



**PLAYWORKS**  
for every kid

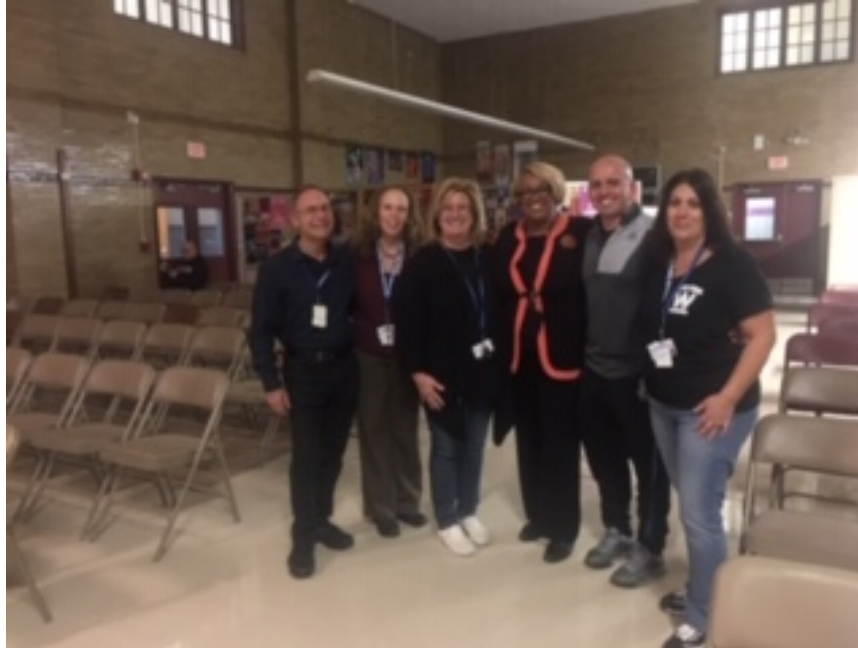
# Facts About Play, Leisure, Recreation and Refreshment

- **In the past two years our schools implemented Responsive Classroom at the elementary level.**
- **Responsive Classroom provided a lot of information about recess, and it is then that I began to further explore recess.**
- **Playworks was introduced in January 2018 as it complimented our work with Responsive Classroom.**

# IMPLEMENTATION OF PLAYWORKS

- Principals
- Lunch and Recess Staff
- Several Para Professionals
- Several parents from PTO.
- Each elementary school developed a facilitator from each school building.
- Later each facilitator was invited to attend our district committee which includes facilitators from Responsive Classroom

The difference between success and failure is a great team.



# What is Playworks?

**Playworks helps kids to stay active and build valuable life skills through play**

# What is Playworks?

**Through Playworks we can change the school culture by leveraging the power of safe, fun and healthy play everyday.**

# What is Playworks?

**Through Playworks we can create a place for every child to feel included, active, and build valuable SEL skills.**

# What is Playworks?

**Through Playworks we can  
build an opportunity for  
children to explore  
imagination, and to connect to  
other children.**



# What is Play?

**Play is an activity engaged in  
for enlightenment and  
recreation especially by  
children.**

How has play changed in comparison to your own experiences as a child?

**Using the dry erase board,  
please share your perspectives  
as a child. Did you enjoy  
playtime?**

# MISSION STATEMENT

**On our playground, Everyone plays.**

**Everyone belongs.**

**Everyone contributes to the game.**



# Foundations of Success

## ENGAGED STAFF

Playing at Recess - Modeling - Proactive Group Management

## Power of Play

Enthusiasm - Try it On - Tackling Barriers

## STRONG SYSTEMS

Game of the Week - Teacher Rotations - Equipment Checkout



# Help Make Play Happen

- Get your students excited about getting into games before recess
- Check-in with students after recess about how it went
- Set recess goals (how many high fives can they give, how long can they play, can they try a new game, etc)
- Support transitions (from class to recess, recess to class, etc)
- Get on the playground and PLAY--jump in a game
- Talk about your favorite recess games with students
- Lead the game of the week!



