



International
PLAY
ICELAND

2018

Bringing people
together from
across the
world

www.internationalplayiceland.com
7th - 12th October



Hulda Hreidarsdottir is the founder of Fafu and alongside Tom Shea the co founder of **International Play Iceland.**

She spent most of her childhood talking to herself and finds children more interesting than adults. Hulda took play really seriously and spent her time developing solutions that offer better play opportunities for children. She was an inspirational woman with great plans to change the world.

*Tragically passed away
June 5th 2015 age 32*

HULDA

*Always in our
heart & thoughts*

HULDA
FOUNDER OF
FAFU DRESSING
UP CLOTHING



www.fafunia.com



Trip Rules

INTERNATIONAL PLAY ICELAND TRIP

1. Have an incredible time.
2. Be ready to learn & share.
3. Absolutely make friends.
4. If in doubt...ask.
5. Try new things....life's an adventure.
6. Believe in yourself, you can make a difference.
7. Have FUN.

International

PLAY
ICELAND

Welcome

TO ALL THOSE ATTENDING INTERNATIONAL ICELAND 2018



Welcome & thank you

From - Tom Shea and the IPI team

Welcome to International Play Iceland 2018

As with previous years we try to incorporate a whole set of extraordinary experiences to share what we do, know, want to discover, have never discovered and delight in an environment that removes you from the day to day and allows you to stretch into the future.

So, here we go to this years' new and exciting week in Iceland.

Given the input from Dida and Helga (Icelandic Team) - be assured we are Icelandic friends - not tourists - so food etc will be geared to the original - not touristy stuff and the Hotel is very central.

Liaison is currently taking place on the exact days and times when people will be arriving - the main group coming from the UK will land at 8.50 am in Reykjavik on the 7th of October and Linda Fare will liaise with all others as to where we will meet up.

OCTOBER 2018

IN CASE YOU NEED TO CONTACT TOM SHEA DURING THE TRIP

TEL: 07831-635802 (UK)
TEL: 00 44 - 7831-635802

IN CASE YOU NEED TO CONTACT LINDA FARE DURING THE TRIP

TEL: 00 44 - 7989-165990

NAOMI SAVAGE
TEL: 00 44 - 07494 - 454223

YOUR HOTEL DETAILS

TRYGGVAGATA 12
101 REYKJAVIK
TEL: (+354) 5198000
FAX: (+354) 5198019
EXETER@KEAHOTELS.IS

Our Mission



"Imagination & connection
to nature"



International Play Iceland is an organic entity increasingly committed to bringing together excellence in practice, knowledge and the passion to want to grow a movement that will test and challenge the absurdity of putting children into education at a younger and younger age.

The seed was a commitment to open ended resources - from both Tom and Hulda, sharing that knowledge based upon the Icelandic culture and their approach, not only to education, but also the way lifestyle affected the way in which their children were treated. The risks and challenges, the encouragement for them to think and learn for themselves, the passive role of the pedagogist and parents/carers and the effect that has obviously had.

Iceland is a land of creative and tolerant demanders and dreamers. The obvious effect can be seen in the art, recreation, design, technology and therefore their approach to education are there to be observed.

With this, our fifth adventure and now a far more International grouping, we are less about changing the way we work with young children, it's about how we THINK about children. The standards we set will be the standards of tomorrow.

So as you come and join International Play Iceland for the first time, or the second, or third, we hope we can create an opportunity for you to join together and share and consider what this strange adventure called Early Years is really all about.



A little history

Iceland is a truly magical place, with a culture and a country that needs to be seen to be believed. So welcome to that journey. After coming together as two like minded individuals with a passion for positive brain development, Hulda and I decided to bring others in to the conversation. Some young learners and some like minded people and so began Play Iceland in 2013.

Hulda's heritage, passion and knowledge for Iceland and the importance of play shone through.

To get like minded people together in the environment of Iceland gave an opportunity to explore and expand thinking. If you are looking for a different way of thinking and working with children and their development, or to endorse some of your own thinking, we believe Iceland is a great place to be and to learn from each other.

