

# Touchstones Project Theme: Play



Unfortunately, in our society we tend to equate play with frivolity and irresponsibility. There certainly is play that is like that, but such play is usually a form of escape and disconnection from the world. True play, such as we see chil-

dren engaging in, is the opposite: it takes them into the world in a way that honors imagination and the power of the moment to reveal new and unexpected things; it is an encounter that opens the door for emergence. It connects them with what is and with what might or could be. True play is a doorway into the future and into possibility and newness.... Play can be loving and wise; indeed, love and wisdom are at heart playful. *David Spangler*

The spirit of deep play is central to the life of each person, and also to society, inspiring the visual, musical, and verbal arts; exploration and discovery; war; law; and other elements of culture we've come to cherish (or dread). Swept up by the deepest states of play, one feels balanced, creative, focused. Deep play is a fascinating hallmark of being human; it reveals our need to seek a special brand of transcendence, with a passion that makes thrill-seeking explicable, creativity possible, and religion inevitable. Perhaps religion seems an unlikely example of playing, but if you look at religious rites and festivals, you'll see all the play elements, and also how deep that play can become. ...They swallow time. They are ecstatic, absorbing, rejuvenating. *Diane Ackerman*



## Join us in exploring Play

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