WELCOME!

A playful learning environment is a safe place that fosters **choice**, **wonder** and **delight**, enabling children to engage in deeper, more meaningful learning through play.
It makes visible connections between children's lives and curricular studies/school.

A playful environment **incorporates**:

- **access**
- **comfort**
- **agency** (learners making decisions)
- **flexibility**

When might I use this tool?

- at the beginning of the year
- at the beginning of a unit
- when looking for classroom management ideas
- ....

This framework/tool is the result of collaborative research between the Kindergarten and Primary Playful Environment Study Groups, and the Project Zero research team. It is intended to help learners and educators think about their learning environments, pose questions about whether they are supporting playful learning, and consider concepts that might enhance the environment in playful ways.

The **LEGO** Foundation

PZ PROJECT ZERO

International School of Billund
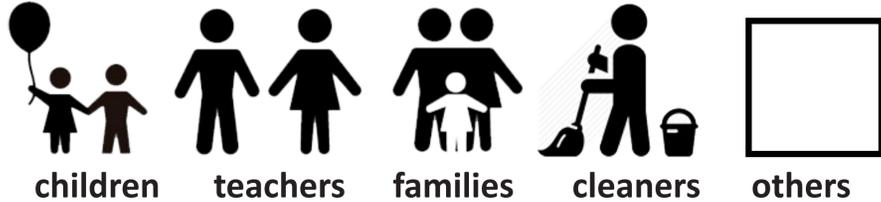
PLANNING PLAYFUL LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

A tool by educators, for educators

REFLECT...

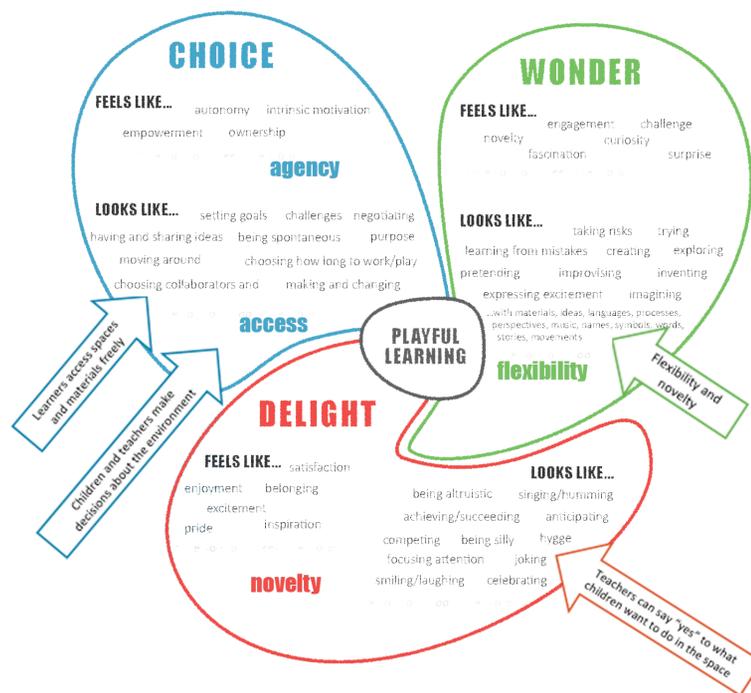...on your environment before you start.
Use the Play Spaces to add your own ideas.

Who uses this space?

children   **teachers**   **families**   **cleaners**   **others**

Who are the learners in this space?
Who else uses the space?
Are their cultures and languages represented?
Are there particular learners to keep in mind?

How can the environment support learning through play?

CONSIDER...

...how the following environmental elements can support learning through play by fostering **choice**, **wonder** and **delight**

1 Do the furnishings and arrangement offer...?

- **flexibility** to move chairs, tables, cushions
- **novelty:** furnishings/arrangement change sometimes
- **variety** of work areas, centers
- **comfortable** surroundings
- ways to make learning visible

Play Space

2 Are you able to use the architecture...?

- **flexibly** such as opening doors, partitions
- **creatively** by using fixed architectural features in novel or **playful** ways

3 Are the materials...?

- **open-ended**
- **natural**
- **authentic**
- **novel**
- **appealing** to the senses
- **connected** to learner's lives/unit of study
- supportive of learner's **independence** (e.g. charts, visual scaffolds)
- supportive of **dramatic play**

Play Space

4 Does the storage...?

- make materials **visible and accesible** at learner's height?
- have space to store **works-in-progress**
- have a clear **organization**

5 Do the aesthetics of the space feel playful?

- colors, sounds, light, textures