



Play and Science in Early Childhood

In 2007 the congressionally chartered National Research Council issued influential recommendations for improving K-8 science and made a pitch for introducing scientific study with children as young as four. This message received a mixed reception in the early childhood community already concerned that the growing emphasis on academics is crowding out the playtime children need for healthy development. But Kathy Hirsh-Pacek from Temple University observed in Education Week (January 20, 2010) that efforts to expand preschool science teaching need not necessarily conflict with young children's need for playtime. Science can be taught in the context of play. She notes:

"The people who are pure play people suggest that you need to have free play for young children, and I think the evidence is pretty clear on that. But I also think the evidence is pretty clear that you don't just need to have free play for children. There's free play and there's guided play. You just have to be careful, because sometimes adults can become too intrusive and the play just stops."

For more information visit www.edweek.org



The Power of Play: How Spontaneous, Imaginative Activities Lead to Happier, Healthier Children

David Elkind argues that "Play is being silenced." According to Elkind, important, unstructured play is too often replaced in modern times by organized activities, academics, or passive leisure activities such as watching television and playing video games. With clarity and insight, Elkind calls for society to bring back long recesses, encourage imagination, and let children develop their minds at a natural pace. To read the entire article go to www.childcareexchange.com

Creating Outdoor Play Environments for the Soul

You can do it. You can create extraordinary outdoor places for young children without highly complex play contraptions surrounded by a sea of wood chips or gravel... Places for children that tickle the imagination and surprise the senses...Places for young ones of all abilities to discover themselves and the world around them.

This book is about a new movement in children's outdoor play areas, natural playscapes - Where the entire space and is filled with art, hills, pathways, trees, herbs, open areas, sand, water, music, and more... Where children find places to run, climb, dig, pretend, and hide, with opportunities to bellow or be silent.

This magnificent 316-page resource contains close to 500 color photographs and illustrations.

You can download 26 pages for free at www.childcareexchange.com

Lady Bird Johnson, former U.S. First Lady

"Children are likely to live up to what you believe of them."

Our Pledge: The KY T/TA State Office pledges to provide timely, current, and interesting monthly newsletters for the Head Start and Early Head Start communities and others interested in the field. In keeping with our mission to be more "green," we will provide our easy to read newsletter via email. We would like to hear from you and encourage your suggestions for newsletter content. Contact the editor: Joyce Roach

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