Hague, Netherlands, Sept. 23, 2019.
- Why play and self-directed education are crucial to prepare children for an ever-changing future. Sudbury School Ghent, Ghent, Belgium, Sept. 25, 2019.
- Why play and self-directed education are crucial to prepare children for an ever-changing future. Harderwijk Sudbury School, Festival Maintenant, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium. Sept. 26, 2019.
- What is Self-Directed Education and how do we know it works? Workshop, conference on democratic education, Luxembourg City, Luxembourg, Sept. 27, 2019.

- Why play and self-directed education are crucial to prepare children for an ever-changing future. Keynote, conference on democratic education, Luxembourg City, Luxembourg, Sept. 27, 2019.
- Why play and self-directed education are crucial to prepare children for an ever-changing future. Ecole Dynamique, Paris, France, Sept 28, 2019.
- Play deficit disorder. Creighton University, Omaha, NE. Oct. 3, 2019.
- Role of play in human evolution. Creighton University, Omaha, NE. Oct. 4, 2019.
- Play deficit disorder. Newton After School Association, Newton, MA. Oct. 8, 2019.
- Play and human evolution. Ludics Seminar. Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Oct. 28, 2019.
- The value of play and the consequences of its loss. Keynote. Early Child Care Professionals Conference, Madison Area Technical College, Baraboo, WI. Nov. 2, 2019.
- The harm of early academic training. Workshop. Early Child Care Professionals Conference, Madison Area Technical College, Baraboo, WI. Nov. 2, 2019.
- What is play and why is it such a powerful vehicle for learning? To faculty of Park Tudor School, Indianapolis, IN. Nov. 4, 2019.
- Play deficit disorder: A national crisis and how to solve it locally. To parents, Park Tudor School, Indianapolis, IN. Nov. 4, 2019.
- Play-based learning in multi-aged childcare setting. Family Child Care Association. Billerica, MA. Nov. 14, 2019.
- Why play and self-directed education are crucial to prepare children for an ever-changing future. Sponsored by Dat School, held at Louisiana Children's Museum. New Orleans, LA, Nov. 21, 2019.
- What exactly is play and why is it such a powerful vehicle for learning? Family Learning and the Value of Play in Museums Symposium, Canadian Museum of History and Canadian Children's Museum, Gatineau, Quebec, Canada, Dec. 4, 2019.
- Play deficit disorder. Presentation to faculty, Shrewsbury Beal School. Shrewsbury, MA, Jan. 7, 2020.
- What exactly is play and why is it such a powerful vehicle for learning? Presentation to parents and the public, Shrewsbury Schools. Shrewsbury, MA, Jan. 7, 2020.
- Mother Nature's pedagogy and the wellsprings of creativity. Sitar Arts Center, Washington DC. Jan. 25, 2020.
- What children learn in play that they can't learn in school. PepTalks, NZ (online). Jan. 28, 2020.
- Libraries as centers for Self-Directed Education. Keynote at AEROx virtual conference. Feb. 22, 2020.
- What exactly is play and why is it such a powerful vehicle for children's healthy social and psychological development? Keynote address. Recreation Connections Conference, Manitoba. Winnipeg, Manitoba. March 11, 2020.
- Play deficit disorder: A worldwide crisis and how to solve it locally. Workshop. Recreation Connections Conference, Manitoba. Winnipeg, Manitoba. March 11, 2020.
- Hidden opportunity of coronavirus school closures: Education is much more than what is taught in school. Rowe Conference Center. online. April 19, 2020;