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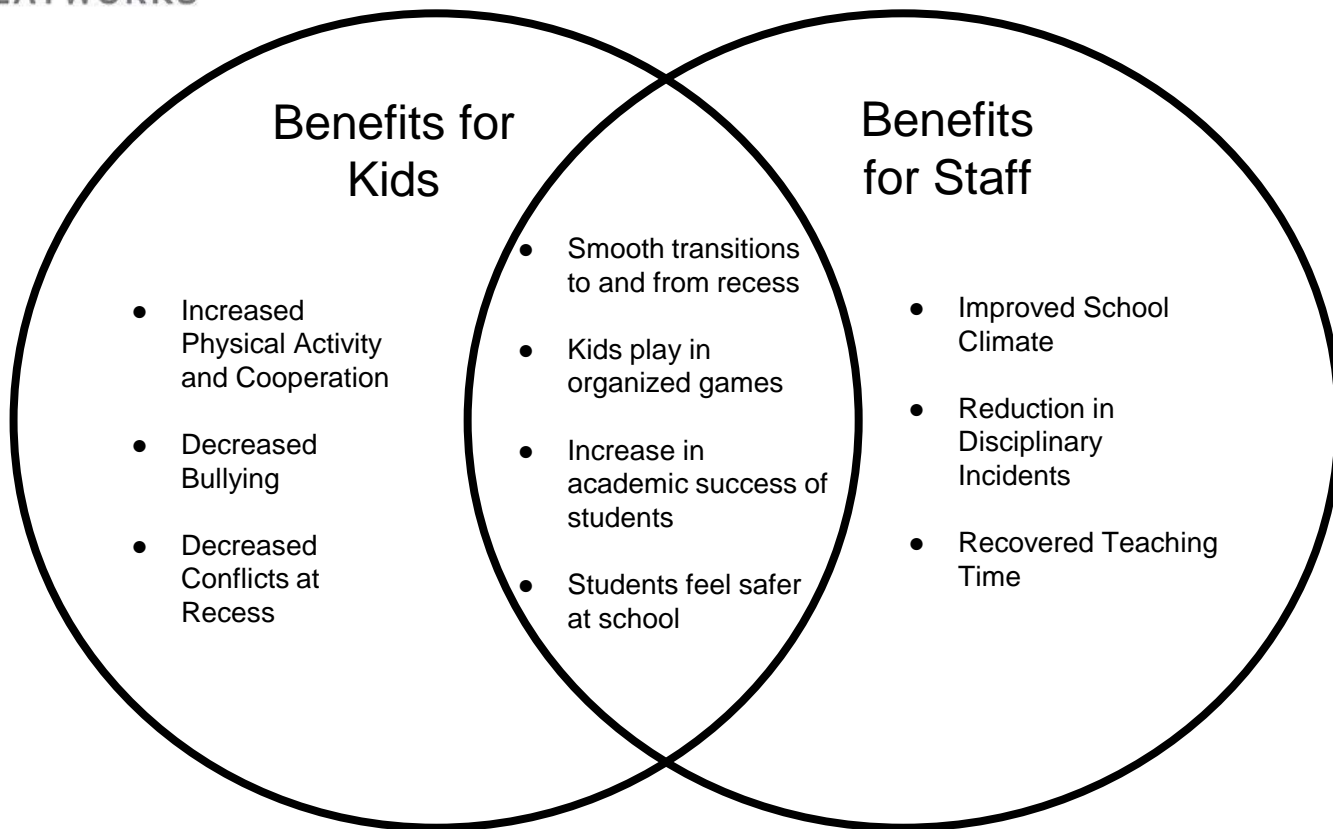
# New Recess Systems

- Equipment Check In and Check Out System
  - Students respect equipment
  - Equipment is kept organized
  - We continue to review equipment needs for indoor/outdoor recess (Giant Connect Four, Giant Legos, Blocks, Giant Jenga, Giant Checkers)
- Game of the Week System
  - Selected high engagement games
  - Designated teacher facilitator
- Teacher Supervision/Rotation
  - Monitoring and modeling



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# Program Benefits



# It is a better recess!

It decreases  
injury...  
making the  
students feel  
more safe!

It is only our  
first full year!

The students  
are “getting” it!

It is a work in  
progress!

We are still  
learning and  
growing!



# What a Better Recess Does

## Conflict Resolution

Recess doesn't have to be chaotic. At a better recess, kids acquire tools to work out disagreements and differences.

~Ro-Sham-Bo!  
~Hi-five! Nice try!

## Leadership Skills

When they're playing amongst their peers, kids have a valuable opportunity to develop a sense of fairness, confidence, and communication

## Academic Success

Kids who are engaged during recess are more likely to participate in class, which means better attendance and better grades.

# PLAYWORKS SCHOOLS HAVE LESS BULLYING

Playworks teachers report less bullying and exclusionary behavior than teachers at schools without Playworks.<sup>1</sup>



96% of teachers agree that Playworks reinforces positive behavior during recess (n=139)



91% of teachers agree that Playworks helped students stay out of trouble (n=139)

There was a lot of bullying going on in the past. I think there's less room for that when you have set rules and you have good supervision, and everybody's having fun. It just eliminates the opportunity for bullying to happen.

*Teacher at a Playworks School*

# STUDENTS ARE READY TO LEARN

Playworks teachers report less time to transition from recess to learning.<sup>2</sup>



27% less time to transition from recess to classroom learning at a Playworks school



# STUDENTS FEEL SAFER AT RECESS

Teachers at Playworks schools say students are safer and more inclusive at recess.<sup>3</sup>



99% of teachers agree that Playworks provides positive experience for students during recess (n=139)



PLAYWORKS

Source: Statistically significant findings from "Findings from a Randomized Experiment of Playworks: Results from Cohort 1", Mathematica Policy Research, 2012.

1. n=245. Significantly different from zero at the .05 level, two-tailed test.

2. n=238. Significantly different from zero at the .10 level, two-tailed test.