This year we are delighted to welcome more people from a larger geography such as Australia the USA, Ireland and England alongside our growing body of Icelandic colleagues and friends.

Great practice is being shared and honed in a new and exciting way. So....Play Iceland is a 6 day adventure exploring Icelandic nursery settings and culture. It is an international event where practitioners have the opportunity to connect across continents and create professional bonds that fuels their passion for the years to come.

We will always miss Hulda and her modest dynamism, but take the skills, attitudes and ethos that she showed us in past years, and make 2018 a truly inspiring and creative Play Iceland date.

Tom
Imaginator / Fafunian

tom@fafunia.com

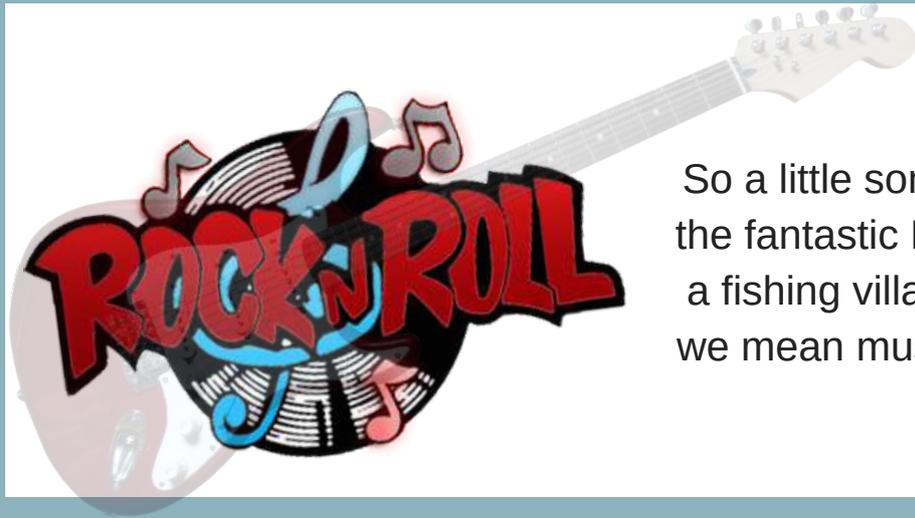
www.internationalplayiceland.com

SUNDAY OCTOBER 7TH 2018

FLY TO ICELAND



UK ATTENDEE'S DEPART FROM LONDON LUTON AIRPORT 06:50AM



So a little something to squeeze in prior to the fantastic Blue Lagoon is a quick stop in a fishing village to visit a Rock Cafe (And we mean music not material) straight from the airport.



THEN SOMETHING SPECIAL

So we land in Iceland... it's bright and early but buzzing with excitement we head straight to the infamous Blue Lagoon to settle the travel nerves and enjoy a bit of relax before the week starts.... Then lunch in their amazing LAVA restaurant - and off to the 4 star hotel in the centre and a chance to unpack and prepare for a local evening meal.. Approximate arrival time to the lagoon is 11:15am

GOOD-TO-KNOW

The water temperature is generally between 37-40°C (98-104°F).

The lagoon contains 9 million litres of water.

The water is self-cleansing - it renews itself every 40 hours.

Blue Lagoon is mostly ca. 0.8-1.2 metres deep. Its deepest point is 1.4 meters.

If you don't want to go in the lagoon don't worry you can relax and enjoy a drink and watch the group.

SUNDAY 7TH

Then after the Blue Lagoon and a bite to eat we'll head off to our Hotel located in Reykjavik.

THE EXETER by KEAHOTELS

"Experience the funky mix of trade, retail, culture and locals right by the old harbour"



DINNER AT 7PM

After getting comfortable at the hotel we will have a little get together to discuss the week ahead before walking to Forréttabarin, a restaurant loved by locals as well as travellers.

After having a cosy first night we will turn in early as an exciting day of visits await.



MONDAY 8TH OCTOBER

We'll meet at 8am for breakfast, then afterwards the groups will begin their visits to this years selected schools.



