

How Can Play Help Adult Learning with Professor Alison James

COURSE

Rediscover the power of play as a catalyst for creativity, engagement, and transformation in adult learning.



About This Course

While play is often viewed as the domain of childhood, its value in adult learning is profound and far-reaching. In this enlightening session, Professor Alison James, one of the world's foremost authorities on play in higher education, explores how playful approaches can revolutionise adult education by fostering curiosity, creativity, and connection.

Drawing from her extensive research, including her seminal study *The Value of Play in Higher Education*, Professor James unpacks the science, psychology, and pedagogy behind play, offering participants practical ways to make learning more meaningful, memorable, and transformative.



Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, educators will be able to:

Understand the Power of Play:

Explore how play enhances engagement, motivation, and deep learning for adults.

Challenge Misconceptions:

Overcome common barriers and myths that suggest play is "childish" or inappropriate in adult contexts.

Apply Playful Pedagogy:

Discover strategies to integrate play into teaching, training, and professional development.

Foster Creativity and Innovation:

Use play as a tool to unlock creative thinking and problem-solving in individuals and teams.

Transform Learning Environments:

Learn from global examples of universities and workplaces using play to reimagine how adults learn and collaborate.

This session provides not just theory, but actionable ideas to bring play to life in adult education, proving that learning doesn't stop being fun after childhood.



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Why This Matters for Educators and Families

Play isn't just for classrooms, it's for every environment where people learn and grow. The insights from this course can help educators and families:

- **Reignite Curiosity:** Encourage lifelong learning through play-based exploration and experimentation.
- **Enhance Communication:** Build stronger, more open learning relationships between adults and children.
- **Promote Creative Thinking:** Cultivate innovation and problem-solving through playful collaboration.
- **Strengthen Relationships:** Use shared playful experiences to create connection, laughter, and learning together.

By embracing the principles of playful learning, educators and families can make learning a joyful, creative, and empowering process, no matter the age or stage of life.

About the Presenter

Professor Alison James is an internationally recognised expert in creativity, play, and innovation in higher education. As Professor Emerita at the University of Winchester and a UK National Teaching Fellow, she has devoted her career to exploring the intersection of play, learning, and imagination.

She co-edited *The Power of Play in Higher Education: Creativity in Tertiary Learning* with Chrissi Nerantzi and is a sought-after speaker, LEGO® Serious Play® facilitator, and consultant for universities worldwide. Her research continues to influence educators, leaders, and organisations seeking to reimagine how adults learn, proving that play is a serious business.

Perfect For

- Educators, trainers, and facilitators seeking new approaches to adult learning.
- School leaders and tertiary educators interested in creative pedagogy.
- Parents and lifelong learners wanting to rediscover joy in learning.
- Corporate trainers and coaches looking to enhance engagement and innovation in teams.

