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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

December 21, 2001

Commissioner Michael Copps  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Copps::

In 1996 the Federal Communications Commission adopted educational TV show rules that required TV broadcasters to air at least three hours of educational shows for children each week, beginning September 1997. Educational material was to be designed for youngsters to serve their intellectual, cognitive, social and emotional needs. The programs to be aired between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. and specifically designed to educate.

A study of Elk Grove Village, Illinois , a suburb of Chicago, population revealed a need for a preschool program to help youngsters from non-English speaking families acquire English language skills. A solution to this need was the "Play & Language" program. The program introduced preschool children and parents, from homes where English was not the primary language, to basic English and educational concepts

Play & Language meets the intellectual, cognitive, emotional and most important the social needs to service the preschoolers and brings the parent into the system. Social interaction is the most important step for a child learning a new language..

The tools are play and movement. Games, books, drama, music and arts & crafts based on educational concepts reinforce the concept being learned.

To partner with a television station, or video producer interested in serving children and community is my goal. To my knowledge this needed service is not offered in the media.

In 1998 five million preschool children started school lacking English language skills, they could not keep up with the other classmates and were segregated by being taken out of class to be taught English in their primary language and somehow expected to edge into English.

[www.play-language.org.com/](http://www.play-language.org.com/)

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The window of opportunity to learn a new language is between two and five (sometime up to eight) years of age. Preschoolers being introduced to English have an opportunity to come into the main stream. These children hold the future of our world in their hands.

Workshops have been presented in colleges, preschools and daycare centers for Administrators, teachers, daycare staff and volunteer helpers. I feel if this were available on video or television the benefits could be tremendous..

“Play & Language” is a structured English immersion format. It was written as a program and introduced in 1989. 2000 to 2001 it was edited, printed into a curriculum workbook and a copyright obtained.

Can you advise me on who I may approach to further Play & Language?. Are you the person I contact or should I contact or someone else. If requested I can send a lesson from Play & Language for review..

Thank you for your time, I would like to hear from you after the holidays. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,



Madeline Currier  
Early Childhood Consultant

cc: Chairman Michael K. Powell:  
Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin

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About the author:

Member of the Mount Prospect Montessori Study Group founding the Northwest Suburban Montessori School in September 1964.

Early Childhood Coordinator for the Elk Grove Park District from 1971 through 1998.

Co-hosted the "Ralph the Robot Show" on cable television Channel 6.

Contributed to The Giant Encyclopedia of Theme Activities for Children 2-5.

Member of Association for Children's Education International (A.C.E.I.) and on Speakers Bureau for Association for Children's Education International. Association Supervision & Curriculum Development, GOAEACY, NAEYC.

Presented a twelve week session of "Play & Language" at Meadows Community Services in 1999 for Hispanic preschool children and parents. Applied for and received a grant from Wal-Mart's "Make A Difference Day" budget for Meadows Community Services.

"Play & Language" workshops were presented in 2000 and 2001 at McHenry Community College in Crystal Lake, Illinois

"Play & Language" has been requested as supplemental material for a 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade multi-level class, this is in a suburb of Paris. It is my understanding that next year all kindergarten children in France will be required to take English language instructions.

In January 2002 I will be servicing the Police Community Resource Center and Clinic in Rolling Meadows, servicing preschoolers. The goal is to introduce the children to English and basic educational concepts prior to beginning their formal education.

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