MONDAY 8TH

Our school visits are deliberately small groups and you will not be with people you know - and you will build new friendships, join in with the school day and have their lunch.

The aim is to have you back for around 4:30pm.



Keep in mind the differences and similarities you find in the culture and lives of the society you have joined and your own.

Take opportunities to discuss and reflect with the local teachers as well as the other members of your group.

Early dinner will be had at a local salad restaurant before joining our friends, Linda and Svanhildur at Spilavinir for a night of fun and games.



MONDAY EVENING 8TH

We'll meet at 6:30pm for dinner then head off together to experience a real working **GAMES** shop called - **Spilivanir**.

They have a wonderful collection of games plus experts who really care about how we can socialise and work together. (and if you have never played Happy Salmon - you will that night)



TUESDAY 9TH

8.00am early breakfast then another day of opportunities to experience the life of preschool children in Iceland and their educators.



In the afternoon we will take a little walk around the oldest neighborhood in Reykjavik visiting Fischersund, where we will meet some family and get connected with the roots of Icelandic heritage.

TUESDAY EVENING 9TH OCTOBER

Dinner will be at Höfnin, a family run fish restaurant by the harbor. This one has become a Play Iceland favorite.



Afterwards everyone has a free evening to explore and enjoy or simply relax and unwind.

WEDNESDAY 10TH OCTOBER

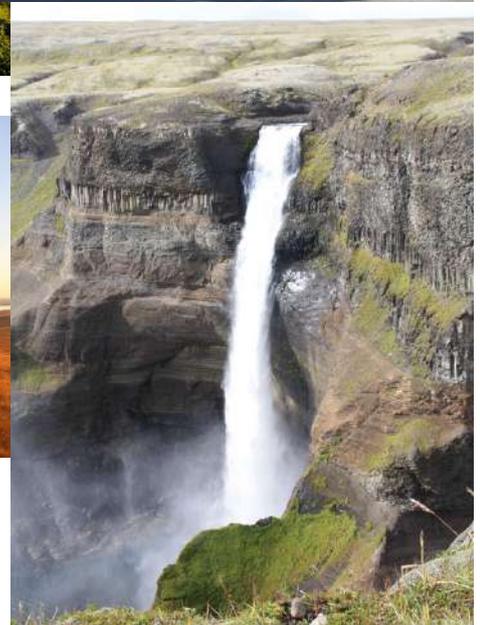
Nature Day

Nature day where we get to explore Icelands nature in all its shapes.

A whole lot of wind and rain would truly show us the country in its truest way. We can only hope for clear skies.

Simone (Our Icelandic Organiser) will be our guide and tell us all about the land of trolls and vicious elves as we drive along the coast.

If we are lucky there might be some northern lights on the way back.



A TRULY MAGICAL PLACE

11TH OCTOBER

International
**PLAY
ICELAND**

We will start with a morning session with local Icelandic children (Tom Shea has this event covered and will share his ideas during the course of the trip)

Followed by a lunch close by. After lunch you will have time to roam around the center for a while before our finishing event.

Thursday night will be shared with local educators where we will share knowledge and experience in a form of small pop up events in an old theatre. We encourage you to share your stories and use the opportunity to connect with the local teachers over things in children's lives and education we all care deeply about. The night will end with some drinks and local music that will make us all sleep well before our long travels back home.



SOME FREE TIME TO EXPLORE REYKJAVIK





Friday 12th October

IT DOESN'T HAPPEN WITHOUT, SO THANK YOU

Bleary eyed trip to the airport after a hearty breakfast.....



All with people from USA, Australia, Ireland and UK with a common thread – a passion for children.

Were going on an adventure.....



It's going to be a BIG ONE.



International Play Iceland originated in (You guessed it...) Iceland. We believe that Iceland is a truly magical place that needs to be seen to be believed!

The idea behind International Play Iceland came from two like minded individuals with passions for positive brain development. Their ideas and passion blossomed into life when they created Play Iceland in 2013.



