

# Play: An Unlikely Friend of Learning & Student Engagement

Lisa Forbes, PhD, LPC & David Thomas PhD

Learner Engagement Summit 2023



# Learner Engagement Summit

I want to play more in my teaching

79%

I am playful enough

0%

I could be a little more playful

21%

My subject is too serious for play

0%

14 votes cast

Yellowdig

# Play Is.

---

Not for serious study



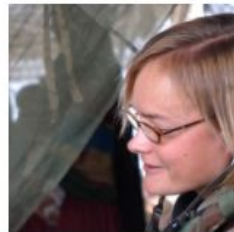
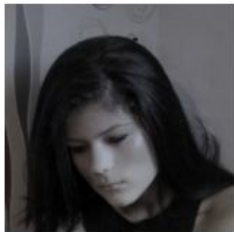
Waste of time

Trivial

Unprofessional

Detrimental to my credibility

**BSS**



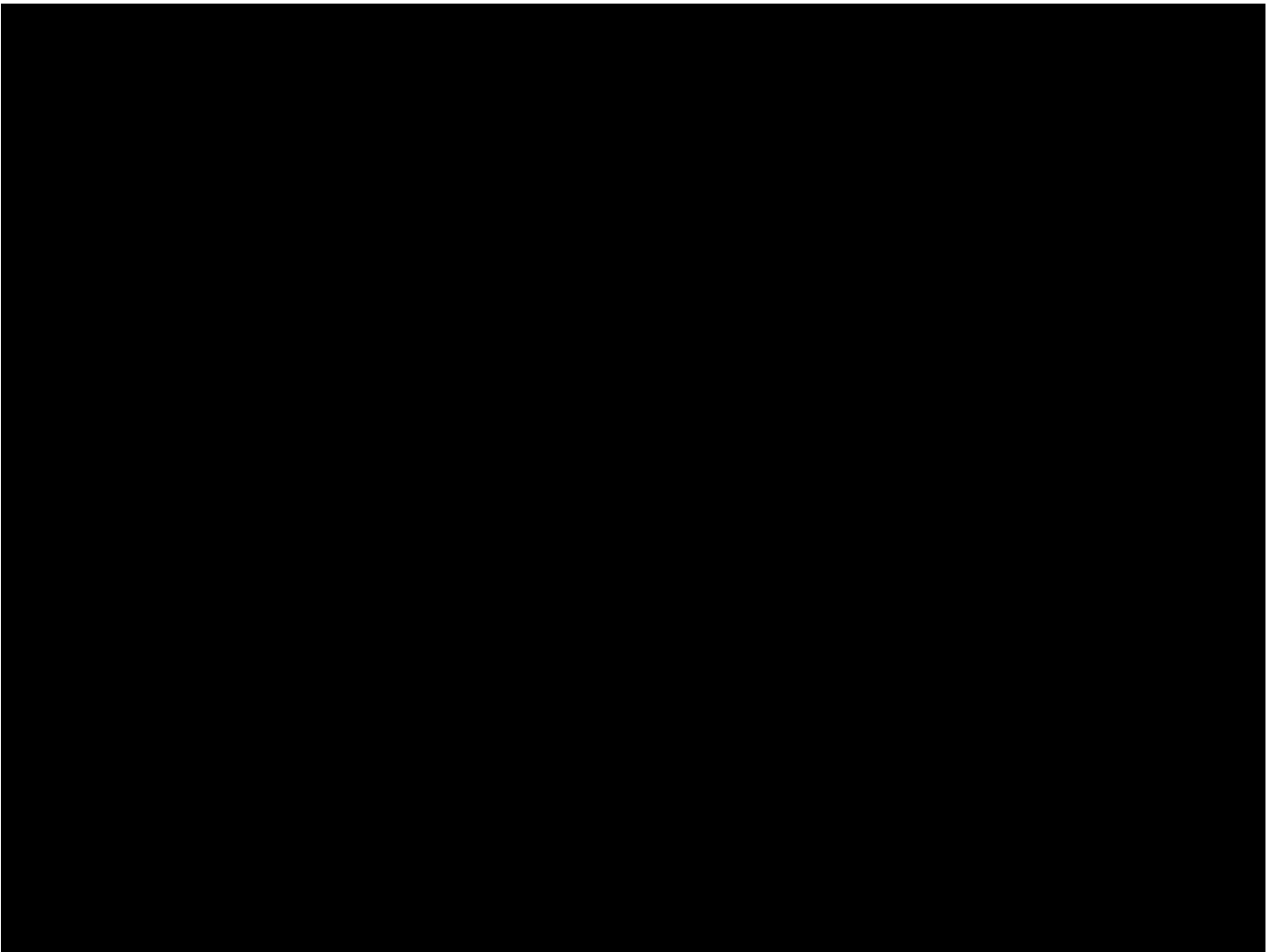




