

# REC 200 – PLAY, CREATIVITY, AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

## Play History – Assignment Outline Spring 20xx

This assignment is intended to explore play in its natural habitat – your life. Working individually, you will explore your own play by creating play profiles using a modified version of a technique called photovoice. Using the information you collect, along with your knowledge of the course material and reflection, this assignment will enhance your understanding of play, its role for children, its role in continuing development, and its continued role for university students.

### Learning Outcomes

By the end of this assignment, learners will be able to:

- Show comprehension of theories of play and development discussed in class
- Demonstrate reflective understanding of the theories and concepts presented in class
- Reflect on the role of play in the lives of children and young adults
- Demonstrate an understanding of the basic premise and execution of photovoice

**Due Date: This assignment is due Thursday \*Date\***

### What is Photovoice?

Photovoice is a process during which people use photo images to represent their community, experience, or point of view. The pictures are then used, usually with captions composed by the photographer, to illustrate the realities of the photographers' lives. It is a way of providing opportunity and tools for a different kind of representation of thoughts, feelings, and experiences.

Photovoice is often used to reveal perspectives of those whose voices are marginalized or underrepresented.

**For more information on Photovoice, see:**

- Wang, C. & Burris, M.A. (1997). Photovoice: Concept, Methodology, and Use for Participatory Needs Assessment. *Health Education & Behavior*, 27(3), 369-387.
- Palibroda, B., Krieg, B., Murdock, L., & Havelock, J. (2009). A practical guide to photovoice: Sharing pictures, telling stories and changing communities. *Winnipeg (MB): Prairie Women's Health Network*. Available at [http://www.pwhce.ca/photovoice/pdf/Photovoice\\_Manual.pdf](http://www.pwhce.ca/photovoice/pdf/Photovoice_Manual.pdf) or on LEARN.

## What will you be doing?

For this project, you will be completing a modified form of Photovoice to illustrate your life at play as a child. It is modified in the sense that you will be collecting old and new artifacts to represent your childhood experience of play.

### **Part I: Create a visual play history**

Using the program of your choice (e.g., PowerPoint, Word, Publisher, etc.), you will develop a play history of your life during your elementary school years (approximately 4-11 years of age). This play history should use artifacts such as: photographs; home videos; reflections from yourself, family, and/or friends (written, voice recorded, or filmed in the present day); etc.

You are encouraged to be creative with your artifacts; as long as they can be submitted electronically, they are acceptable to include (e.g., if you want to include a friendship bracelet that you made, take a photo of it – and yes, a video or voice recording also count as artifacts). In the event that you would like to share an image of something that you no longer have, perhaps a special toy, find the image online and credit it using APA formatting.

This play history should capture aspects of your life at play such as (but not limited to):

- Where you played
- With whom you played
- How you played
- Favourite toys, games, activities, crafts, etc.
- What people/things/places were important to your play life

You will be given a full day off of class (\*Date\*) to work on obtaining the artifacts for your project—contact your family and friends, go through digital photo albums, flip through your baby book, reminisce with your siblings, etc.

**There is no excuse for not submitting a detailed and robust play history.**

You must include 15 artifacts—no more, no less. Each artifact must be accompanied by a narrative (i.e., you will have 15 artifacts and 15 written narratives).

**Each** narrative must be at least 150 words in length and will explain:

- What the artifact is or represents
- Why you chose to include this person/place/thing
- Why this artifact was selected as an important part of your play history
- How you used/played with this item/in this space

**Example:**

Meet Ookpik. Ookpik is a toy made by Inuit people in Cambridge Bay (*Iqaluktuuttiaq*) on the southern shore of Victoria Island in Nunavut. I got Ookpik on a trip to Cambridge Bay when I was six, and it has been a faithful companion to me ever since. Ookpik is a soft toy made from rabbit fur and caribou leather that looks (kind of) like a snowy owl. Ookpik is part of my play history because it represents many years of companionship and comfort in my life, as well as a way that I was able to relive the really cool adventure I had while travelling above the Arctic Circle. Ookpik and I did all kinds of things together after I got it, including travelling together when I had to stay at relatives houses, building houses for Ookpik out of blocks, and keeping my bed safe at home when I was not using it. Ookpik did a lot of hanging out with Honey Bunny, who you can see in the background in this photo. I still have Ookpik, and even have a mini Ookpik which I will give to my son when he is old enough.

