

PlayBoard Conference 2019 Workshop Notes

Playwork – It's child's play isn't it?

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The aim of the workshop was to explore our understanding of what Play and Playwork was; examine the positive and negative impact a number of key factors have; identify what actions could be taken to address the negative impacts and extend the positive impacts; and where support might come from to help us do that.

A number of key statements about PLAY and PLAYWORK were pinned up around the room to inform and confirm our understanding of the nature of PLAY and PLAYWORK.

Factor	Positive aspects	Negative aspects	Actions	Support
Health and Safety	Better understanding of risks and potential for harm and benefits.	Generates lots of paperwork. Stops us from doing things due to fear of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Being sued - Parents' reaction - Social workers' reaction Can be seen to be more important than the benefits.	More education for parents on the benefits of a range of play that includes risky play. Review of the minimum standards to reflect the value of range of play. Emphasise the importance of mental/emotional safety in parent induction and open days. Build in to play policy approach to risk in play. Make parents aware from start of approach to risk in play within induction.	Training provided by Childcare Partnerships. Training by PlayBoard. Model play policy and relationships with Parents policy documents from PlayBoard.
Factor	Positive aspects	Negative aspects	Actions	Support
Key	Positive role model for	Potential invasion of privacy.	Government commitment to	PETCNI to scope

relationships in Playwork setting	relationships. Male role models. Increase comfortableness in asking for help. Develop understanding of concept of respect.	Difficulty in asserting role of the responsible adult. Potential for negative or inappropriate behaviour being picked up.	properly fund recognised and accredited training programmes. Ensure the inclusion of the link between brain development and play in training programmes. Promote the value of the setting with regard to promoting positive relationships. Team building training.	course content and campaign for investment in training. Employers Forum to campaign for investment in training. PlayBoard to promote brain development and play connection.
Inclusion of homework in After-school provision	Meets requests of parents. Satisfies children who want their homework completed.	Restricts play time. Disrupts other children's play time.	Develop a homework policy. Connect with children, parents (and perhaps school) and discuss the volume of homework, and impact on the after-school experience and develop a homework policy for the club. Ensure parents are aware of policy right from the start.	PlayBoard to make available model homework policy for after-schools.
Restricted outdoor space	Be creative about accessing outdoor space. Enhance the indoor space to include outdoor aspects.	Lack of fresh air and lack of physical exercise.	Talk to children about what play they want to engage in. Be creative in bringing the outside in. Access resource to access outdoor space.	PlayBoard Space to Play Resource. Social Services to promote outdoor play in registration and inspection.