


Suggested Presentation Timeline

This lesson outline is designed to be a teaching tool for early learning professionals who teach this information in a wide variety of settings. Therefore, please use the outline below as a guide and modify it as necessary to meet the needs of your audience and schedule.

Minutes 0 - 10 Welcome and Introductions

- Begin your presentation or workshop by creating a comfortable environment.
- Introduce yourself to your group / audience and orient them to the environment (restrooms, important announcements)

Minutes 10 - 40 Presentation of Topic

 Provide your group with an overview of the topic you will be presenting. This brings all the participants together quickly as well as to engage the group in the learning. Here are some options for how to do this:

1. Tell a story that engages the audience.

Three children are in a preschool. One child is using blocks. Another child is drawing at the easel. A third child is using playdough. Which children are playing? What is each child learning?

2. Provide a definition of the topic / terms that are being discussed.


Definition of Play: "A distinct motivational / behavioral system that evolved as a pathway through which young individuals learn about their environments, establish relationships with others, and create or refine skills needed for success in later life." (Haight & Black, 2001).

3. Some educators find it helpful to begin with a general question. For example:

- When you think of the word play, what ideas come to mind?
- When children play, what do they learn?

4. Provide an overview that introduces your audience to the research-based information about the topic.

Recent research by Dr. Jack Shonkoff confirms that play is critical to healthy brain development. During play, a child's brain takes in information from all five senses creating important connections in the brain that impact future development. Play invites sustained attention and feeds into those parts of the brain that maximize children's self-control (Golinkoff, 2010). This type of brain stimulation is essential for building a strong foundation for future learning.

 Review the goals of what you intend to teach, describe what tools/resources they can expect to gain by attending the event, and present the Parenting Counts Program Curriculum.



Minutes 40 - 50 Applied Learning Activity

- Most audiences are ready for a change in activity after 20-30 minutes of lecture. Consider the composition of your group and decide what type of activity best meets their needs.
- Some educators choose to have participants work in pairs to maximize comfort with the topic, others opt for a group discussion to allow a variety of opinions to be heard and validated.
- Parenting Counts offers multiple video options that can be used during this time to encourage discussion or to continue the learning experience.

Minutes 50 - 60 Closure and Evaluation

- Closure: Be sure to recap the key messages of the presentation as well as provide tools that incorporate the learning into parenting practices.
- Evaluation: Please distribute an evaluation form as part of your presentation. It is important to give participants an opportunity to comment on the presentation as well as to provide you with an assessment of their learning.

