



Background & Resume

Patty Hannan
16335 E. Anna Cade Rd.
Rockwall, TX 75087

Playwisely® is receiving national and international attention for its groundbreaking approach to early childhood development. Playwisely® combines the latest information from Science, Education and Sport to craft a unique system of creative play techniques referred to as ‘The Directionality Method’. The aim of ‘The Directionality Method’ is to provide every child the opportunity to wire important foundation neural networks for establishing a broad base of natural learning and movement experience. Early, age appropriate experience is necessary to ‘turn on and tune in’ the brain’s neurosensory systems essential for propelling the quality of all future learning. It is important to develop the many cognitive and motor milestones during the brain’s early critical wiring period when learning is most efficient. Playwisely® does the work for parents by formatting the dozens of recognized developmental milestones into interactive 30 minute classes. The classes also serve as a parent education program. Parents recognize how to interact with their child each step of the way through play to maximize development. Patty Hannan of Rockwall, Texas is the founder of Playwisely® and developed ‘The Directionality Method’ by drawing upon her unique life experiences in the fields of Science, Education and Sport.

SPORTS

Ms. Hannan’s early years were dedicated to the sport of gymnastics. Gymnastics is a unique sport in that it requires high-level athletes to become proficient moving along and around all three body axis. Gymnasts actually ‘fly’ by following the laws of aerodynamics when propelling their bodies into parabolic arcs when performing complex flipping and twisting maneuvers. Gymnasts must learn to develop an acute awareness of the brain’s neurosensory systems for detecting and processing data in order to excel performance capabilities. For the gymnast, making an error in information processing while executing complex skills can lead to catastrophic injury. Ms. Hannan was among the first generation of gymnasts in the late 1970’s and early 1980’s to experience tumbling skills of this level. Her experience as a high level gymnast provided her insight into the profound effect gravity has on the form and function of human performance. Ms. Hannan’s gymnastics experience impacted how she would view and interpret research information from the fields of science and education. The cognitive

development 'flash card' system used in Playwisely® classes is often referred to as mental gymnastics brain exercise.

Gymnastics Experience

1973 – Pennsylvania State High School Gymnastics Champion (vault)

1975 – United States Gymnastics Federation Junior Olympic National Champion, Senior Division (Floor Exercise & 3rd All-Around)

1979 & 1980 – 2 time Big Eight Conference Champion (Floor Exercise & Uneven Bars) and Collegiate All-American (All-Around and Floor Exercise), University of Nebraska

1981 – 1986 – Head Gymnastics Coach, Preschool through competitive levels, Galerie School of Performing Arts, Lewisville, TX

1982 – 1984 – Gymnastics Program Director/Consultant, The Institutes for the Achievement of Human Potential, Philadelphia, PA

1984 to Present – USA Gymnastics Official

1993 to Present – USA Gymnastics National & NCAA Gymnastics Official

1986 to Present – Clinician and Presenter at local, regional and national gymnastics symposiums

SCIENCE

Ms. Hannan became involved in the world of science through her gymnastics experience. Her introduction came in 1983 after attending a lecture at The Evan Thomas Institute in Philadelphia, PA by the Director of Life Science for NASA at the time, Dr. Gerald Soffen. Dr. Soffen spoke about the problems astronauts were having adapting human performance capabilities to zero gravity. Ms. Hannan's observations as a gymnast concerning the use of different human orientation systems intrigued Dr. Soffen. Ms. Hannan explained the body axis as providing unique interpretation of body awareness and spatial orientation versus the center of mass ('seeing' vs 'feeling' systems). He believed her insights were scientifically sound but not yet understood by the scientific community. Dr. Soffen invited Ms. Hannan to the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas to undergo specific testing. Under the guidance of the Research Director for the Space Biomedical Research Institute at Johnson Space Center, Dr. Jerry Hommick, Ms. Hannan excelled on each of the tests. Her results prompted NASA to engage in a larger study. This experience, in particular the zero gravity studies performed in the infamous 'vomit comet', led Ms. Hannan to realize the importance of the body axis in giving our world and our bodies a directionality awareness foundational to both learning and movement ability. This experience paved the way for developing 'The Directionality Method'.

