***Facilitating Play for Children of All Abilities***

**Presented by: *National Lekotek Center***

**Physical Development**

Physical disabilities affect an individual’s motor system. These can include skeletal, muscle, and joint abnormalities which in turn limit an individual’s ability to move, stand, sit, walk, play, reach, etc. *Fine and gross motor skills provide children with the abilities they need to explore and interact with the world around them and develop the independence needed to perform daily activities.*

**Social Development**

Social/Emotional disabilities can affect an individual’s ability to manage behavior by controlling outbursts, inappropriate reactions, or feelings that are not due to other intellectual, sensory or health factors. This impacts the ability to build and maintain interpersonal relationships. *Social development most often refers to how a child develops friendships and other relationships, as well how a child handles conflict with peers.*

**Emotional Development**

Social/Emotional disabilities can affect an individual’s ability to manage behavior by controlling outbursts, inappropriate reactions, or feelings that are not due to other intellectual, sensory or health factors. This impacts the ability to build and maintain interpersonal relationships. *Children practice their verbal and nonverbal communication, body language, release of emotions and build self-confidence. Playing with others can also help children respond to their peers’ feelings, conflicts and points of view which all encourage emotional development.*

**Cognitive Development**

Cognitive disabilities can affect an individual’s ability to process information, reason, comprehend, remember, focus attention, control impulsivity and express information or emotions. *Ability to process information, reason, remember and express emotions which can be promoted through many facets of play.*