

THE ROLE OF ADULTS IN PLAY

PERMISSION: TO SUPPORT CHILDREN'S PLAY WE CAN LISTEN TO CHILDREN



We should get involved when:

- Children ask for it
- Child is unhappy or distressed
- Serious disputes/conflicts that children cannot resolve themselves
- There is violence, harm or danger
- When there is an undetected hazard

We should not:

- Dismiss play as not important
- Unnecessarily restrict through fear
- Over regulate/over organize it

TIME: CHILDREN NEED TIME AND OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY



To make time for children's play we can:

- Make time for it!
- Encourage it
- Allow children to walk places
- Support opportunities for play
- Be available to play but not control their play

MATERIALS: CHILDREN CAN AND WILL PLAY ALMOST ANYWHERE WITH ANYTHING



Think outside the box! Materials that are more move-able, adaptable can foster more creative and imaginative play! Think "loose parts":

- Boxes
- Wood
- Tarps
- PVC pipes
- Sand
- String
- Buckets
- Shells
- Tires
- Bottles
- Fabric
- Scrap materials of all kinds

SPACES: CHILDREN CAN PLAY ALMOST ANYWHERE



We can encourage play by improving and protecting existing play spaces and advocating for new ones. Quality play spaces include wonder, excitement, the unknown and unexpected, but most importantly not ordered and controlled by adults. This is so important for developing children's own culture, sense of belonging and taking ownership of the play space.

SUMMARY: OUR ROLE IS TO FOSTER AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE CHILDREN CAN PLAY



Our role is simple:

- Listen to what children say about their play
- Consider play spaces as important environments
- Advocate for play as healthy child development
- Understand that a fun play space for a child is different than that of an adult- be tolerant of a mess and dirt!
- Support creative and imaginative play (loose parts)
- Prioritize children's time to play freely- don't over supervise

SOURCE:

The Role of Adults in Children's Play: <http://www.playwales.org.uk>