1983 – Human Performance briefing and individual feasibility trials, NASA, Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas, (Dr. Jerry Hommick)

1984 – Established protocol for joint research project between NASA's Space Biomedical Research Institute (Dr. Jerry Hommick) and the United States Gymnastics Federation (Mr. Mike Jacki) studying the unique human performance capabilities of the world class gymnast.

1984 – 1985 Participated in the above research project.

1984 – Published, “Gymnastics from Tiny Tots to Astronauts”, Gymnastics USA Magazine, March Issue

1985 – 1986 – at the request of Dr. Hommick, Ms. Hannan tutored under Dr. Robert Moss, Head of the Graduate Neuroscience Department UT Southwest Medical Center, Dallas, Texas, learning the language of neuroscience to help define what gymnasts ‘know’ concerning high level human performance skills.

1986 to present – Ms. Hannan developed ‘The Directionality Method’, a comprehensive developmental theory. Gravity gives our world and our body a directionality. Our ability to navigate the directionality of words, numbers, our body’s laterality etc.. efficiently determines the quality of our learning.

1988– Published, “an Hypothesis Concerning the Space Adaptation Syndrome”, Flying Physician Magazine, Vol. 32 No. 4

1993 – presented The Directionality Method to the scientists at the Ashton Graybiel Spatial Orientation Laboratory at Brandeis University Boston, Massachusetts. (Dr. James Lackner, Director of the laboratory agreed to become a Board Member and Consultant in the development of the method and it’s applications.)

1994 – Presented & published “Human Performance Technology for Gymnastics Officials” and “Human Performance Technology for Gymnasts and Coaches” at the USA National Gymnastics Congress and Technique Magazine.

EDUCATION

Ms. Hannan’s coaching experience, work with NASA and neuroscience tutoring led her interest into the area of early learning. Understanding brain development and it’s importance, her love of teaching and coaching and raising her own young children prompted her to focus on applying her developing method to early education.

1987 – 1989 Co-Founder, and first Preschool teacher of the prestigious DaVinci School, Dallas, TX. The DaVinci School is recognized for its science based curriculum and enthusiastic teachers. The school continues to be recognized as a top preschool in Dallas.

1987- presented “The Gerard Method” (early Directionality Method) National Association for the Education of Young Children Convention, Chicago, IL

1988– Published “Teaching Your Child Basic Body Confidence” (under name Patty Carmichael-Gerard) Houghton, Mifflin Publisher

1988-1990 National Media exposure for Book and Video (Baby's First Workout) including People Magazine, Child Magazine, Entertainment Magazine and American Baby Magazine. Television and Radio appearances in several cities including Boston, Cleveland, Atlanta, Houston, Dallas and Los Angeles. Appeared on CNN's 'Sonya Live'.

1993 – 1995 Assistant to the Headmaster, Fulton Academy (aka Country Day Montessori School) Rockwall, Texas (Ms. Norma Morris, Headmaster)

2007 – Presented, “The Directionality Method; a new brain based model for early childhood development”, at the Oxford University Roundtable on Early Childhood development, Oxford, England.

PlayWisely®

Ms. Hannan began prototyping her new program in 2003 under the name HPS Kids. She officially changed the name to PlayWisely in 2005. She created the cognitive development system and formally restructured her motor development system into defined levels and class curriculums. She currently has 10 locations in the Dallas/Ft. Worth metroplex and 1 international location at the Nestlingue School in Prague, Czech Republic with a second location slated for Cluj, Romania in 2009.

2004 – submitted her cognitive development ‘flash card’ system for patent protection. It is now in patent pending status.

2006 – submitted ‘The Directionality Method’ for patent protection. It is now in patent pending status.

2008 - PlayWisely® receives official registration mark and The Directionality Method™ receives official trademark.

2008 – 2009 - PlayWisely® will complete a business plan and seek financing to expand nationally and internationally. The Business plan will include product development: entertainment DVD'S, Home training DVD's and teacher training DVD's, children's books, parent handbooks and training manuals, a baby tool line, an home equipment line, coaches training and certification program, Flash card system for home use and for professional use. An interactive web site with parent education, development tips, newsletter and baby ‘my space’ memory pages for recording development and sharing with extended family and friends.