

Playing With the Principal



Submitted photo • Courtesy Louise Boyce

Tiogue Elementary School Principal Louise Seitsinger gets into a game with a pair of students during April 9's Global School Play Day at the school. Seitsinger encouraged her faculty to schedule between 45 minutes and an hour of time in both the morning and the afternoon for time spent playing. Story, Page A-6.

GLOBAL SCHOOL PLAY DAY

Getting some play in at Tiogue

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COVENTRY — Recently, Tiogue Elementary School held its first annual “Global School Play Day.”

Students brought in board games, coloring activities, arts/crafts, or any other creative ideas they had for that special day. However, no electronics or technology was used.

“The idea is to encourage our children to engage in social skills with each other, problem solve, be creative and/or use their imaginations, without looking into a computer screen or using any technology,” said Tiogue Elementary School Principal Louise Seitsinger. Teachers flexibly scheduled this time in their classrooms so that it worked for their day — up to an hour of play (at minimum 45 minutes) in the morning and up to an hour in the afternoon.

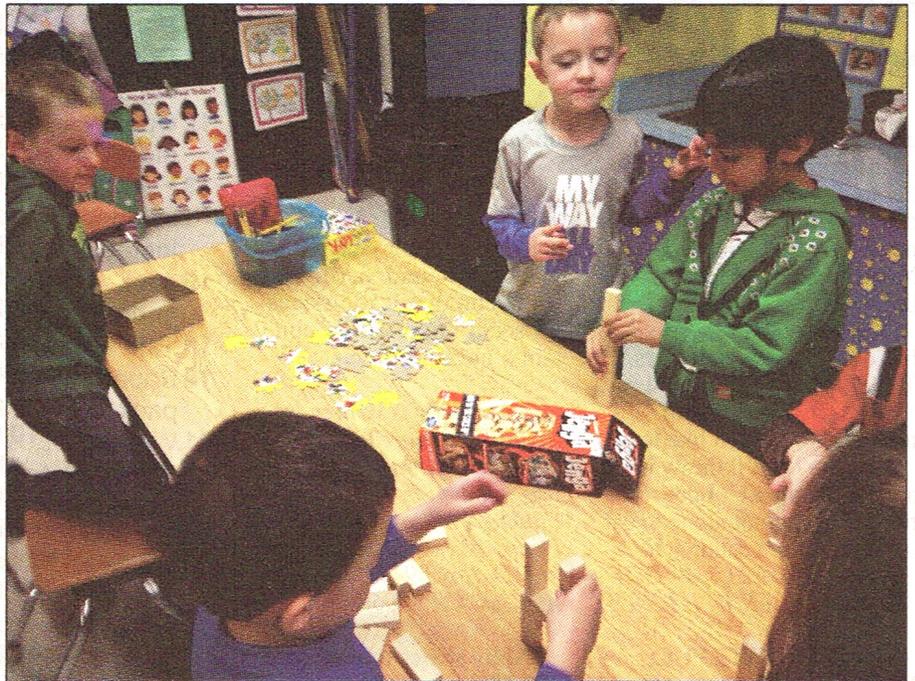
“It was a wonderful experience for all of us — especially our children!” Seitsinger said.

According to the website, assisteded-shift.com, the idea is to get back to genuine, physical play with no computer screens and no structure — all day.

On April 9, students spread their toys out around the room or went outside and just played where nothing was organized for the students and teachers didn’t tell them how to play with the toys/games and they didn’t interfere with students unless they saw something that could physically hurt a child.

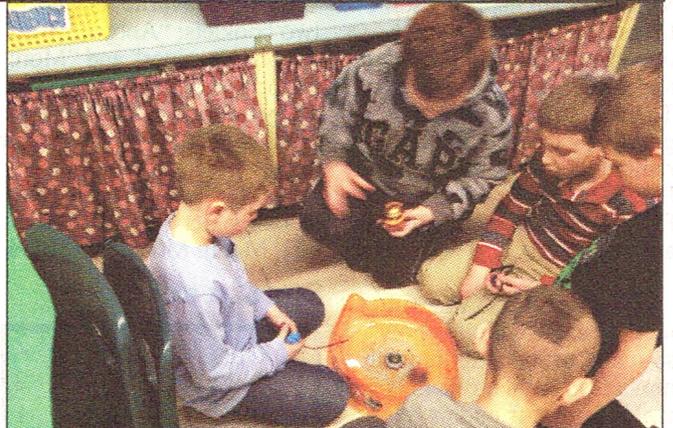
Other than taking a few pictures/videos, try to be invisible and let the kids play. This is a day of unstructured play, not playful teacher-led lessons. You will be amazed at what your kids come up with.

After the event, educators shared pictures, ideas, and reactions on social media (with parent consent) and hashtagged them



Students at Coventry's Tiogue Elementary School recently enjoyed a little bit of play time during their school day as part of the school's first annual “Global School Play Day,” held April 9.

Submitted photos • Courtesy Louise Boyce



#GSPD or #GSPD16.

“Perhaps teachers could add a post to their blog sharing about the experience.” Seitsinger said. “Ask your students to reflect on GSPD as well. Be sure to talk to your students and if possible, their parents, about the necessity of daily unstruc-

tured play. Your students will most surely ask if they can have play days more often. A great answer is, ‘of course!’ Every day can be play day with your friends in your neighborhood after school. Keep playing like you did at school today, but just do it after school.”