- Biological foundations of Self-Directed Education. Learn Free Home Educators Summit. Online. May 18, 2020.
- What exactly is play and why is it such a powerful vehicle for learning? Playwork Conference, online. June 2, 2020.
- The science of play. Healthy Parenting Summit. Online. June 16, 2020.
- Trustful parenting for the homeschooler. Homeschooling conference, online. June 16, 2020.
- The power of play and fostering independence. Play, Learn, Thrive webinar. Panel. June 18, 2020.
- The obsolescence of schooling. Keynote at AERO online conference. June 25, 2020.
- Children's educative instincts: Curiosity, playfulness, sociability, and more. Sri Aria School, Malaysia. Online. July 12, 2020.
- What are the roles of adults in children's Self-Directed Education? Max Plank Institute Workshop on the Spectrum of Teaching in Humans and Other Animals. Online. July 16, 2020.
- Lessons learned from the response to COVID-19: Protecting early childhood. Panel participant. DEY Summer Institute, online. July 24, 2020.
- COVID 19 and the renewal of childhood. Play First Summit (online). July 27, 2020.
- Thinking of homeschooling? Rowe Conference Center webinar. Aug. 12, 2020.
- Coronavirus and the rediscovery of childhood. With Lenore Skenazy. Rowe Conference Center webinar. Aug. 20, 2020.
- Mother Nature's pedagogy: How children's natural curiosity, playfulness, and sociability serve their education. Keynote address. Southeast MA Professional Development Conference. Online. Sept. 18, 2020.
- Play deficit disorder: A national crisis and how early educators can help to solve it. Association for Early Learning Leaders (AELL) Annual National Conference. Keynote. Online. Sept. 23, 2020.
- Mother nature's pedagogy: children's natural ways of learning. A course, with 6 online meetings. Rowe Conference Center. Online. December 2020-Jan., 2021.
- Children's natural ways of learning and the future of education. Kfar Saba, Israel. Online. Jan. 11, 2021.
- Mother Nature's pedagogy: How children's natural curiosity, playfulness, and sociability serve their education. Keynote address. EDUCA World Education conference. Online. Feb. 25, 2021.
- How children educate themselves and how adults can help. Czech Innovative Schools Conference, Online. March 19, 2021.
- Mother Nature's pedagogy: How children's natural curiosity, playfulness, and sociability serve their education. Keynote address. Quebec Homeschooling Symposium. Online. April 22, 2021.
- What exactly is play and why is it such a powerful vehicle for learning? Keynote. Vermont Kindergarten Conference. April 28, 2021.
- How play prepares children for life's challenges. Keynote. Korean Association of Child Studies. Online. May 1, 2021.
- Children's natural route to physical fitness is play. Outdoor Education Summit. Fondatore di Biella Cresce. Italy. Online. May 3, 2021.
- What exactly is play and why is it such a powerful vehicle for learning? New Brunswick Early Childhood Conference. Online. May 6, 2021.
- Childhood freedom and independence. Dale School, Medfield, Mass. Online May 13, 2021.
- What exactly is play and why is it such a powerful vehicle for learning? Conference on learning and applied research, Okanagan College, Canada. Online May 18, 2021.
- Play your way to health and longevity. Bloom (a Canadian organization for seniors. Online May 25, 2021.