3. n=244. Significantly different from zero at the .01 level, two-tailed test.



Modeling participation

Becoming a leader

RECESS LAB

  
PLAYWORKS

# Attention Getters!

5,4,3,2,1 Clap

“If you hear me...”

Give me 5...4,3,2,1

Chime

# Games!

## Today's Games!!!

1. Builders and Bulldozers!
2. Switch!
3. Bridge Ball!

## Our Core Games!

1. Cone Guardian
  2. Switch
  3. Bridge Ball
  4. Four Square
- \*And other choices!

# Cheers and Games!

Banana Cheer! <https://youtu.be/6cMCxxx7tyU>

Four Square: <https://youtu.be/3snA-57CiX8>

Milkshake Cheer! <https://youtu.be/HLo4PZi4JWw>

Ro Sham Bo! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f6B8PDbuQVs&list=PLUzkj62uSVRyik6jridqOlrFITxzUrftc>

Get Loose Cheer! <https://youtu.be/hVYhuAsZz38>

# TRAINING FOR PLAYWORKS

## RECESS IMPLEMENTATION OUTCOMES

By the end of the workshop,  
participants will:

1. Identify games and strategies for implementing play at recess
2. Identify three lenses for assessing the quality of recess using the Great Recess Framework (GRF)
3. Develop a recess design for their site that aligns with the GRF/Recess Indicators
4. Develop an action plan to implement the recess design

## AGENDA

Recess Value  
Great Recess Framework  
Recess Indicators  
Recess Design  
Recess Action Plan

STAFF



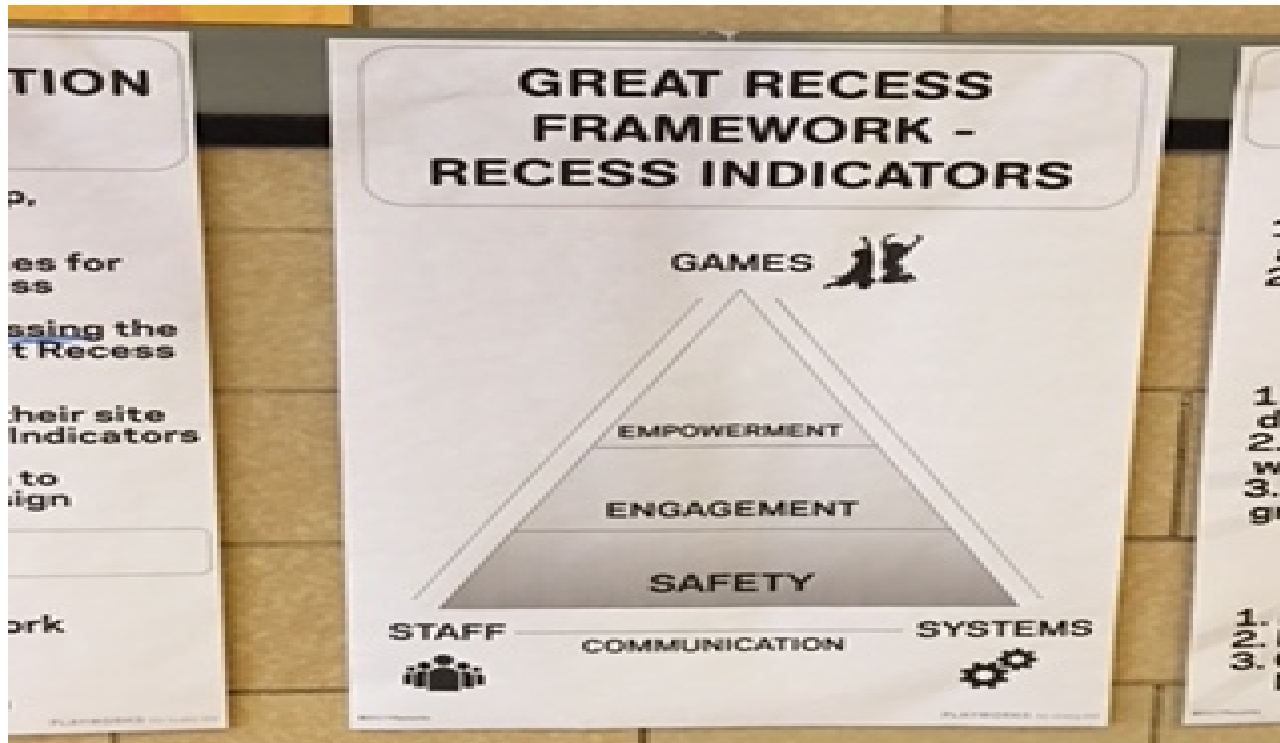


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**On our playground, kids play hard, cheer loud, and high five until their hands sting, and it's this feeling of peace and belonging that they carry with them into our classrooms, back to their neighborhoods, and out into the world.**



# FRAMEWORK FOR RECESS INDICATORS





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How can we make this happen?

**"Coming together is a beginning.  
Keeping together is progress.  
Working together is success." --  
*Henry Ford***