INFORMATION ABOUT SETTINGS YOU WILL VISIT

1. Urðarhóll

Urðarhóll have taken part in Play Iceland for a few years now.

(Connection: Imma and Birte who will participate in the storytelling event. Sigrun, the principal will cook for us on the Thursday.

Urðarhóll's educational philosophy is based on a healthy and balanced lifestyle emphasizing exercise, nutrition and creativity. There is a lot of outdoor activities every day, involving both free play and trekking to nearby nature sites (such as the beach).

We also have an indoor area designed for sports, dance and climbing, which is constantly in use by the children. Music and the arts are valued highly as a means of learning and self-expression.

The teachers believe a child's confidence in itself and its physical abilities affects its ability to communicate, connect with others and to learn through play. Giving each child a freedom of choice to follow its own path of development is believed to be of core importance at Urðarhóll.

Link to school: urdarholl@kopavogur.is

GROUP A

MONDAY 8TH OCTOBER

TOM HOBSON - USA

LISA JOHN- UK

MICHELE LARMAN - UK

CATHERINE MILLER - UK

GROUP E

TUESDAY 9TH OCTOBER

NIKI BUCHAN - AUSTRALIA

LISA SNELL - UK

JILL PARMELAND - USA

TRACY GALE - UK

2. Stekkjarás

Stekkjars have taken part in Play Iceland for a few years now.

The ideas of the child, today's project" is what educators at Stekkjaras keep in mind in their daily work. They find it important to support each child's abilities and interests with including them in decision making. As the Reggio Emilia philosophy indicates, Stekkjaras looks at environment as

having the role of the third teacher. They aim to offer the children a diverse and encouraging surroundings. Stekkjaras looks at play as a core importance in everyday life and should be given enough space. It is through play that children learn to understand the world around them, communicate their ideas, feelings and experience and understand perspectives of others.

Stekkjars uses their surroundings to create opportunities for exploring and playing in nature.

Link to school: stekkjaras@hafnarfjordur.is

GROUP A

TUESDAY 9TH OCTOBER

TOM HOBSON - USA

LISA JOHN- UK

MICHELE LARMAN - UK

CATHERINE MILLER - UK

GROUP F

MONDAY 8TH OCTOBER

DONNA KIRCHNER - USA

TRACEY STOREY - UK

ALISON EISENSTADT - USA

LELA WHITE - UK

INFORMATION ABOUT SETTINGS YOU WILL VISIT

3) Adalthing School

(Connection: Helga works at Adalþing. This school has also welcomed Play Iceland participants for a few years now)

Adalthing preschool is located in a fairly new suburb of the town Kópavogur. The location is close to an ancient location for the first known parliament in Iceland, this was before the year 930 when the grander location at Thingvellir was established as the Parliament of Iceland. This history plays an important part in the identity of the preschool Adalthing.

The curriculum and the environment strives for democracy for all, teachers and children. The goal of daily life in the preschool is to empower children to have a say in their life, to live fully, play and be happy. The school has established a thoroughly pondered mealtime policy. The food at Adathing is clean and as local as possible with fresh ingredients and all meals are made from scratch. But above all, we believe that the quality time of eating with your friends is as important (if not more) as the nourishment of the food.

School webpage: <http://www.adalthing.is/is>
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqGQmhn0hnJ2fYt3kv1o4Sg>
Helga is a teacher at Adalthing and a part of the Play Iceland family.
Her e-mail is: helgahrei@gmail.com

GROUP B

TUESDAY 9TH OCTOBER

CHANTELLE KING - UK
BELLE LIU - USA
FAWN LAW-DAVIS - AUSTRALIA
KATIE NICHOLLS - UK
TOM SHEA - UK

GROUP D

MONDAY 8TH OCTOBER

ELIZABETH GILLELAND - USA
NAOMI SAVAGE - UK
LYNNE SHARPE - UK
LUCY GILLET - UK
ELLE JOHNSTON - UK

4. Krikaskóli

(Connection: Þrúður who participated in IPI Seattle. The school participated in 2015 and earlier.)

