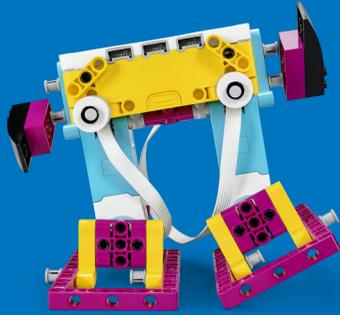## It's Time to Rethink Learning

5 Ways Purposeful Play Can Improve Learning Outcomes

Now is the time to address challenges exposed by the pandemic, while creating more accessible and engaging learning environments that naturally weave in life skills. Integrating purposeful play into curriculums is a proven way to involve all students in STEAM learning and hone 21st-century skills.

1 Motivate Learning That Never Stops

- Integrating purposeful play into education develops critical-thinking and social skills needed for real life
- Self-direction gives students the confidence to learn in any environment
- Making learning fun encourages students to pursue knowledge throughout their lives

2 Build Confidence and Community

- Open-ended and group projects promote emotional growth by encouraging interactions among students
- Collaborative play experiences build communication, negotiation, and interpersonal skills
- Giving students a voice and a choice in how they learn improves learning outcomes

3 Address Systemic Inequities

- All students can succeed at playful learning, making it an accessible way to learn
- Shared "Aha" moments break down barriers between classmates
- Projects can accommodate local differences to be more relevant and inclusive

4 Make Classrooms More Dynamic

- Lessons incorporating play are more motivating, memorable, and meaningful
- Inquiry-based and project-based learning promote creative thinking and social skills
- Projects based on real-world experiences help students learn to apply concepts

5 Inspire Creativity and Discovery

- Students become self-directed, asking and answering their own questions
- Engaged students naturally connect ideas and apply new knowledge
- Social, collaborative, purposeful play encourages exploration vs. finding the "right" answer

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