

Biographical Sketch for John LaRue

John LaRue, CTRS, received his Bachelor's Degree in Recreation from SUNY Brockport in 1979, followed by his Masters Degree in Recreation from SUNY Cortland in 1989. Both degrees are in the Therapeutic Recreation option.

John has been involved with recreation programming for children since 1979. He comes from Little Compton, RI where he is currently a playground equipment representative for BigToys, and President/Owner for Back2BasicPlay, Inc. & J.P. LaRue, Inc.

Back2Basic Play, Inc is a consulting business that focuses on utilizing cooperative and non-competitive recreational activities and Team Building initiatives to address issues associated with character education in youth. John created The Games Generator/PlayMaker which is a tool used to create a new and original game.

John's professional experiences have been varied but share the common thread of helping people to be the best they can be and enjoy life to the fullest. His career in Therapeutic Recreation has included positions as a House Parent for emotionally disturbed boys, Activities Therapist for adult psychiatric patients, Program Director for a camp serving children with cancer, as well as Director of Therapeutic Recreation for children with traumatic brain injuries.

John is a recognized speaker on a national, regional and statewide level on a variety of topics and has presented well over 500 seminars throughout North America, addressing Character in Youth, New Games, Team Building, Playground Regulations and American with Disabilities Act, Materials for Construction in Green Playgrounds and Developmental Aspects of Children and Play. In addition to his passion for sharing his work on character education, he is well-known for his action packed cooperative games workshops and was a contributing writer to the *More New Games* book published by Doubleday in 1981 and *Games and Great Ideas* published by Greenwood Press in 1995. He is a Registered CEU Provider for the American Society of Landscape Architects (SSA), a Certified Playground Safety Inspector and a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist. John was part of the 3-Person team (with Kompan) that created the Guide to ADA Accessibility for Play Areas.