



Performance Review for **THE CHILDREN'S PLAYHOUSE**

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I. Background and Mission of The Children's Playhouse

The Children's Playhouse was founded in 2002 by a group of local citizens. The mission of The Children's Playhouse is to provide a fun, enriching play environment for children while at the same time offering parents and caregivers friendly support in the challenging job of raising children.

Situated in a renovated house near downtown Boone, The Children's Playhouse boasts a number of play areas including an art room, dress up area, puppet theater, loft, pretend kitchen, block play area, train table, indoor Romp and Stomp, and music classroom—all tucked into an intimate, child-friendly space.

Our programming includes art activities, music classes, and play areas for children. We offer parents and caregivers a library of over 300 parenting books and monthly parenting classes and workshops on topics such as "introducing solids," "your child's language development" and on-going parenting classes such as "Parenting with Love and Logic."

From the beginning we have had a strong relationship with the ACT Office at ASU and have provided thousands of hours of service learning experiences.

2. Contributions The Children's Playhouse Makes to the High Country Community

We serve as an informal "town square" for the High Country: a place where natives and newcomers, out-of-towners and locals, experienced parents and eager first-timers, and people of all classes are brought together to share the joy of playful learning with their children.



"I think all of us—mothers, fathers, children, grandparents—are at risk of becoming lost, and The Playhouse provides a safe place to explore ourselves and learn from our community." —Playhouse Scholarship recipient.



Because we are open for 37 hours, Tuesday through Saturday, for 50 weeks per year, families enjoy ample opportunities to meet and form supportive relationships among both adults and children. Research reported by the Search Institute shows that community assets like The Children’s Playhouse help strengthen families, promote warm parent-child relations, and users report more positive parenting behaviors.

3. Membership and Visits

- Over 740 memberships sold since 2002.
- Average over 7,500 visits per year.
- Twenty-seven percent of all memberships given free to low-income families or social service agencies.

4. Programming

- Open 37 hours a week, 49 weeks per year, The Children’s Playhouse provides over 1,800 hours of open play.
- 4-5 different open-ended art activities available daily.
- The Playhouse offered 10 special one time cultural events per year featuring musicians, storytellers, and puppeteers in 2007.
- 11 parent education workshops were offered in 2007.

5. Outcomes

We measure the success of our mission through an annual survey of visitors. We recently concluded our 2007 survey and have reached 20% of our members, including 20% of our scholarship recipients, who receive free memberships based on income. Highlights are shared below.

Mission for Children: To provide an enriching, educational play environment for young children.

Social/Emotional Outcomes:

- Majority of parents/caregivers will report that their child interacts with others at the PH. Current survey: 98% strongly agree or agree
- Majority will report improved social skills (sharing, taking turns, inviting others to share in play) have improved since attending the PH. Current survey: 83% strongly agree or agree

Cognitive Outcomes:

- Majority will report that activities at PH support child’s ability to think creatively. Current survey: 100% strongly agree or agree
- Majority will report that activities at PH support child’s ability to solve problems. Current survey: 94% strongly agree or agree
- Majority will report that visiting the PH help prepare child for success in school. Current survey: 98% strongly agree or agree



“The support and encouragement I receive while here motivates me until the next time I come.”

“It is a well-needed outlet for both of us. We always leave The Playhouse in a good mood.”



Mission for Parents: To offer parents and caregivers friendly support in the important job of raising children.

Use of Parent Education Resources Outcomes:

- Majority will report that resources provided by PH have increased understanding of parenting skills. Current survey: 100% strongly agree or agree.

Social Networking and Support Outcomes:

- Majority will report talking to other parent/caregivers when visiting the PH. Current survey: 98% strongly agree or agree
- Majority will report finding support from interacting with other parents/caregivers at the PH. Current survey: 95% strongly agree or agree
- Majority will report discussing issues related to parenting with PH staff. Current survey: 83% respond often or sometimes.
- Majority will report feeling that the PH helps them to be a more effective parent or caregiver. Current survey: 93% strongly agree or agree.

5. 2008 Fundraisers

- The Playhouse Baby and Parenting Fair, April 19 at The National Guard Armory
- Playhouse Restaurant of the Month—ongoing.
- Playhouse Family Music Festival, August 16, 2008
- Playhouse Pumpkin Party and Consignment Sale, October 2008



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