

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

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Further reading

7 Rethinking play

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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