

Central Alberta Regional Consortium

Working Together: Making a Difference



Promoting student achievement and school improvement through professional development.

Student Engagement through Play: How it Shapes the Brain, Opens the Imagination and Invigorates the Soul (Gr.4-12) *with Stuart Brown*

Date: **Friday, November 18, 2011**

Venue: **Black Knight Inn**

Time: **9:00 am - 3:30 pm**

Address: **2929 50 Ave.**

Cost: **\$60**

Lunch: **Lunch is Included**

This session is made possible through a grant from Alberta Education

Who should attend? Early childhood professionals in Alberta, including Kindergarten to Grade 3 teachers, preschool and pre-Kindergarten teachers, support staff, multidisciplinary teams, speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, psychologists, teacher assistants, early childhood providers, daycare operators, principals, and administrators, are encouraged to attend.

About the session: How do we ensure students are engaged in their learning? What is it that triggers our emotional engagement with the world? What holds attention, and helps to craft our uniquely human social brain, and when developmentally attuned to the individual player fosters progressive mastery? A close look at the evolution, characteristics of play behaviours, and the growing data on the relationship of play to performance, emotional regulation and overall well being will be presented. The consequences of play deprivation to individual life or culture will likewise be reviewed. Because play is the genesis of innovation and real-world problem solving, we will focus on how play can be integrated into the classroom in grades 4 through 12 so students' and teachers' play natures are activated, turned on, tuned in and creatively sparked.

About the facilitator: **Stuart Brown:** Trained in general and internal medicine, psychiatry and clinical research, Dr. Stuart Brown first recognized the importance of play by discovering its absence in the life stories of murders and felony drunken drivers. His years of clinical practice affirmed the importance and need for healthy play throughout the human life cycle and his independent scholarship and exploration of the evolution of human and animal play have led to the establishment of the National Institute for Play. The Mission of the National Institute for Play (NIFP) is to bring the unrealized knowledge, practices and benefits of play into public life. Dr. Brown was the instigator and Executive Producer of the three-part PBS series, "The Promise of Play." His experience as a medical administrator, producer, and scientific consultant or creator to numerous other productions on Joseph Campbell, Cosmology, Animal Play, plus his scientific and popular writings have identified him as the foremost "practical champion of the knowledge of play." Dr. Brown's recent book is the title of his speech: *Play: How it Shapes the Brain, Opens the Imagination, and Invigorates the Soul.*

Register Online at: <http://www.carcpd.ab.ca>

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