




What if...

we could transform cities into playful learning centers alive with fun opportunities for children that prepare them for success in a global world?

What if, on any given neighborhood block, kids played together while building skills in math, science, language, and reading?

What if children not only learned “basic” skills – but also learned how to learn – experimenting, taking risks, and gaining confidence?

Now more than ever, as we recognize the great disparities along racial and ethnic lines, we need to ensure that all children, and not just some children, have equitable access to critical interventions that will support them now and in the future.



Playful Learning Landscapes Action Network



Our Mission:

To infuse our neighborhoods with playful learning opportunities that encourage cross-generational interaction and enhance children's cognitive and social development, better preparing them for success in a changing world.



The Vision:

Imagine cities and public spaces where the science of how children learn and develop healthy relationships is built into the very foundations of design – and families and communities are stronger, healthier, and more powerful because they have the confidence and skills they need to forge the futures they want.

Defining

Playful Learning



Kids learn and develop skills from all kinds of play, but they learn best when learning goals are intentionally integrated into play from the start, and when they are guided by an adult, or the environment itself, toward a particular learning goal.

We can think about play as running along a spectrum from free play to instructional games. Evidence suggests that when people have a learning goal that they hope to achieve, guided play is better than free play for achieving learning.



photo: Sahar Coston-Hardy



photo: Sahar Coston-Hardy

What Kids Learn... The 6 Cs

Building the skills for future success.

To flourish in the future, kids will need to master a suite of skills that complement and evolve with each other. We call them the 6 Cs:



C
Collaboration

C
Communication

C
Content

**The
6Cs**

C
Confidence







C
Critical
Thinking

C
Creative
Innovation

The Project: Fraction Ball

Turning basketball courts into hubs for learning so that children and families experience physically active play in a space infused with learning goals.

Does it include the 6 Cs?

					
Communication	Collaboration	Content	Critical Thinking	Creative Innovation	Confidence



The Learning Goal: Fraction Ball encourages playful interactions between children and caregivers that feature Content in math (fractions, decimals, arithmetic, number lines), Critical Thinking and Creativity, as well as Collaboration and Communication with peers, adults, and family members.



The Design: Playful Learning Landscapes will provide you with the design template to transform your community basketball court into a Fraction Ball court.



The Science: In a study of 5th and 6th grade students, results showed that children who played Fraction Ball during Physical Education class as a supplement to classroom math lessons made significantly greater gains in converting fractions to decimals, decimals to fractions, and other related skills, like adding fractions and decimals.



Your project
logo here!



Action Steps

For building Fraction Ball
● in your community

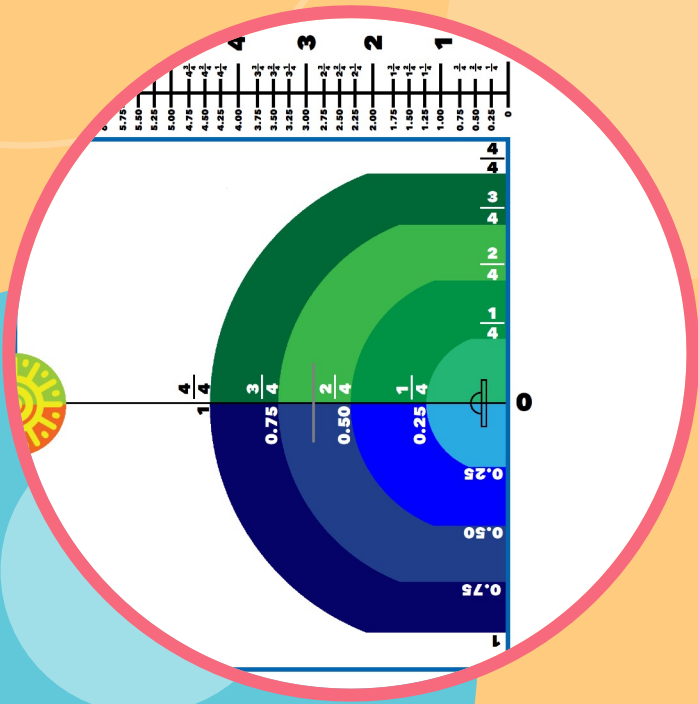
photo: University of California Irvine

Action Steps for Creating Fraction Ball

1

Start with an existing basketball court with community access.