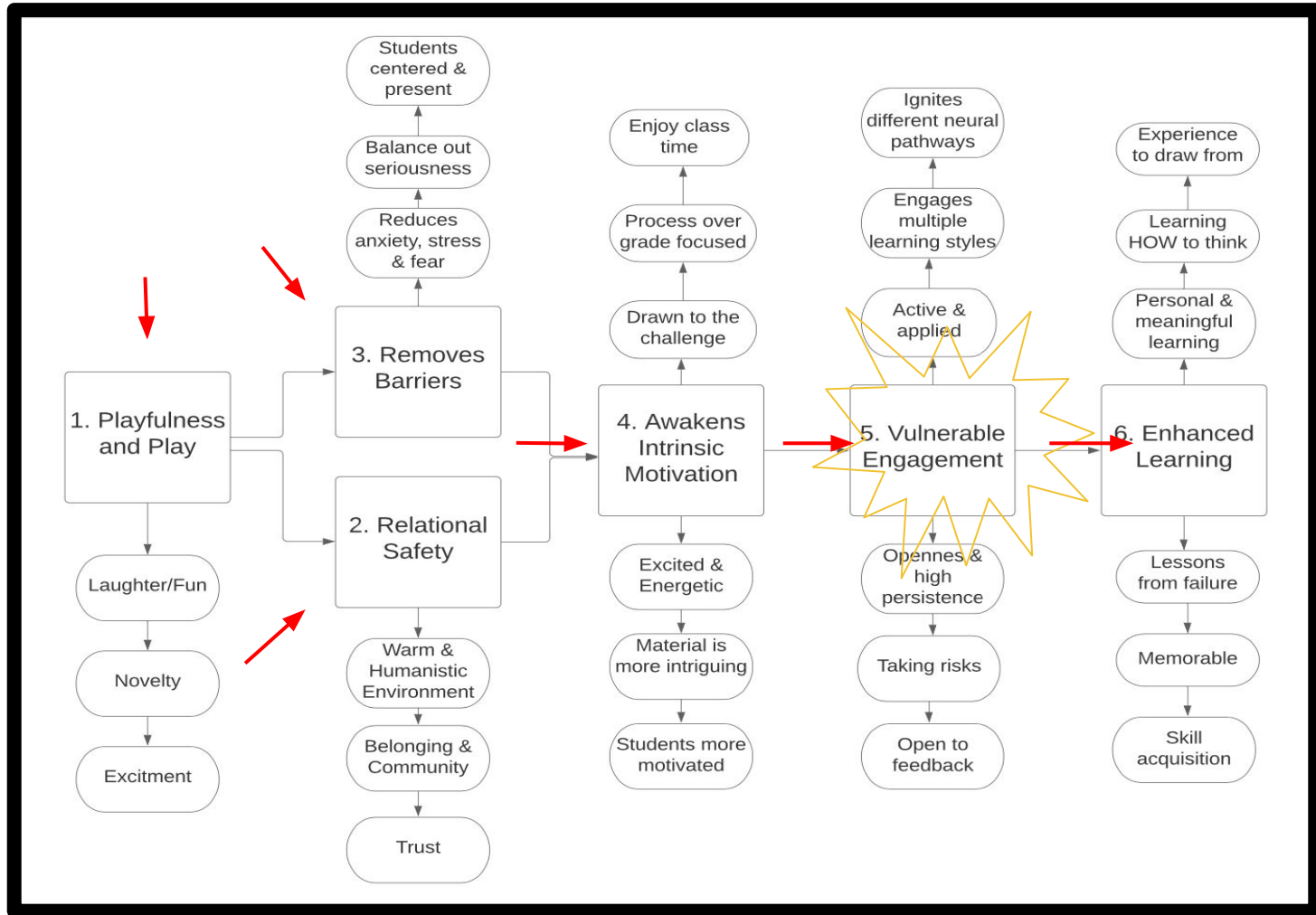












# Pyramid of PLAY!



*\*I attempted to infuse play as a foundation with these things - every class period had elements of play.*

# 1. Embody Playful Professor

"I embody playful"

- ...presenting as gameshow host
- ...by creating m
- ...by dressing up
- ...by opening m
- students.
- ...by using pepp
- ...by laughing at
- ...by using mult
- ...by starting off



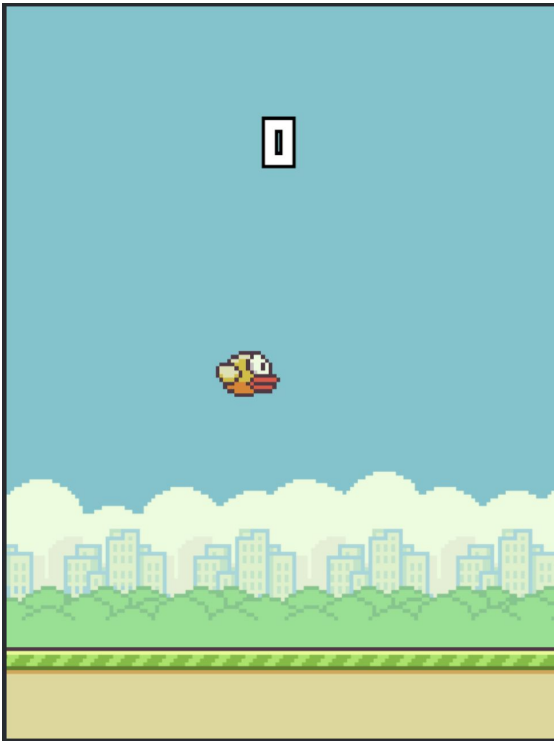
Must challenge societal narratives!

# 2. Connection Formers

## Wacky Questions



<https://wheelofnames.com/cpq-jun>



<https://flappybird.io/>

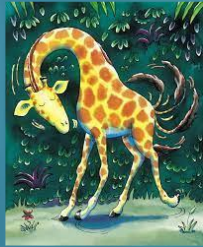


# 3. Play to Teach Content

Regular 'Ole

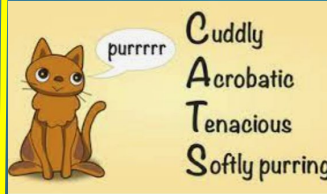
## PLAYFUL PEDAGOGY

Case Study



Animal Client - read children's book Giraffes Can't Dance then create "client" profile based on real facts about giraffes turned into reasons to seek counseling services.

Small  
Group Discussion



Discussion - timed competition to create "5 Golden Rules" added playful catch, the 5 rules must create an acrostic. Share out, most creative win's prize.

