



**Falk College Office of Human Development and Family Science**



### **Mini-Conference**

**Play, Early Childhood Development, and Education**

**Topic: Play in Medical and Community-Health Contexts**

**Friday - April 5, 2024**

**9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (EST)**

**Falk 100 White Hall**

**or**

**[Zoom](#)**

This yearly Mini-Conference on Play, Early Childhood Development, and Education is sponsored by the Department of Human Development and Family Science, Falk College, Syracuse University in collaboration with Department of Curriculum and Instruction, College of Education, The Pennsylvania State University, and College of Education, The Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania--Bloomsburg University.

This year, the focus is on play in medical settings. It will be held on April 5, 2024. The conference emphasizes the promotion of developmentally and culturally appropriate practices in early childhood development and education by highlighting the interplay among risk and protective factors, child development, and early education in different ecological niches across the world. This conference aims to increase interdisciplinary understanding of the role of family, community, and educational practices in childhood development and to

collaborate with institutions and agencies around the world. This year's topic is: **Play in Medical and Community-Health Contexts**. The goal is to increase understanding of how play assists children and families facing stressors associated with illness, injury, hospitalization, trauma, and loss.

**Sponsor and host:** Syracuse University

**Collaborating Institutions:** Department of Psychology, Anton de Kom University of Suriname; University of Guyana Early Childhood Centre of Excellence (UG-ECCE), Guyana; Psychology Program, St. George's University, Grenada; Department of Early Childhood Education, Shortwood Teachers' College, Jamaica; ANSA McAI Psychological Research Centre at The University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago.

**Presenters: (9 a.m.-11:30 a.m.)**

**Greetings:** Colleen Baish Cameron, Syracuse University

**Introduction:** The Power of Play: A global perspective, Jaipaul L. Roopnarine

**Playrooms, Power, and Personhood in Pediatric Healthcare Settings –**

Dr. Jessika Boles, Psychology and Human Development, Vanderbilt University

**A Case Study of a Global Humanitarian Organization Delivering Smiles through Surgeries and Play Programming for Children with Cleft Conditions** - Dr. Priti Desai, Human Development and Family Science, East Carolina University

**Questions and wrap-up** – Dr. Michael Patte, Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania

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