

Submitter: Laurie Paulsen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1596

My name is Laurie Paulsen and I strongly support SB 1596, which recognizes the importance of play-based learning in Oregon's elementary schools.

I'm a PreK teacher and used to be a fourth grade teacher. In my 14 years working in preschool I have learned what is a very important piece missing in K - 5, play. From my perspective, play is essential to all children's social, emotional and intellectual growth.

When children have opportunities to learn through play during the school day they are deepening their understanding of the Oregon standards that are taught. They see where math and science is applicable and they have a purpose for reading and writing.

Children are figuring out who they are, making sense of the world and how they fit into it. When children engage in play-based learning, children are engaged with open-ended activities. Through these activities children problem solve with materials and each other. Children learn to share their thinking with others and learn how to agree and disagree. Classroom communities become stronger and more joyful.

As a teacher, incorporating play-based learning into the classroom is inspiring. Children are engaged and excited about learning, decreasing behavior and joy is brought back into the classroom.

Senate Bill 1596 is what children, teachers and schools need right now.