

**Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM)**  
**Play Observation Rubric\***  
**September 2023**

|     | <b>Dimension</b>               | <b>Description</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Tally</b> |
|-----|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| (1) | Pretend or imaginative play    | Play in which someone invents scenarios from his or her imagination and acts on them; typically involves moving between reality and pretend.<br>Ex., imagining you are in the painting, pretending to be someone in the work of art |              |
| (2) | Storytelling or narrative play | Play of learning and language that develops intellect.<br>Ex., telling a story about a work of art                                                                                                                                  |              |
| (3) | Creative play                  | Play that uses imagination to transform/transcend what is known in the current state, to create a higher state.<br>Ex., ????                                                                                                        |              |
| (4) | Social play                    | Play which involves others in activities, and builds connections with another person or group of people.<br>Ex., playing a game with others                                                                                         |              |
| (5) | Object play                    | Play that involves manipulating objects/handling physical things in ways that use curiosity.<br>Ex., putting together a puzzle, art making                                                                                          |              |
| (6) | Body and movement play         | Play in which someone explores the ways in which his or her body works and interacts with the world.<br>Ex., taking the pose of someone in a work of art                                                                            |              |

\*Definitions of play are adapted from the National Institute for Play and Stuart Brown (2010).