



# THE THINKING PLAYGROUND 2019 SUMMER CAMPS

Do you want your child to have the 'thinking tools' to solve problems?  
To make good decisions?  
To be open to exploring different ideas,  
and transform imagination into innovation?



*then THE THINKING PLAYGROUND is just what you have been looking for!*

#### Thinking is learning to:

- listen to each other
- ask interesting questions
- make connections between ideas
- to build on each other's ideas
- see what counts as a reason
- express your reasons
- think before you act

#### WHY?

Because the camps are FUN—yeah!  
And, in the process, kids will learn how to  
THINK! But what is thinking?

#### Thinking is essential:

- for constructive communication
- for healthy mental and emotional development
- for dealing with the pressures of life
- for good judgment
- for self-growth



The University of the Fraser Valley, its philosophy department, its college of arts and the Vancouver Institute of Philosophy For Children ([www.vip4c.ca](http://www.vip4c.ca)) are joining energies to bring "fun" and "thinking" to youngsters in the Fraser Valley by putting on camps for each of the two weeks with carefully crafted curriculums and a unique pedagogical approach.

**WHO:** Dr. Susan Gardner (Dr. Sue), graduate of Oxford University, Philosophy Professor at Capilano University and Director of The Vancouver Institute of Philosophy for Children ([www.vip4c.ca](http://www.vip4c.ca)), and Arthur Wolf from the University of British Columbia and Education Director at The Thinking Playground, will supervise the construction of the philosophically-based programs, as well as their implementation. They will be assisted by Anastasia Anderson from the philosophy department at UFV who will also be present throughout the camp experience. Each camp team will consist of at least one graduate student, an undergraduate with extensive training in philosophy, and at least two volunteers, who have philosophical and/or early childhood education background. We will ensure that the ratio of counsellor/camper never falls below 1/7 campers.



Check [WWW.THINKINGPLAYGROUND.ORG](http://WWW.THINKINGPLAYGROUND.ORG) for our programs and our excellent counsellors!

## 2019 SUMMER CAMP PROGRAMS July 8-12 & July 15-19

"Thinking is something that needs to be learned; it doesn't just happen" -Dr. Sue

### WEEK 1, July 8-12



## CURIOUS CRITTERS (ages 6-9)

**R**un rabbit run and don't forget to tag the monkey! Join us upside down and sideways if you are you ready to swing into our world of **Curious Critters**. Watch dragonflies pass by, butterflies and talking trees while flocks of starlings dance in the sky. A predator hides in the shadow while a prey eats grass in the meadow. As **Curious Critters** we share our world with animals, flowers, trees, oceans and clouds, but are we really sharing? Are you the boss of your pet? Should we even have pets? What if we could communicate with animals? What would you want to say and what do you think they would tell you to do different? Let's do the barnyard search, boardgames, a chicken dance competition, monkey tag and much more! Let's explore our inner critter!

## ANDROID AGENTS (ages 10-13)

**W**elcome aspiring members of the national robot corporation! Whether its artificial intelligence or artificial friends, we are here to help! Have you ever thought about what it would be like to have a robot friend? If your robot is called Jamie, what would you do with him? What if you could program your Jamie? Perhaps Jamie could do your homework and talk to your parents for you? Maybe, Jamie could do ALL your thinking and feeling for you! How far would you push your robot? You could even develop your own Central Processing Unit to upgrade your thinking. To investigate these questions you will have to join us as an **Android Agent** to explore the robotic rough-lands of designing friendship, truth and your own hardwired avatar through scavenger hunts, trans-robotic sketches, immersive board games, artificial intelligence painting, intergalactic thought bots and more.



### WEEK 2, July 15-19

## THOUGHT BOTS (ages 6-9)

**B**leep bleep, BOINK, CLANK, CLUNK: its a robot rumpus! From tiny robots to raucous humanoid the **Thought Bots** are thinking out of their heads! Do you want to live for a week with robots, getting to know them and maybe even try to become one? Can you design a best friend robot, a dream robot or a play robot. Do you want to have a fun-tastic adventure exploring questions like why we need robots or if we can be friends with robots. Or maybe if robots have feelings? Do you think they can understand what you think and feel? Then come on and join us as a Thought Bot for fantabulous metallic scavenger hunts, silly-bot sketches, exciting robot games, machinic painting, the Fun O' Bottic Thinking Playground and more!



## ANIMAL WHISPERERS (ages 10-13)

**I**t is almost blowing a gale! Rubbing wings with swarms of bees and stretching paws with packs of wolves, the **Animal Whisperers** fly through faraway forests and jolly jungles. Discovering talking trees and sneaky plants, as an **Animal Whisperer** you will spread your wings and participate in bug hunts, rock art, animal jumble, monkey tag, and finding the reptile person. Together we will navigate through questions like Why do we keep pets? Can you be friends with an animal? What kind of animals are humans? What is the strength of a predator? What about the prey? Can you sniff out a predator in your life? And much more with all the indoor and outdoor activities like dragons & flies, the furious funny farm, ghoulish games, and handicraft projects!

