



# Featured Speaker

ohioaeyc

## Kisa Marx

**Kisa Marx** is an educator, author, and award-winning play advocate dedicated to creating liberating early childhood spaces that center and affirm Black children. With a focus on dismantling traditional systems rooted in white supremacy, she champions play-based pedagogy that fosters joy, access, and autonomy. As the founder of The Play Lab, she leads innovative programs for young learners and their families. In addition to her work in the field, Kisa writes and speaks on how educators can critically examine their practices to cultivate equitable and affirming learning environments for all children. Also, she co-authors *Rethinking Weapon Play in Early Childhood: How to Encourage Imagination, Kindness, and Consent in Your Classroom* with Samuel Broaden. It offers new perspectives on how weapon play and other risky or controversial play can provide opportunities for healing discussions—including conversations around boundaries, kindness, and consent—and create positive learning experiences for children and teachers alike.

When not working with her crew or advocating alongside fellow childhood champions, Kisa can be found with her partner of 26 years, tending to their garden of adult children, pets, and plants.



### Conference Sessions

Thursday, April 23

1:00 -2:30 PM  
Rethinking Play