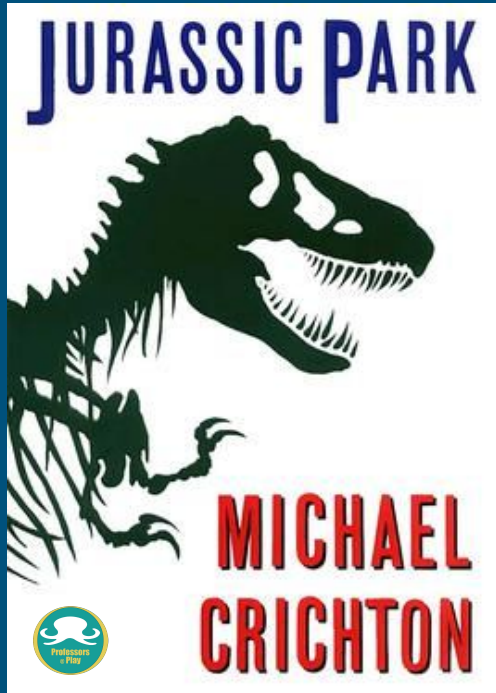
Important Handout



Becomes a timed competition to create their own feeling wheel, challenging them to practice feeling word recall. Share their lists, total # of words.

# 4. Whole Course design

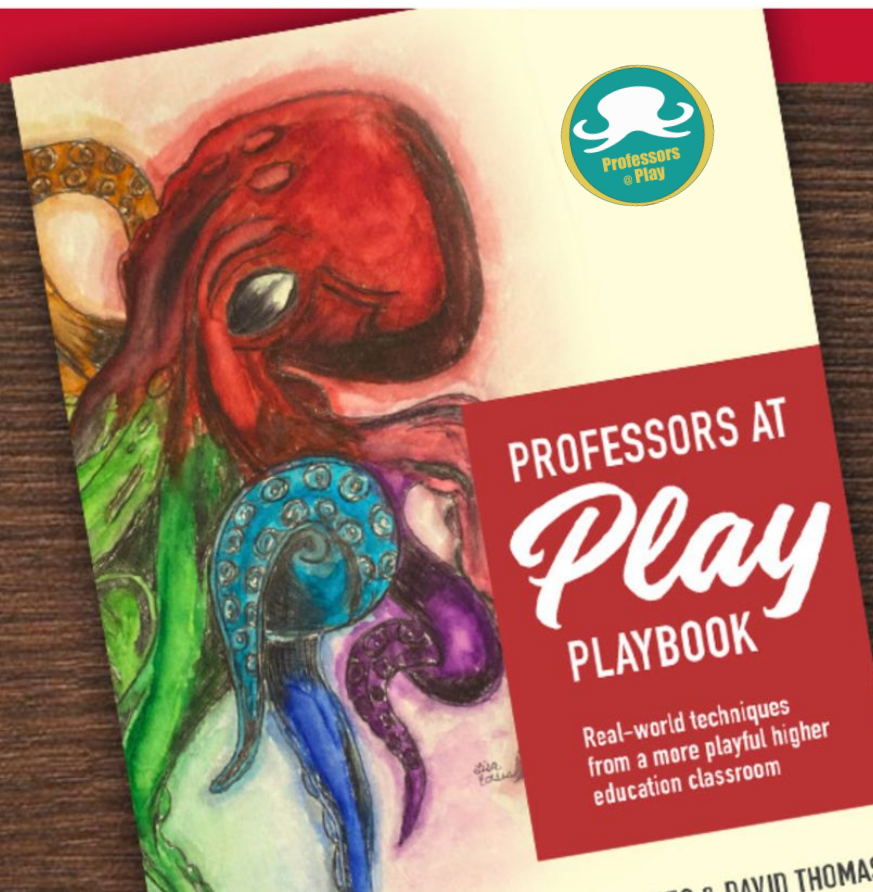
---



New Release

# *Professors At Play*

[READ MORE](#) >





