

Playworks Indiana

2021-22 Mid Year Report

Adjusting and Adapting

As we continue to navigate the challenges presented by COVID-19, Playworks has leaned into the healing power of play to strengthen and support our communities.

Your partnership has allowed us to ensure that kids across Indiana feel safe within their school, are supported by adult role models, and have access to positive outlets for physical activity and social-emotional development.

19

Marion County Schools receiving direct services Coach, TeamUp, & Tag Team

58

Schools, early childhood centers, & youth organizations receiving Pro training & consultative services statewide

354

Educators & youth professionals trained statewide



70,288

Students experiencing the power of play

The COVID-19 pandemic has proven three things:



School is more than just academics.

Addressing learning loss requires us to first focus on social-emotional learning as kids heal from traumas caused by the pandemic.



Physical and mental health are critically connected.

With a strong emphasis on physical activity and inclusion, Coaches create safe and active school communities.



Strong relationships matter.

Coaches show up daily as caring, consistent adults ready to navigate challenges and celebrate wins alongside students and staff.

"Seeing students help each other & be kind is my favorite thing about recess. Whenever a student gets hurt or upset, there's like 4 classmates checking on them and showing compassion, I love it."



A Day in the Life of Coach Patrick

7:30 AM

Plan recess for the day and send out CGT reminders. Then meeting with a few students to mentor and help them work in their classes before recesses start.

10:00 AM

The start of recess for the day! The kindergarteners love red light green light, third grade's favorite is zombie tag, and fifth grade can't get enough soccer!

1:30 PM

Class Game Time where our games teach important social and emotional skills as whole classes participate in games together. This month, we've been playing Ball Toss Race and Clean your Room as we learn about positive self talk and teamwork.

2:15 PM

Set up for Junior Coach focused on student leadership and growth on the playground. Other days I set up for the Leagues practices!

Our AmeriCorps Coaches: Learning & Leading with the Power of Play



"I love being able to come to work and actually enjoy myself! The best part of working with kids is experiencing all the things we can through play!"
- Coach Meme



"Before Playworks, recess was just go play and a lot of kids just stood around. Now that has shifted, there are more opportunities for kids to play and less opportunities to get in trouble."
- Coach Nathan



"Being a coach has given me hope. You can never know what people are going through unless you really sit down and talk to them. I felt as if I had little to no skills but this job has shown me that I do."
- Coach Bub



"I hope to take the experiences, skills, and knowledge that Playworks has given me and go into social work- Playworks has really set me up for success and I am forever grateful!"
- Coach Allie



"The best part of being a Playworks Coach is walking into my school and seeing the student's face light up ... It's been great knowing that the student's see me as an important part of their school day."
- Coach Ri

Physically active play

Increase in dopamine

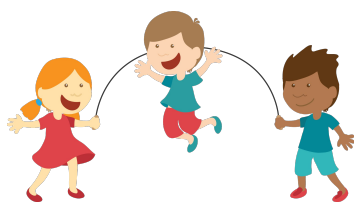
Elevated feelings of joy and happiness

Scientists have shown a link between play and dopamine release, the brain chemical associated with joy and happiness. Read more from [our New England regions' blog](#).

"Our students really enjoy the variety of games Playworks has introduced and I've enjoyed learning new ones! I incorporate these games as brain breaks throughout the day to build community with my students" -Teacher, Lowell Elementary School

Why Play is Essential, Especially Now

In October, Playworks founder and social entrepreneur Jill VIAlet sat down with [Forbes](#) to talk about her new book, "Why Play Works," and how we can leverage the power of play to build a more equitable and joyful future. So why *is* play essential?



Promotes physical and mental health



Physical play helps children manage anxiety, increase coordination, and build gross motor skills.



Improves academic engagement



Children learn problem-solving skills, creativity, and focus, which are important classroom skills.



Teaches important social-emotional skills



Conflict resolution, collaboration, and resiliency are all important life skills taught through play.

ALL IN SPORTS



Playworks developmental sports Leagues are one of four of our direct service program components. During the 2020-2021 school year, Playworks had to scale back our after school programming, including Leagues, due to restrictions of the pandemic.

As we prepared for the 2021-2022 school year with the ability to bring back these afterschool components, we wanted to revamp our Leagues to ensure we were making the greatest impact for our students whose access to these kinds of programs were severely limited because of the pandemic. Enter Indiana Sports Corp (ISC). With both of our organizations dedicated to using sport and play to advance Indiana communities, we found a natural fit to collaborate.



"Nothing beats being a part of a team. All IN Sports gives students an inclusive opportunity to practice teamwork and sportsmanship, while also exposing them to a wide variety of motor skills and games."
Nicholas Pointer, Playworks Program Specialist

THANK YOU TO THE PARTNERS MAKING THIS YEAR POSSIBLE!

Playworks Indiana Partners in Play



Indiana University Health



Special Shout Out and Thank You to the Indiana Regional Advisory Board!

- **Jenny Dexter, Board Chair**-Matchbook Creative
- **Mark Clark**- The Finish Line, Inc.
- **Danny Embry**-Salesforce
- **Heath Hutchinson**-OneAmerica Financial Partners
- **Carrie Lahr**-Riley Hospital for Children
- **Melissa Thompson**-Indiana Sports Corp

Read Danny Embry's 2022 reflection and testimonial [here!](#)

