

DAVID NOLAN

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CHILD'S PLAY

"Child's Play" is a documentary short film project that explores the relationship of play with cognitive development in young children. Developmentally appropriate practices, like play-based learning, are valuable for strengthening many areas of development and learning. Play allows children to use their creativity while developing their imagination, dexterity, and physical, cognitive, and emotional skills. With visual activities, young children will access and utilize different media as a way to communicate and connect to the world, independently building upon their knowledge and constructing their own theories about the world around them. This short film shows how play-based learning can help support a young child's learning of social-emotional skills, general cognitive development, self-regulation abilities, and visual communication. It also helps to clarify the relationship between play and academic learning. Bonham Pre-K School is an elementary school in San Marcos, Texas, in the San Marcos CISD school district. The school has more than 420 students, many of which are considered at risk. Demographically the school has more than 18% of students that are enrolled in bilingual and English language learning programs, and 84% of students qualify for the state supported free lunch program.

BIO:

Dr. David Nolan is a Regents' Teacher, Professor of Practice, and Mass Communication Program Coordinator in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Texas State University. He teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in visual communication, media design, user experience and user interface design, media product strategy, photojournalism, visual storytelling, and digital video production in the School. He has taught at the university since 2003 and received a Ph.D. from Texas State in Education in 2012.

Nolan's professional photography has won numerous awards and has been featured numerous times in publications such as: Time, Newsweek, U.S. News and World Report,

New York Times magazine, Life, New York Newsday, Air Force magazine, the Los Angeles Times, Airman Magazine, Torch magazine, countless books, websites and other media.

In 2020 he was a recipient of the Texas State University Alumni Association Teaching Award of Honor. In 2018 he was selected as a Regents' Teacher by the Texas State University System and also received the Everette Swinney Faculty Senate Excellence in Teaching Award. In 2015 he was awarded the National Press Photographers Association Robin F. Garland Educator Award for outstanding service as a photojournalism educator and in the same year received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching at Texas State. In 2010 he received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Service at Texas State and in 2008 he was recognized as the Honors Professor of the Year at the university. He has hosted and been on the faculty of the National Press Photographers Association's Advanced Storytelling Workshop at Texas State since 2009.

Nolan's professional career as a U.S. Air Force military combat photographer and photography editor spanned 24 years and all seven continents. He was the director of photography for Airman Magazine, the official magazine of the United States Air Force for many years and was a staff photojournalist before that. One of his last assignments was to the Middle East where he deployed three days after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, to cover combat operations during the American invasion of Afghanistan and subsequent operations in the region before retiring from military service in 2003.

During his professional career he covered U.S. and foreign military operations, State Department activities, and other nongovernmental and governmental agencies around the world. Some of his photography included coverage of former President Ronald Reagan's much publicized visit to a German Nazi SS stormtrooper cemetery; the repatriation of journalist Jeremy Levin who escaped from Islamic fundamentalists; the release of a hijacked TWA crew and passengers; the release of hostages from an American Airlines jet in Malta; Afghanistan during the height of the Soviet invasion to document the plight of the Mujahadeen; and coverage of Soviet Jewish dissident Natan Sharansky's release and flight to Israel. He covered the draw down of nuclear Ground Launched Cruise Missiles in England, Soviet weapons inspections, and the beginning of the thaw in the Cold War. He participated in and documented United Nations Peacekeeping Forces operations in Namibia, Africa; traveled to Uzbekistan in the Soviet Union to cover burn victims from a Soviet gas pipeline explosion and ambassador Shirley Temple Black's participation; and traveled throughout Europe and the Middle East to document Air Force combat operations during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

While at Airman Magazine he covered numerous assignments, including the visit of Russian bombers to the United States; South America and the Caribbean to cover the "War

on drugs"; the military conflict in the Balkans, flying night airdrop missions of food to Muslim enclaves in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and combat re-supply missions into Sarajevo; Mogadishu, Somalia, at the height of tensions between warring clans and the U.S. military; McMurdo Station and the South Polar Station in Antarctica, photographing and writing about contributions to the National Science Foundation's work; and to Cuba to cover the plight of Haitian refugees. Other story highlights included the airlift of "Keiko" the killer whale from Oregon to Iceland. While at the magazine he also managed thirteen photojournalists in San Antonio, and at news bureaus in Washington D.C., Japan, and Germany for the Air Force News Agency.