What children learn in play that they can't learn well any other way. Whitman Public Library, Whitman, MA Online June 19, 2021.

Discussions of *Free to Learn*. Strong Start Book club, 5 presentations, May and June, 2021.

Led discussions of the film *Playing for Keeps*. Various, in Spring, 2021.

Led discussions of the film *Chasing Childhood*, for various groups, 2021-2022.

The decline of play and rise of mental disorders. Unitarian Universalist Mid-Atlantic Community Conference. Online July 28, 2021.

What has COVID taught us about children, families, resilience, and homeschooling? Keynote address, homeschoolers of California Conference. Online July 31, 2021.

How to allow your child more independence and adventure without driving yourself crazy with worry. Homeschoolers of California Conference. Online July 31, 2021.

Children's natural ways of learning and the future of education. Summerhill Festival of Children. Leiston, Suffolk, England. Online October 1, 2021.

Play as vehicle for children's social, moral, emotional, and intellectual development. Forensic Psychiatry Symposium. Assen, Netherlands. Online October 7, 2021.

Play among adults: Its role in counteracting dominance and aggression and promoting cooperation. Forensic Psychiatry Symposium. Assen, Netherlands. Online October 8, 2021.

The Biology of Education. Keynote address, Timbernook Forest Schooling Conference. Greenfield, NH November 20, 2021.

The Biology of education. Karl Popper Society. Online January 10, 2022.

Play deficit disorder. Medway Public Schools. Online January 19, 2022.

What really is play, and how does it promote children's social, emotional, and intellectual development? Independent Schools Association of the Central States, webinar. March 8, 2022.

Why is play such a powerful vehicle for children's learning and development? World Education Summit. Osiris Educational, UK. Online. March 24, 2022.

Lessons taught by informal sports, not by formal sports. Boston Children's Hospital grand rounds. Online. March 28, 2022.

How children educate themselves through free play in nature. China Education Symposium 2022. Harvard Graduate School of Education. Online. April 17, 2022.

Children's playing today is key to a happy and peaceful world tomorrow. International Summit of Education for the Future. Online April 21, 2022.

What is the purpose of childhood and how can we return childhood to today's children? Boston Play Conference, Bunker Hill Community College. Online. April 23, 2022.

Chasing Childhood film talk. Development in the Early Years and Sarah Lawrence College. Online. April 26, 2022.

What is play, and why is it such a powerful vehicle for children's learning and development? Oak Crest Camps, Somerset, NJ. May 1, 2022.

Children's natural ways of learning and the future of education. Berkshire Freedom Academy. Dalton, MA. May 18, 2022.

How imposed schooling and overcontrol are causing children to suffer. Learn Free Conference. UK. May 27, 2022.

Mother Nature's pedagogy: How children are designed, by nature, to learn what they need for success in the world they are growing into. Online workshop for Education in Transition. May 6, Sept. 2, & Sept. 16, 2022.

Signs that the revolution is acerating. Keynote address to Alternative Education Resources Conference. Online. June 26, 2022.

A brief history of education and an optimist's prediction for the future. Summerhill Festival of Childhood. Online. Aug. 7, 2022.

The anxiety epidemic in children: What are the causes? Prosocial Commons. Online, Sep. 9, 2022.

..... More talks to add here.

Why free play is essential to children's healthy social, emotional, and intellectual development. Designing Outdoor Spaces for Children Conference, Sweden. Online. Sept. 9, 2022.

Self-Directed Education. Online talk to Swiss group organized by Nils Landoldt. Sept. 16, 2022.

Where do we go from here? The future of home education. GHEX European Home Education Summit. Online. Oct. 8, 2022.

What exactly is play, and why is it so crucial for healthy development? Tri-Town Council. Boxford, MA. Oct. 20, 2022.

Overcoming barriers: Trustful parenting. Parenthood: The unconference. Abu Dhabi Dept. of Education and Knowledge. Abu Dhabi, UAE. Nov. 2, 2022.

Mother Nature's pedagogy. Lynch School of Education. Boston College. Nov. 28, 2022.

What is self-directed education, and how do we know it works? Wildflower Learning Community. Sheridan, WY, Jan. 12, 2023.

Moderator for panel discussion "The parent trap: Are we raising wimps or warriors?" Jewish Community Center Boston and WGBH radio. Jan. 25, 2023.

School-Related Stress and Anxiety. Embark Center. Online presentation. Jan. 31, 2023.

The long-term harm of early academic training. Keynote address to Children at the Heart of the Matter Conference. Surrey, British Columbia. Feb. 4, 2023.G

Play deficit disorder: A world-wide crisis and how early educators can help to solve it. Workshop at Children at the Heart of the Matter Conference. Surrey, British Columbia. Feb. 4, 2023.

What Play Is and What It Isn't. Camp Renegade Play Summit. Online Feb. 15, 2023.

