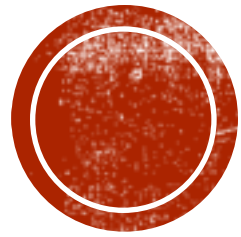


PLAYWORK AND ADVENTURE PLAY





WHY ADVENTURE PLAY MATTERS





ROMANIAN ORPHANAGE

10 year old child looked developmentally 4 after being tied to a cot his entire life.

After eight years of free play he was developmentally undifferent from his peers.

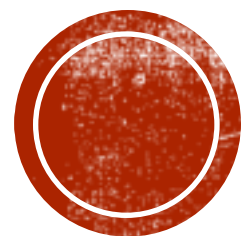
“Better a broken bone than a broken spirit”



ADVENTURE PLAY SUPPORTS...

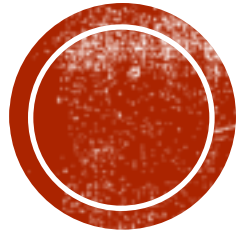
- Resilience (explore, manipulate, and overcome obstacles)
 - Resolve conflict
 - Explore risk
 - Work together
 - Emotion regulation
 - Exploration of self motivation, emotion, and reward systems
 - Build a physical and human based community





HOW ADVENTURE PLAY AND PLAYWORK IS UNIQUE





“An adventure playground is a very special place – it is an outdoor space staffed by trained playworkers and volunteers, where children have the opportunity to play; to manipulate, create, and recreate their own environment”

(Brown 2007, p. 2)

ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

- **Freedoms**
 - Increased novel social interactions
 - Increased social diversity
- **Affordance**
 - More environmental affordances
 - More developmental opportunities
- **Fun, Free and Flexible**
- **Exposure to Risk**
 - Interaction with all four elements (fire, water, earth, air)
 - Centered on loose parts and tools to manipulate them
 - Risk vs Hazard
 - No risk is removed from child's manipulation and exploration



RISK AND INJURY

- Injury is a part of sport but not accepted in play
- Soccer is 70x more likely to produce medical need than climbing
- Fixed equipment playgrounds are 4x less safe than adventure playgrounds
- Sites are always safer because they look dangerous
- Risk Benefit Analysis
 - Cost vs benefits
- Dynamic Risk Benefit Analysis
 - Always happening



PLAYWORKER

Child's
agenda

- Support
- Buffer adult agendas

Non-
directing

- Follow child
- Only engage when and how invited

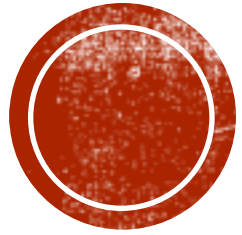
Non-
prejudice

- gender
- class
- ability

Joining

- Meet the child where they are





**WHAT DOES IT LOOK
LIKE?**



PLAYWORK THEORY



THE LAND - WALES



CONCLUSION

- Adventure play is a natural form of play
 - Adventure play supports resilience
 - Adventure play increases freedom and affordances
- Playwork provides a framework for the role of adults in child's play
- “If we are teaching **children** how to play, then they are not playing”



FOR DISCUSSION

- Why does this research matter for SWI?
- How is this different from the work SWI is already doing?
- In what ways could we use this knowledge to support or mission?

