

Chair Hudson and members of the House Education Committee
RE: support for HB 1596

State law lets people make good decisions. A law making it clear that play-based learning is permitted increases the chance that it will be used in schools and that kids will love school more, attend more regularly, and learn in ways that prepare them for the real world.

During public testimony in the committee on February 23 members of the committee asked for concrete examples of what play-based learning looks like.

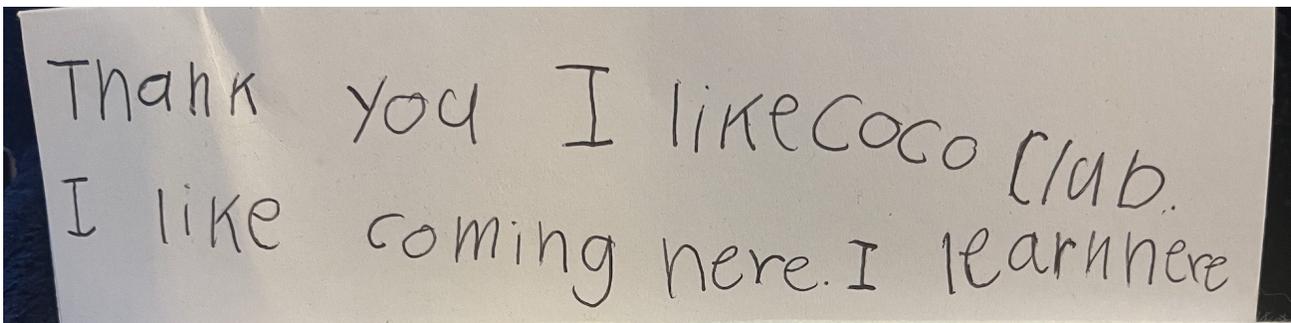
I can give many examples from my work running an after school program in a homeless shelter, but will share one:

We had a number of kids who spoke little or no English. As a way to learn body parts, we danced the Hokie Pokie. I watched the kids advance from watching others and hesitantly acting out the words:

You put your right foot in, you put your right foot out....

After a few repetitions, they would get a big grin and lead the actions as we sang and danced them, changing the words so that they could learn all body parts. And, they requested that we do the song every day. They learned - and it was fun.

One of the students who went from speaking no English to real growth in communication warmed my heart with this note:



This is our goal in education!

Thank you for your service,

Carol Greenough, Ph.D.