As you are settling in

- Can you take a few moments to draw a picture of what “play” looked like when you were about 7 or 8 years of age?
- Who were you with?
- What were you playing?
A richer understanding of the child’s right to Play

Amanda Grimes
How do you define play?.
Criteria that may help you define play!

- Freedom of choice
- Personal enjoyment
- Focus on activity rather than the outcome
A Play worker's definition

'Play is any behaviour that is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated'

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>External</th>
<th>Didactic</th>
<th>Ludocentric</th>
<th>Chaotic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internal</td>
<td>Non-ludic</td>
<td>Paraludic</td>
<td>Ludic</td>
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Debunking UNCRC Lingo

- Indivisibility
- General Principles
- Respect, protect, fulfil

Articles
Indivisibility
General Principles
Respect
Protect &
Fulfil
UNCRC
General principles

Non discrimination (art 2)
Best interests of the child (art 3)
Life, survival and development (art 6)
Participation, the right to be heard (art 12)
Each right in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is known as an ‘article’. This is the actual wording of both paragraphs of article 31 (States Parties refers to countries):

Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

1. States Parties recognize the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.

2. States Parties shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.
Article 31
A richer understanding

Each element of article 31 links to the others and they reinforce and support each other.

Together, they describe conditions necessary to protect the unique and evolving nature of childhood. Their realization is fundamental to the quality of childhood, to children’s entitlement to optimum development, to the promotion of resilience and to the realization of other rights.

(Committee on the Rights of the Child, 2013, para.8).
The universal right to play (art 31) is enshrined in the UNCRC.

“Laws guarantee human rights. Understanding them gives power.”

The **Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)** is the fundamental basis for children’s rights in international law. If children are to enjoy all their human rights, it is vital that a broader understanding of the CRC is developed across the world.

Children’s Rights Information Service (CRIN)
Indivisibility & Interdependence

**Freedom of expression (art. 13)**  Adequate standard of living (art. 27)
- Social protection, employment, housing, public space

**Freedom of association (art. 15)**
- Friendships, social groups

**Access to such information and materials (art. 17)**
- Social, cultural

**Refugee and asylum-seeking children (art. 22)**
- Equal opportunities

**Education (arts. 28 and 29)**
- Article 31 is essential inclusive education and inclusive play

**Disabled children’s rights (art. 23)**
- Accessible, inclusive, equal

**Health (art. 24)**
- Well-being, development, recovery

**Cultural rights (art. 30)**
- Enjoy and participate, own cultures

**Child workers (art. 32)**
- Arduous and exploitative work denies the rights under article 31

**Violence, exploitation, deprivation of liberty (arts 19, 34, 37 and 38)**
- Seriously impede or even eliminate children’s access to article 31 rights

**Victims of violence in any form (article 39)**
- Recovery, reintegration, dignity
UN General Comment 17

3 core objectives

1. To enhance understanding of art 31
2. Strengthen the respect and application of art 31
3. Highlight the obligations of governments
Respect, protect, fulfil

**To respect** means that Governments and others should not interfere, directly or indirectly, in the right to play. They should promote respect through awareness-raising and increasing understanding.

**To protect** means things like protection from harm, safety standards, marketing and media. Children should have a way to complain about issues relating to their article 31 rights if they wish.

**To fulfil** includes actions such as putting in place legislation and policies, allocating budgets and implementing a wide range of measures to promote article 31 such as better design of outdoor spaces, play in schools, training for practitioners.

How familiar are you with these terms and ideas?

How do they help you? How will you use them?

What do you think the implications are for how we work?
challenges to art 31

- play being taken for granted
- dangerous environments
- how adults view children in public spaces
- balancing risk and safety
Challenges cont

- nature deficit
- structured time
- academic pressure
- Technology
- consumerism and advertising
Our Challenge to you today!

What 3 things are you going to do to promote the child’s right to play?