In a small village in Iceland the local community decided to try a new idea. What would happen if they made a school for 1 - 9 year olds, instead of the traditional 1-5 preschool, 6-12 and 13 - 16 elementary level. What happens if you take the culture and education of the preschools, where play and abstract work with art and elements is common, and merge it with the old traditions of the elementary school? You will get Krikaskoli.

Krikaskóli is built as an integrated preschool and elementary school for children from the age of 1-9 years old. The ideology behind the school, the building and school grounds were all designed to support and strengthen its academic work.

The ideology is based on constructionism, an educational theory which assumes that knowledge is a product of the meaning each individual creates out of their experiences. The educational environment is then coherent, multifaceted and genuine for children that develop their own knowledge. The school centres around the idea of "a School for everyone" and the group has many diversities. There is a strong belief that all our children need to be able to participate in every activity. Therefore the planning must be accessible to all the children with every imaginable need.

Link to school: <http://www.krikaskoli.is/>

GROUP E

MONDAY 8TH OCTOBER

NIKI BUCHAN - AUSTRALIA
LISA SNELL - UK
JILL PARMELAND - USA
TRACY GALE - UK

GROUP F

TUESDAY 9TH OCTOBER

DONNA KIRCHNER - USA
TRACEY STOREY - UK
ALISON EISENSTADT - USA
LELA WHITE - UK

INFORMATION ABOUT SETTINGS YOU WILL VISIT

5. Ugluklettur

(Connection: Kristín is the principal of Ugluklettur. This is the first time it participates and was recommended by Þrúður)

Ugluklettur is a preschool, located on the outskirts of Borgarnes, a village of 2000 inhabitants. It has developed an educational vision build on the ideology of positive psychology as well as Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi's theories about flow.

Located by the sea, Ugluklettur finds it important to encourage play and learning in nature and has developed a toolbox for outside learning they call the adventure chest. They also have access to a house in the center of the village which 4-6 year old children spend time regularly for the purpose of exploring and getting to know their community better.

TSchools webpage: <http://www.ugluklettur.borgarbyggd.is/>
Kristín is the principle at Ugluklettur. Her e-mail is: kristing@borgarbyggd.is

GROUP B

MONDAY 8TH OCTOBER

CHANTELLE KING - UK

BELLE LIU - USA

FAWN LAW-DAVIS - AUSTRALIA

KATIE NICHOLLS - UK

TOM SHEA - UK

GROUP C

TUESDAY 9TH OCTOBER

JAN WHITE - UK

ERIN KENNY - USA

CLAIRE MOORE - IRELAND

JOSEPH ST HILL - UK

LOUISE SERRANDER -UK

6. Mánagarður

(Connection: Soffía and Iris who participated in IPI Seattle. This school has participated a few times before)

Mánagarður is a preschool for children aged two to six. It is located on campus and most of the children are children of university students. Mánagarður has 68 full-day spaces and four departments.

In 2008 we became interested in the HighScope approach and sent two teachers to do their HighScope training at The HighScope Educational Research Foundation in Ypsilanti, USA and are certified HighScope trainers and teachers. The core of HighScope is active learning and we know that children learn through play so we value it very much and give our children a lot of time to play, both inside and outside.

