

SEMINAR #6

Character Education through Creative Recreation

Ages 5-17

DURATION

- Typical session is one hour but can be easily tailored shorter/longer to meet your programming needs.

MODALITY

- PowerPoint Slide Show
- Handouts providing technical data, references, statistics
- Hands-on interactive play
- Questions, answers and discussion time allotted

DESCRIPTION: A variety of research shows that nationwide, children today are lacking core values such as kindness, respect, self-control, integrity and accountability. The importance of instilling character education in today's youth needs to be at the top of the agenda for school professionals, childcare providers, parents, and other decision makers. We will review both the components of character education and learn how creative, interactive play can be utilized to help instill core values.

NEEDS IDENTIFICATION: A growing problem for society is that many of our children are living passive lifestyles. Children are spending much more time watching TV, using computers and playing video games. These lifestyles are resulting in not only health concerns such as obesity, but also social concerns. We are raising a generation of kids who lack core values. Children are missing out on opportunities to increase self-esteem, learn appropriate communication and leadership skills because they rarely interact with their peers in a meaningful way. It is our responsibility to give our youth opportunities to become people with character. One way to achieve this is to allow children to be in control of their own play in a structured environment which requires meaningful social interaction.

PARTICIPANTS WILL:

- Understand the components of character education and why it's necessary to address them
- Understand why today's youth are living passive lifestyles (with little pure play) and what the effects are
- Participate in creative recreation and be able to understand how it addresses health and social concerns as well as character education

John LaRue is a Representative for the KOMPAN/BigToys Playground Company, holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Therapeutic Recreation (Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist), Registered Provider for ASLA and is a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI). John was part of the KOMPAN team that developed the Play Areas ADA Design Guide.