Chapter Outlines

Introduction

Chapter Outline

Introduction and key questions
What is play?
What opportunities exist for play in society at the moment?
How are those opportunities being eroded?
What happens when play is restricted?
What are the possible solutions?
Can play be a mechanism for addressing social ills?
1 What is Play?

Chapter Outline

Introduction and key questions
What is play?
Interview with Brian Sutton-Smith about his research
What are the personal and social benefits of play?
What new socio-cultural developments are challenging long-held assumptions about children’s play?
What impact is this having on the lives of children?
Summary
Further reading
2 Play and Schools

Chapter Outline

Introduction and key questions
How has the inclusion of play in school evolved over time?
Is it possible to implement a playful pedagogy in a standards-driven society?
How can we make the case for child-initiated, unstructured play during the school day?
Interview with Olga Jarrett about her research
Summary
Further reading
3 Play and Other Institutional Settings

Chapter Outline

Introduction and key questions
Should children be required to pay to play?
How do children play in hospitals?
How do children play in prisons?
Summary
Further reading
4 Play in Informal Settings

Chapter Outline

Introduction and key questions
Children’s preference for the outdoors
The nature of natural play
Interview with Tim Gill about his research
The decline in outdoor play
The dangers implicit in the decline of outdoor play
Summary
Further reading
5 Play Deprivation

Chapter Outline

Introduction and key questions
What is play deprivation?
Play deprivation in the life of today’s child
Interview with Bob Hughes about his research
The consequences of complete deprivation of play
Play deprivation and other forms of disadvantage
Play deprivation: the implications for society
Summary
Further reading
6 Playwork

Chapter Outline

Introduction and key questions
What is playwork?
The playwork view of play
Playwork in practice
Interview with Susan Waltham about her research
The wider benefits of playwork
Analyzing the impact of playwork
Summary
Further reading
7 Rethinking play

Chapter Outline

Introduction and key questions
The public's view of children
The play environment is the whole environment
Article 31 and the Charter for Children's Play
Re-educating the public
Developing survival skills
The importance of free unstructured play, especially play fighting
Play warehouses—the commodification of play
School should be a playful experience
Stress—positive, tolerable, and toxic
The therapeutic nature of play
Play provision and playwork
Further reading