What exactly is play, and why is it so crucial for healthy development? Winchester Coalition for a Safer Community. Winchester, MA. March 1, 2023.

Play deficit disorder: A worldwide crisis and how to solve it locally. Online to Stem Con. April 15, 2023.

Three videos for parents. Big Life Journal. April 16, 2023.

Good intentions gone too far: how our drive to educate and protect our children has deprived them of the independence they need for mental health. Siena College. Loudonville, NY. April 17, 2023.

Mother nature's pedagogy: how children's natural curiosity, playfulness, and sociability serve their education. Online to International Conference on Alternative Education. Poland, May 26, 2023.

What is self-determined education, and how do we know it works? Online to European Union Democratic Education Conference, Poland, June 3, 2023.

- The education revolution is occurring now and here are ways to speed it up. Alternative Education Resources Conference. Long Island University. Long Island, NY. June 24, 2023.
- Mother nature's pedagogy: How children's natural curiosity, playfulness, and sociability serve their education. Online to Dubai, UAE. July 14, 2023.
- How play promotes children's social, emotional, and intellectual development. Online Early Education Conference. Sept. 9, 2023.
- How free play promotes children's healthy social and emotional development. New Hampshire Dept. of Education webinar. Oct. 3, 2023, and again Feb. 21, 2024..
- What is Self-Directed Education, and how do we know it works? Online to International Democratic Education Conference, Nepal. Oct. 19, 2023.
- What exactly is play and why is it so valuable for children's social, emotional, and intellectual development? Online to Wakefield Public Schools, Wakefield, MA. Oct. 25, 2023.
- How free play promotes children's intellectual development. New Hampshire Dept. of Education webinar. Nov. 1, 2023 and again March 13, 2024.
- What exactly is play, and why is it so valuable for children's social, emotional, and intellectual development? Montessori Foundations of Chicago. Nov. 4, 2023.
- Biological foundations for self-directed education. Online to Self-Directed Learning Forum, Prague, Czech Republic. Nov. 7, 2023.
- The science of reducing anxiety and raising resilient and happy kids. Trinity and Dalton schools, New York, NY. Nov. 8, 2023.
- Biological foundations for self-directed education. Online to Bavaria, Germany, Conference on Self-Directed Education. Nov. 11, 2023.
- The special value of age-mixed play. New Hampshire Dept. of Education webinar. Nov. 15, 2023; and again April 18, 2024.
- Raising resilient, happy children. Holocene, NYC. Online presentation. Jan. 22, 2024.
- What exactly is play and why is it so valuable for children's social, emotional, and intellectual development? A Healthy Lynnfield. Lynnfield, MA Feb. 7, 2024.
- Free play and self-directed learning. U, London, UK. Online presentation. Feb. 27, 2024.
- The decline of play and rise of mental disorders among children and teen. Collin College, Plano, TX. May 2, 2024.
- What is Self-Directed Education, and how do we know it works? Online presentation to European Union Democratic Education Conference, The Netherlands. Aug. 1, 2024.
- We are depriving kids of the freedoms they need for healthy development. Providence, RI. Conference sponsored by Rhode Island Family Court, for state officials working with children. Sept. 9, 2024.