Enhance fraction, decimal, and arithmetic achievement by activating Fraction Ball on an existing basketball court where community members gather. Identify a community and a potential court for Fraction Ball.

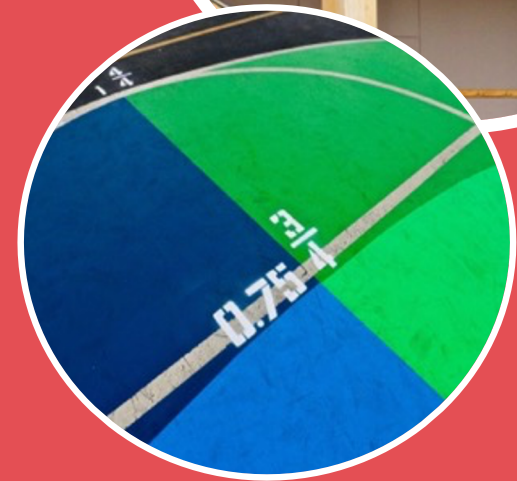


2

Identify Partners & Build a Team

Successful initiatives require planning, coordination, and community buy-in. Consider who should be sitting at the table with you? How will the team work together and allocate responsibilities?

- Create a project team who represent the critical stakeholders and who are willing and able to see the project through. Make sure to include the organization or group who owns the basketball court!
- Consult with community members to ensure that they are on board with the idea. The greater community ownership the greater the potential for sustainability and relevance.
- Identify potential partners who might support the work.
- Build a volunteer community group that will work with you.



3

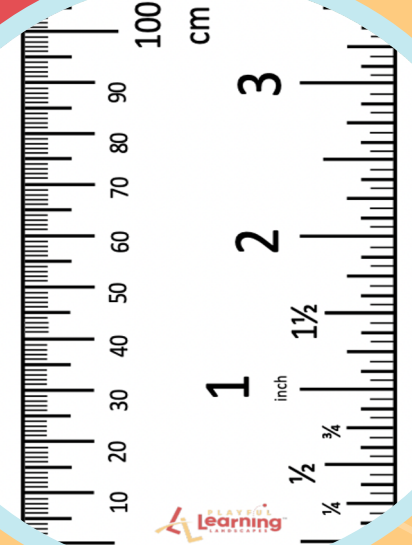
Plan for Needs

Identify who controls the basketball court that you want to transform into Fraction Ball and make sure that the site is appropriate and available for use. Ensure that you have any permissions that are needed to proceed with the work and know if there are any regulations governing the activity.

Assess potential vendors who can execute the project design within the allocated budget.

- Decide with your vendor which material will work best for your location (consider weather, usage, and maintenance). We often use non-slip paint for Fraction Ball courts.
- Decide who will paint the court – the community or a vendor?
- Consider how signage or “prompts” will be mounted.

Make a plan to maintain the site and rejuvenate the paint as needed. This might include identifying resources for maintenance and oversight.





4 Paint Your Fraction Ball Court



Using the plan you created with your vendor (materials, etc.) paint your design on to court!

Mount prompts near the court.

5 Communicate With Your Community and Launch Your Fraction Ball Project

Share your Fraction Ball Project on social media, and get on the agenda of a community meeting!

Consider a kick-off event such as a Block Party to show off the Fraction Ball court!

Observe how families use and interact with the space. Share your experience with other communities.

Enjoy! And think about how you can continue to spread playful learning throughout your community.

