

TAKING PLAY SERIOUSLY

INVESTING IN EUROPE'S FUTURE

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PLAY AND RECREATION ARE ESSENTIAL TO CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND WELL-BEING. THEY PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF CREATIVITY, IMAGINATION, SELF-CONFIDENCE, AND PHYSICAL, SOCIAL COGNITIVE AND EMOTIONAL STRENGTH AND SKILLS. THEY CONTRIBUTE TO ALL ASPECTS OF LEARNING. (...) THEY ARE ALSO A FORM OF PARTICIPATION IN EVERYDAY LIFE, AND ARE OF INTRINSIC VALUE TO THE CHILD.

UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD, 1 FEBRUARY 2013

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PLAY IS A BIRTH RIGHT OF EVERY CHILD



93 %

OF PARENTS BELIEVE THAT PLAY IS ESSENTIAL FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT



89 %

OF MOTHERS THINK THAT PLAY HELPS CHILDREN TO GROW UP



82 %

OF PARENTS THINK PLAY IS NECESSARY TO STIMULATE THEIR CHILD



11 %

OF SPANISH FATHERS THINK THAT PLAYING IS A 'PRIZE' THAT CHILDREN MUST EARN

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FOR MANY CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD, TOO LITTLE ATTENTION IS PAID TO THE(S) RIGHTS (TO REST, LEISURE, PLAY AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES). AND WHERE THERE IS RECOGNITION, IT TENDS TO FOCUS ON STRUCTURED AND ORGANISED ACTIVITIES, RATHER THAN ALLOWING FOR SPONTANEOUS PLAY, RECREATION AND CREATIVITY.

UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD, 1 FEBRUARY 2013

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89 %

OF PARENTS BELIEVE PLAY IS IMPORTANT TO ENCOURAGE CHILDREN'S CREATIVITY



64 %

OF UK PARENTS BELIEVE THAT A LACK OF PLAY CAN HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON THEIR CHILDREN'S COMMUNICATION SKILLS



57 %

OF PARENTS BELIEVE THAT A LACK OF PLAY CAN NEGATIVELY AFFECT THEIR ABILITY TO MAKE FRIENDS



56 %

OF PARENTS BELIEVE THAT A LACK OF PLAY CAN DAMAGE THEIR CHILDREN'S CONFIDENCE



FOR CHILDREN, PLAY IS A BASIC NEED, JUST LIKE EATING, SLEEPING OR DRINKING. IT IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF GROWING UP AND DEVELOPS SKILLS FOR LIFE.

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CHILDREN'S PLAY IS UNDER THREAT BECAUSE OF INCREASING URBANISATION, THE INCREASING STRESS OF FAMILY LIFE, AND CHANGES TO THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

DR DAVID WHITEBREAD, UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE, THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAY: A REPORT ON THE VALUE OF CHILDREN'S PLAY WITH A SERIES OF POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS, APRIL 2012

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51 %

OF UK PARENTS BELIEVE THAT A LACK OF PLAY CAN STIFLE CHILDREN'S IMAGINATION



39 %

OF PARENTS WOULD LIKE FLEXIBLE WORKING TIME TO ENCOURAGE PLAY



27 %

OF PARENTS FEEL THAT THEY CANNOT PLAY ENOUGH WITH THEIR CHILDREN BECAUSE OF WORK PRESSURE



74 %

OF UK PARENTS FEEL THAT SCHOOLS ARE TOO CONCERNED ABOUT 'ROUGH & TUMBLE' PLAY

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ANY SOCIETY WISHING TO FULLY BENEFIT FROM ITS POTENTIAL WOULD BE WISE TO PROVIDE QUALITY CHILDREN'S PLAY OPPORTUNITIES.

DR DAVID WHITEBREAD, UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE, THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAY: A REPORT ON THE VALUE OF CHILDREN'S PLAY WITH A SERIES OF POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS, APRIL 2012

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DESPITE ITS RECOGNISED BENEFITS, PLAY IS INCREASINGLY UNDER THREAT.

WHAT COULD A PLAY DEFICIT MEAN FOR EUROPE'S FUTURE?

WHAT CAN EUROPE DO TO ENSURE THAT CHILDREN HAVE APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITIES TO PLAY AND TO SAFEGUARD EUROPE'S CREATIVITY?

Taking play seriously

Investing in Europe's Future

28 May 2013 - Brussels



SOURCES

IKEA, PLAY REPORT, 2010

THE SPANISH OBSERVATORY OF CHILDREN'S PLAY, RESEARCH ON 'PLAY AND THE FAMILY'

BRITISH TOY AND HOBBY ASSOCIATION (BTHA) AND PLAY ENGLAND SURVEYS, 2010 AND 2011