



# From the Playroom

## Happy New Year!

Recently, the Primary Project team took some time to play and celebrate the holidays, our collective work, what we each bring to our roles and began to brainstorm and vision ideas for 2025! It was a fun afternoon, filled with laughter and fun! The important part here is taking the time to “play” so that you can renew yourself physically and emotionally. One of my favorite mottos both personally and professionally is “work hard, play harder.”



Programs across the country are supporting young learners through play in Primary Project! You are seeing right before your eyes the benefits the program is having on students emotionally, physically and maybe even cognitively! In this edition of From the Playroom, read on about the power of play and related research. Bringing the Lessons Home portion focuses on parents supporting free play at home and some of the benefits for young children.

—*Lynn Smith, Co-Director of Primary Project*

# Primary Project's Shiny New Webpage!

The Children's Institute team has been hard at work updating the Primary Project webpage. On our website, you will find information about Primary Project, including a brief history of our evidence-based results. Visitors can find the Primary Project video, blog, newsletter, and information about National Certification in a new, easy format. Commonly used resources including a link to Bringing the Lessons Home parent articles are available at the bottom of the page.

Check it out by visiting: *[Primary Project](#)*

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## The Power of Play

“Play is not an escape;  
it is a cultivation,  
refinement,  
and fulfillment  
of who we are.”

—Thomas Henricks

We need more play in our schools, in our workplaces, in our homes, and in our communities. Primary Project is one solution for bringing play into our world, but we need to do more. It starts with adults remembering how to play so that we can show up for our kids and provide space for them to experience the healing powers of play.

So, what can you do?

—*Lindsay Dryden, Project Coordinator*

[Click here to find out how to support the power of play!](#)

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## Primary Project Proud

Do you have a team member that goes above and beyond? Does your team do something that you think is worth sharing far and wide? Do you have something that you want to share with other Primary Project programs?

Primary Project Proud is a way that programs across the country can celebrate successes and highlight their accomplishments. Interested programs can complete the brief form to submit!

*Check out our featured submissions!*



[PS/MS 20 in New York City](#)



[Watertown City School District](#)

Share your own Primary Project story!

## Supervision Training



Primary Project supervisors across New York State arrived in Rochester on November 7th & 8th for training. They spent two days digging into theories

around clinical and program supervision, learned more about their role as a new Primary Project supervisor, and discussed strategies to strengthen their supervision skills. Our next supervision training will be held in Fall 2025. Keep a lookout for dates!

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## Bringing the Lessons Home



**BRINGING THE LESSONS HOME**  
*for Families and Caregivers*



Dr. Stuart Brown, a play researcher and the founder of the National Institute for Play, once said "**We are built *to* play, and we are built *by* play.**" More simply put, when children play, they are building skills for life. Play helps children to learn how to make decisions independently, grow confidence, and develop healthy relationships.

Play is a natural part of child development, and caregivers can support the wellbeing of their children by intentionally allowing them time to play freely. Families don't have to feel pressure to always create "experiences" for their kids. In fact, research tells us that the most beneficial types of play allow children full freedom to choose what and how to play so that they can create and imagine a world for themselves. So how can parents support healthy free play opportunities for their children?

[Bringing the Lessons Home - English](#)

[Bringing the Lessons Home - Spanish](#)

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## NEW COMET Pricing Structure



For the 2025-2026 school year, COMET is updating how we determine the price for our software platform. Our goals for these changes are two-fold:

- Incorporate the size of the student population

and number of users into the price structure to more accurately reflect system usage.

- Incorporate volume discounts into the instrument fees to make it more cost-effective to screen more students.

Not only will these changes better tailor the usage of COMET to the Primary Project program, but they also allow schools to explore expanding their use of the Teacher-Child Rating Scale and COMET to other parts of their student population or other early childhood education programs.

Please contact [Sales@comet4children.com](mailto:Sales@comet4children.com) for more information or to receive a quote for the 2025-2026 school year.

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