



# The Power of Play and the Joy of Learning

A TALK BY NOTED  
PSYCHOLOGIST & AUTHOR  
**PETER GRAY**

**WEDNESDAY,  
APRIL 12  
7:00 PM**

Thacher Montessori School  
1425 Blue Hill Avenue  
Milton, MA 02186

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In this talk, Peter Gray will explore play as activity that is (1) self-chosen and self-directed; (2) motivated by means more than ends; (3) guided by mental rules; (4) includes a strong element of imagination; and (5) is conducted in an alert, active, but relatively non-stressed frame of mind. Gray will describe these characteristics and show how each of them contributes to play's educational and developmental value. He will explain why play came about, in natural selection, to promote children's healthy physical, intellectual, social, moral, and emotional growth and will describe the psychological detriments that have accompanied the decline of play in recent decades.

Peter Gray is a research professor of psychology at Boston College and author of the internationally acclaimed textbook, *Psychology*, as well as *Free to Learn*, which expands on his research on the role of play in human evolution and how children educate themselves, through play and exploration, when they are free to do so.

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