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**Part 2: Reflection Questions**

In a **separate document**, you will respond to three reflection questions. In total, your three responses may be a **maximum** of five pages, double-spaced, 12-pt standard font. There is no page minimum.

The questions are:

1. According to Isenberg and Jalongo (2014), there are at least five essential characteristics of play (in class, I expanded the list to 8, also using Henle [2013]). Which of these characteristics did you exhibit/describe in your play history? Please provide specific details and examples for each characteristic that you outline.
2. We have examined a variety of types of play (e.g., symbolic play, social play). Citing appropriately, describe at least two types of play that you engaged in/described. Please provide specific examples.
3. We have explored a variety of theories of play (both modern and classical). Citing appropriately, describe one theory of play, and how it relates to your play life. Please use specific examples.

**Formatting notes:**

- Your assignment should have a title page.
- Please divide your reflection question section by numbering each question. This helps with clarity.
- You must follow APA 6<sup>th</sup> Edition formatting rules as outlined in the document on LEARN or using the APA 6<sup>th</sup> edition guide (available online or in the bookstore).
- While you can use Word, PowerPoint, or some other program to create your play history file. You should use a word processor to create your written assignment. Each part of the assignment should be saved as a PDF. This document must be both Mac and PC-compatible. Marks will be deducted for improper file format.
  - Your dropbox should have two files properly labelled as submissions.

**A note on creativity:**

We are certainly interested in your thoughts and creativity with an assignment like this. If you feel that you have a creative idea about the way you present the photovoice and narrative portions of this assignment (the reflection section should be presented as indicated in the assignment), please meet with me after class or in my office to discuss it.

**Any creative assignment options must be approved by Luc prior to the submission deadline.** Assignments submitted without prior approval will be marked as regular assignments.

**A Special note:**

I understand that some (or all) of the components of this assignment might be challenging (or impossible) to complete for some students. There are all kinds of reasons for this (damage/destruction of childhood artifacts, photos, etc.; childhood in precarious circumstances; difficult/no relationship with parents; many others), and each/all of these reasons are valid and important to acknowledge. If you, while considering how to complete this assignment or while attempting to complete this assignment, encounter this type of challenge, please contact me. There are ways that this assignment can be modified so that it is a positive experience for you, and a way to have a good quality engagement with the course material.

This assignment should not cause you hardship. If it does, please be in touch with me directly.

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## Play History Assignment Evaluation

Assignment Component	Marks
<b>Artifacts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Artifacts are representative of your life at play in a variety of ways, including: where you played, with whom you played, how you played, what you played with, etc.</li> <li>The artifacts demonstrate thoughtful reflection on various dimensions of your life at play (i.e., they do not have a narrow focus on one or two things)</li> <li>The artifacts demonstrate a great deal of effort to collect and curate interesting, diverse representations of your life at play</li> </ul>	<b>/7.5</b>
<b>Narratives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The narratives help illustrate your life at play as represented in the accompanying artifact</li> <li>The narratives are thoughtful and reflective</li> <li>It is clear which narrative connects to which artifact (i.e., your visual play history is well-organized)</li> </ul>	<b>/7.5</b>
<b>Reflection Questions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You have addressed each question in full</li> <li>Your discussion is clear and thoughtful</li> <li>Your writing follows a logical sequence of ideas</li> <li>Your responses demonstrate a firm grasp on the course content and how it relates to your personal play history</li> </ul>	<b>/45</b>
<b>Assignment Guidelines Followed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The correct number of artifacts (15) has been used</li> <li>Each artifact is accompanied by a narrative at least 150 words in length</li> <li>The play history focused on the correct age range - (approximately 4-11 years)</li> <li>Part I and Part II are submitted correctly in the proper document format</li> </ul>	<b>/5</b>
<b>Formatting &amp; Style</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grammar and spelling</li> <li>Clarity and depth of writing</li> <li>APA (6th edition) used correctly for both citations, references, and formatting</li> </ul>	<b>/10</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>/75</b>