

## STATE OF PLAY by Katie Coughlin

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You can play it up  
you can play it down  
you can play it straight  
or you can play around

you can play to win  
you can play to lose  
to play your cards right,  
you must play by the rules

there is fair play  
there is foul play  
and how the mice will play while the cat's away

you can play the market  
you can play the fool  
you can play it safe  
you can play it cool

Doctors play God  
while kids play doctor  
The world plays football  
while the U.S. plays soccer

we can play cards  
we can play sports  
we can play house  
we can play horse

you can play the field  
or play for keeps  
you can make a play on words  
or play music

you can play a film  
you can play a joke  
you can play it by ear  
or play by the book

we can play sick  
we can play dumb  
we can play hooky  
and we can play possum

you can play hardball  
or just play along  
you can play it back  
or play a favorite song

you can be a playmaker  
or play hard to get  
you can play it out  
or in tennis play a set

dogs play dead  
and people play ball  
In the playoffs  
you play for it all

you can hit play  
you can go to a play  
you can make a play  
in a game that two can play

Now there's foreplay you can overplay  
to get more airplay for your screenplay  
it's just horseplay on the display  
unless there's interplay with some roleplay

you can make a playdate  
with a playmate  
to play 'round  
on the playground

if you are outplayed in swordplay  
try a counterplay on the field of play

There are playgirls  
and there are playboys  
we all need playtime  
and perhaps some play toys  
All work and no play does make Jack a dull boy

you can play through  
play on  
play off  
play at  
Life's FULL of playscapes, have you thought about that?

Have you a playgroup  
no matter the age?  
make time for play  
and playful energies to engage.

You can be a playwright, but not a playwrong  
you can read a playbill, but not a playtom  
playing first chair is good but not playing second fiddle  
if you play mind games, friendship you belittle

play with a full deck  
play it smart all the while  
if you play both ends against the middle  
you are playing with fire

Play carefully you must  
be discerning in play  
playing devil's advocate  
is really quite ok

Don't play with your food  
that's not play therapy  
Pretend play is fun,  
I hope you agree.

Here ends the play by play.  
There's no instant replay.

This. sounds. like. child's. play.