

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL

June 9, 2026

Recognizing International Day of Play and Promoting Play-Based Wellness

Play is a fundamental part of childhood and an essential component of healthy development. Through play, children develop communication and social-emotional skills, strengthen problem-solving abilities, foster creativity and imagination, and build resilience. Research consistently shows that play stimulates brain development, supports cognitive and language growth, and contributes to positive educational and emotional outcomes that form the foundation for lifelong learning and well-being.¹

In 2024, the California State Legislature adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution 156 (SCR 156), establishing June 11th as California’s official International Day of Play, aligning with the United Nations’ global initiative recognizing the importance of play in healthy child development. SCR 156 affirms that play supports children’s social, emotional, physical, and academic development while contributing to long-term health and wellness outcomes.²

International Day of Play provides an opportunity to highlight the importance of ensuring that every child has access to safe, meaningful, and inclusive play experiences.

¹ [Research Publish Journals](#).

² [SCR156 International Day of Play in California](#).

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Across Los Angeles County (County), play is used not only for recreation but also as a tool for healing from trauma, strengthening family and community connections, promoting equity, and supporting educational engagement.

The County and the Second District are home to several organizations already advancing the importance of play, including the LA84 Foundation, the Play Equity Fund, and Mattel headquarters. These organizations support a broad network of community-based organizations, educators, caregivers, libraries, parks, and youth-serving agencies that create enriching opportunities for children and families every day. Strengthening partnerships between County departments and community organizations can further advance efforts that use play to promote social growth, emotional wellness, education, and community resilience.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Declare June 11, 2026, as “International Day of Play” throughout Los Angeles County (County).
2. Direct the Director of the Center for Strategic Partnerships to lead efforts with the Departments of Parks and Recreation, Public Social Services (DPSS), Public Health, Mental Health, Children and Family Services, the Office of Child, Youth, and Family Well-Being, the Library, Los Angeles County Office of Education, and other relevant County departments to collaborate with philanthropy, community-based organizations, schools, early childhood providers, and youth-serving agencies to promote:
 - a. Social growth through play;
 - b. Healing and emotional wellness through play-based engagement; and
 - c. Educational and developmental opportunities through accessible and inclusive play activities for children and families across the County.
3. Encourage County departments and community partners to support and expand programs such as DPSS’ Toy Loan Program, as well as events, and public awareness efforts that recognize the vital role of play in fostering healthy childhood development and resilient communities.
4. Direct the Director of the Department of Economic Opportunity, through America’s Job Center of California and the Workforce Development Board, to engage with

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toy manufacturers, including Mattel, to increase career opportunities for local youth with barriers to employment into career pathways related to “play,” and report back to the Board in writing in 120 days with a proposed plan and identified employer partners.

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(LH/ME/JW)