# Professors at Play

**Website:** [Professorsatplay.org](https://Professorsatplay.org)

**YouTube:** Professors at Play

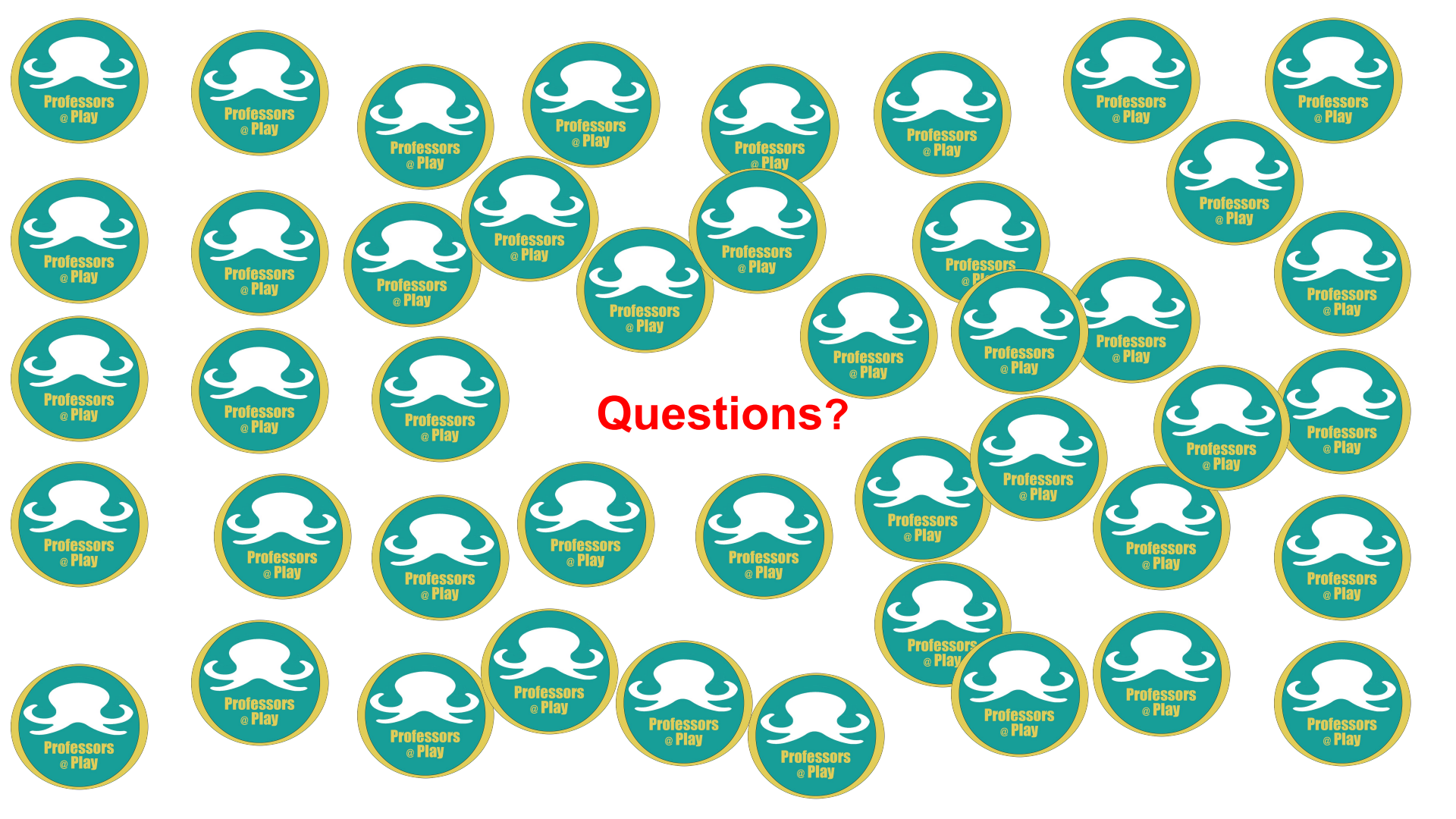
**Insta:** [@professors.at.play](https://www.instagram.com/professors.at.play)

**Facebook:** [@professorsatplay](https://www.facebook.com/professorsatplay)

**Twitter:** [@playprofessors](https://twitter.com/playprofessors)







**Questions?**