Link to school: <http://managardur.leikskolinn.is/>

GROUP C

MONDAY 8TH OCTOBER

JAN WHITE - UK

ERIN KENNY - USA

CLAIRE MOORE - IRELAND

JOSEPH ST HILL - UK

LOUISE SERRANDER - UK

GROUP D

TUESDAY 9TH OCTOBER

ELIZABETH GILLELAND - USA

NAOMI SAVAGE - UK

LYNNE SHARPE - UK

LUCY GILLET - UK

ELLE JOHNSTON - UK



Niki Buchan -
Australia



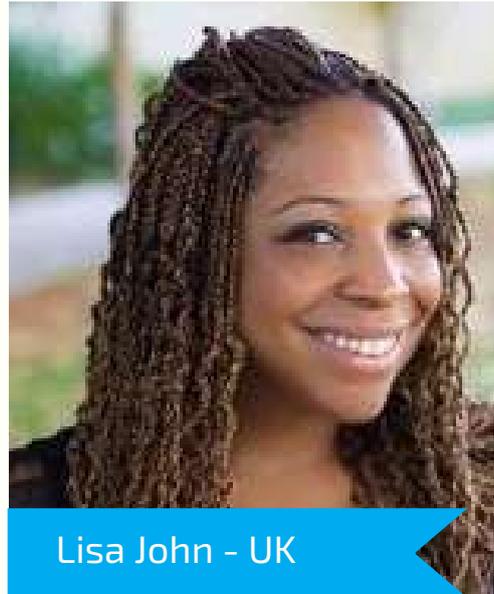
Elizabeth
Gilleland - USA



Tom Hobson - USA



Donna Kirchner
- USA



Lisa John - UK



Alison Eisenstadt -
USA



Linda Fare - UK -
IPI TEAM



Tom Shea - UK - IPI
Co Founder



Jill Parmeland -
USA



Erin Kenny - USA



Michele Larman - UK



Chantelle Ann Le Roux



Elle Johnston - UK



Katie Nicholls - UK



Tracy Gale - UK



Lela White - UK



Joseph St Hill - UK



Lynne Sharpe - UK



Lucy Gillett - UK

Play Iceland 2018

International
PLAY
ICELAND



Claire Moore -
Ireland



Catherine Miller -
UK



Fawn Law-Davis -
Australia



Lisa Snell - UK



Jan White - UK



Tracey Storey - UK



Naomi Savage - UK -
IPITEAM



Louise Serrander - UK



Chirstabelle Liu -
USA

Play Iceland 2018

International
PLAY
ICELAND

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT ICELAND

1. Icelandic babies are left outside to nap in freezing temperatures. It is not uncommon to see a pram outside a coffee shop parents crabbing a cup while the baby sleeps. Or to see one outside of a home as many Icelandic babies nap outside at least once a day, no matter the season.

2. Iceland is a nation of book worms. There is a term in Icelandic called jólabókaflóð, the Christmas book flood. It refers to the great number of books published before Christmas, as books are popular Christmas presents.



7. There are volcanic eruptions every few years in Iceland. Most of which are small and magnificent to look at from afar

8. Nearly all of Iceland's heating and electricity needs are served by hydroelectric power and geothermal water reserves.

9. There are no mosquitoes in Iceland. There are in fact very few insects that can do much more to bother a person than simply existing.

10. Iceland's capital Reykjavik, is the northernmost city of any sovereign state in the world. It doesn't get that cold though. Average temperature in Reykjavik in January is just about the same as in New York.

11. Icelanders don't have surnames in the traditional sense. The vast majority of Icelandic surnames simply record the fact that you are your father's (or mother's) son or daughter. First names are almost always used when addressing someone, no matter how formal the meeting. Even the phone book lists subscribers by their first name

12. More on names. There are strict laws on what names are allowed in Iceland, the point is to preserve Icelandic language. All names not previously accepted must go before the Icelandic Naming Committee, which either allows them if they abide to the laws on Icelandic names, or rejects them, forcing parents to find another name for their child.



13. The English word "geyser" comes from the name of the great geyser, Geysir in Haukadalur, South Iceland.

14. There is no railway system of any sort in Iceland.

15. Iceland has only waged one war, and it can barely be called war. Its name is Þorskastríðið, The Cod War, it was a dispute between Iceland and the UK over fishing grounds in 1960s and 70s.



3. Beer was illegal in Iceland until 1989.

4. Alþingi, the Icelandic parliament was founded in 930 and is one of the oldest in the world.

5. Icelandic people love eating ice cream even though temperatures are well below zero.

6. Icelandic people are no less fond of swimming pools and outdoor hot tubs in the freezing cold. As they are filled geothermal water they are warm great for relaxing. Or splashing around..



International
PLAY
ICELAND *

2018

www.internationalplayiceland.com
Thank you to everyone who joined us.