



Southern California Association for the Education of Young Children

Voices for Play Leadership Initiative

*Growing a New Generation of Advocates
Committed to the Importance of Play*

Calling All Professionals Working with Young Children and Their Families!

The **Play Matters! Committee** of the Southern California Association for the Education of Young Children (SCAEYC) is pleased to announce the launch of its new leadership initiative, **VOICES FOR PLAY**.

VOICES FOR PLAY reaffirms the connection between play and healthy child development, providing research-based information that recognizes play as essential to learning and overall functioning of the developing brain. **VOICES FOR PLAY** will grow the next generation of empowered leaders and advocates across professional disciplines who will speak with a common voice about the importance of play in young children's lives.

Four intensive full-day seminars will be offered to professional leaders from throughout Los Angeles County. Seminars will feature noted presenters with expertise in play theory and practice within various disciplines, and opportunities to play and learn with other seminar participants. Special emphasis will be placed on building participants' leadership and advocacy skills. At the conclusion of the training and the satisfactory completion of requirements, participants will be recognized as a **VOICES FOR PLAY LEADER**. Three continuing education credits will be available through UCLA Extension for \$250.

Marilyn McGrath, a passionate advocate for the importance of play in children's lives, will help to lead this ground-breaking series of seminars.



Play Matters! was established in 2002 by early childhood pioneer, Docia Zavitkovsky, and her daughter, Ann, to support early childhood programs in placing play at the heart of children's lives. Play Matters! is now a Committee of SCAEYC.



Voices for Play Leadership Initiative Application Information

General Information

- Location:** Sessions will be held at various “Playful” locations
- Seminar Dates:** **Saturday’s, October 14, 21, 28, and November 4, 2017**
- Fees:** \$100. Due upon acceptance into **VOICES FOR PLAY**.

Participant Requirements

The **Play Matters! Committee** is seeking applicants from a broad spectrum of disciplines and professions serving young children. Applicants must agree to:

- attend all four sessions,
- develop and implement play advocacy plans following the conclusion of the seminars
- attend follow up meetings with other participants and members of the **Play Matters! Committee**,
- assist **Play Matters! Committee** members in recruiting and training future play advocates. Participants will be assigned an experienced play advocate to serve as a mentor and support in carrying out play advocacy plans.

Application Process

To apply for consideration in the **VOICES FOR PLAY LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE**, please submit a letter of interest in which you describe:

- what is most personally compelling to you about promoting the importance of play
- how you have demonstrated your commitment to play
- your experience in developing playful experiences for children within your profession
- examples of your role as a persuasive leader
- your educational experience and/or Degrees that would strengthen your role as a voice for play

Please accompany your letter with a recent resume containing contact information and two letters of recommendation from individuals who are familiar with your work with children in your discipline and your leadership skills over an extended period of time.

**Please return your letter, resume and letters of recommendation online to:
playmattersla@gmail.com**

Applications should be received by July 21, 2017