- What exactly is play, and why is it so valuable for children's social, emotional, and intellectual development? Presentation to parents at High Meadows School, Roswell, GA. Sept 17, 2024.
- Workshop (three hours) on the value of play for faculty and staff of High Meadows school, Roswell, GA, Sept 18, 2024.
- Research into Self-Directed Education and the value of play. Gabelli Scholars presentation, Boston College. Sept. 24, 2024.
- The long-term harm of early academic training. Waldorf School of Philadelphia. Oct. 24, 2024.
- What is play and why is it such a powerful vehicle for learning? Online. New Brunswick Early Learning and Child Care Professional Development. Nov. 2, 2024.
- Roles of play and other independent activity in children's wellbeing. Online. Center for Anxiety and Behavioral Change colloquium. Nov. 21, 2024.
- What is Self-Directed Education and how do we know it works? Keynote at InspirED conference. Columbus, Ohio. Nov. 11, 2024.
- How play and other independent activities promote children's healthy psychological development. Medway public schools. Medway, MA. Dec. 4, 2024.
- What exactly is play, and why is it such a powerful vehicle for children's development and learning? Online presentation to Hanahau'oli School. Honolulu, Hawaii. March 6, 2025.
- What exactly is play, and why is it such a powerful vehicle for children's development and learning? Online keynote address: EWFCCA Conference. March 8, 2025.
- Play Deficit Disorder: A Worldwide Crisis and How Early Childhood Educators Can Help to Solve It. Online workshop. EWFCCA Conference. March 8, 2025.
- Mother Nature's Pedagogy: How Children's Natural Curiosity, Playfulness, Sociability, and Willfulness Serve Their Education. Online workshop. EWFCCA Conference. March 8, 2025.
- The Long-Term Harm of Early Academic Training. Online workshop. EWFCCA Conference. March 8, 2025.
- Raising resilient, happy children. Lincoln Nursery School. Lincoln, MA. April 15, 2025.
- Raising resilient, happy children. Recreation and Youth Services, Newburyport, MA. April 16, 2025.
- What exactly is play, and why is it such a powerful vehicle for children's development and learning? Keynote address, New Brunswick Teachers Association Day of Professional Learning. Miramichi, New Brunswick, Canada. May 2, 2025.
- How to enable more play and independent activity for children in today's world. Workshop. New Brunswick Teachers Association Day of Professional Learning. Miramichi, New Brunswick, Canada. May 2, 2025.
- What exactly is play, and why is it such a powerful vehicle for children's development and learning? Keynote address (online). The Manitoba Child Care Association. May 23, 2025.
- Play Deficit Disorder: A Worldwide Crisis and How Early Childhood Educators Can Help to Solve it. Online workshop: The Manitoba Child Care Association. May 23, 2025.
- Mother Nature's Pedagogy: How Children's Natural Curiosity, Playfulness, and Sociability Serve Their Education. Online workshop: The Manitoba Child Care Association. May 23, 2025.
- How to Create Educational Settings that Work With, Not Against, Children's Natural Ways of Learning. Online workshop: The Manitoba Child Care Association. May 23, 2025.
- How Restrictions on Children's Freedom Impair Their Mental Health: A 75-Year History of Childhood in America. Keynote address. AERO conference, Manchester, NH. June 28, 2025.
- Four-hour workshop on play and education. Japanese Early Childhood Educators Tour Group. Boston College. Aug. 28, 2025.

