



Pop Up Play Polk

GOAL: Promote play and healthy development for young children and families in Polk County.

WHAT: Instead of toys that need a specific set of commands to work, children make their own rules. There are no instructions. There is no “right” way. Instead, kids can take a break from over scheduled, over distracted, over protected days and take healthy risks and build confidence in their own abilities. We know play

benefits the whole family.

Pop Up Play Polk will provide child-directed free play opportunities for children and their families in Polk County communities every month.

HOW IT WORKS: Imagine a field of boxes or giant pile of dirt. Kids can build a tower or host a tea party with the boxes, or play king of the mountain and conduct an archaeological dig with the dirt.

Pop Up Play provides children with “loose parts” like cardboard boxes, egg cartons, plastic bottles, rope and other hands-on materials and invites them to use the materials in their play however they see fit.

Their imagination is the only limitation.

WHY: Children growing up today are spending much less time outdoors and in unstructured play than previous generations and the impact is disturbing. Play helps children to be physically active and better coordinated, improves social skills, enhances creativity, develops problem solving and critical thinking, take appropriate risks and is fun! Unstructured free play outside helps build brains, reduce early childhood obesity and increases collaboration and teamwork.

Supported by: Partnership for Children of the Foothills supports young children (ages 0-5) and their families and, works to ensure access to high quality care and education. We leverage investments from local, state and national partners to ensure children enter school ready to succeed. Children who enter kindergarten ready to succeed grow to be strong students, productive employees and vital members of the community.

To learn more about our programs and services, visit www.pfcfoothills.org or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pfcfoothills.