How Lack of Play and Other Independent Activity Has Impaired the Mental Health of Children and Teens. Grand rounds presentation, online. University of Pennsylvania, Department of Continuing Medical Education. Sept. 22, 2025.

Mother Nature's Prescription for Mental Wellbeing. International Conference on Physical Activities and Mental Health. Korkor Foundation for Mental Health. Pewaukee, WI. Sept. 27, 2025/

How Children Learn Reading and Math Without Formal Instruction. Home Education Network, Australia. Online presentation. Sept. 29, 2025.

Raising Resilient, Happy Children. October 5, 2025. South Shore Digital Wellness. Scituate, MA Oct. 5, 2025.

Four hour workshop on play and learning. Disney Junior Educational Resources Group. Online. Oct. 8, 2025.

Forces That Have Brought Kids Indoors, and How to Get Kids Out Again. Natural Learning Initiative Conference, College of Design, NC State University. Oct. 21, 2025.

Long-term harm of early academic training. Keynote address. Eduforum. Slovakia. Online. Nov. 9, 2025.

Mother Nature's Pedagogy. Eduforum. Slovakia. Online. Nov. 9, 2025.

How to Improve School Climate. Boston College High School presentation to faculty. Nov. 24, 2025.

How Lack of Play and Other Independent Activity Has Impaired the Mental Health of Children and Teens. Grand rounds presentation, Dartmouth Medical School/ Dartmouth Children's. Dec. 3, 2025.

Mother Nature's Prescription for Mental Wellbeing: The Power of Play and Other Independent Activity Adolescent Health Symposium, Online. University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, Feb. 12, 2026.

The Let Grow Program to Promote Free Play and Other Independent Activity for Schoolchildren. Webinar for Play Wales. Cardiff, Wales. Feb. 26, 2026.

Evolutionary Functions of Play: Practice, Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation. National Playwork Conference, Eastbourne, England, March 3, 2026.

Restoring Childhood and Ending the Youth Mental Health Crisis. National Playwork Conference, Eastbourne, England, March 4, 2026.

Mother nature's pedagogy: how children's natural curiosity, playfulness, and sociability serve their education. Japan Education of Art Association (JEARA). Tokyo, Japan. Online. March 17, 2026.

Mother nature's pedagogy: how children's natural curiosity, playfulness, and sociability serve their education. Resources for Infant Education (RIE) Conference, Northridge, California. Online. March 28, 2026.

Restoring Childhood: What We Must Do to Resolve the Mental Health Crisis Among Young Americans. West Roxbury Library, April 13, 2026.

Mother nature's pedagogy: how children's natural curiosity, playfulness, and sociability serve their education. U.S. Play Coalition Conference, Bloomington, IN. April 29, 2026.

Expert Witness on Self-Directed Education

Served as expert witness in a case involving dispute between parents on where their children would be educated. Officially declared to be "expert on self-directed education," Feb. 10, 2017. Family Court, Brooklyn, NY, Feb. 10 & April 18, 2017.

Consulting Services:

Consultant to Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates for development of Kendall Square revitalization proposal to the City of Cambridge, MA.

Consultant to Toca Boca. Wrote essays on play as part of their free play campaign. 2014-2015.

Consultant to Wiley Rein LLP, expert engagement in building defense of parents accused of negligence for free range parenting practices. April, 2015.

Consultant on college curriculum reform, Saint Joseph's College, Rensselaer, IN. June 5-7, 2018.

Consultant to Genfoot Corporation (Kamik) for their outdoor free play campaign. 2018 to 2019.

Consultant to Parent Lab Inc. for development of advice for parents. 2019 to present.

Prepared plans for three research studies for New Hampshire Department of Education. 2020.

Advisor to A Scientific Investigation of Student Wellbeing and Play-Based Intervention Programming in New Hampshire Elementary Schools. Boston College. April 2022 – present.

Evaluator of Psychology Departments and Programs:

Outside evaluator for grant-supported development of laboratory courses in psychology at Northeastern University, 1992-1993.

Outside evaluator of the Carleton College Psychology Department, Feb. 15-17, 1993.

Outside evaluator of the Colgate University Psychology Department, Feb. 8-10, 1998.

Outside evaluator of University of Maine (Orono) Psychology Department, April 1-2, 2010.

Courses Taught at Boston College:

Advanced Seminar in Physiological Psychology
Apprenticeship in the Teaching of Psychology
Biopsychology

Childrearing and Education: A Psychobiological Perspective
Developmental Psychology: Special Topics. (graduate)
Evolution of Behavior
Evolutionary Psychology
Experimental Psychology
History of Psychology (taught part of course)
Introduction to Psychology as a Natural Science (Psych I)
Introduction to Psychology as a Social Science (Psych II)
Major Themes in Psychological Thought
Physiological Psychology
Psychology of Play (graduate and undergraduate)
Proseminar in Psychological Theory (graduate)
Research Practicum in Physiological Psychology
Research Workshop. (graduate)
Seminar in College Teaching
Sensation and Perception
Society and Behavior Control (honors seminar)
Statistics
Theories of Learning