

Engaging with babies, toddlers & young children through play

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Grace Walsh
*Senior Oral Language
Development Officer/
Speech & Language Therapist*
grace@letsgrowtogether.ie
086-8142233



An Roinn Leanaí
agus Gnóthaí Oige
Department of Children
and Youth Affairs



What does
PLAY mean to
you?



*There's
no right
(or wrong)
way to
play!*

Structured?



Rules?



Pretend?



Solitary?



Outdoors?



Cognitive development?



A Fundamental Right

United Nations Convention on
a child's right to play


Article 31 You have the right to play and rest.

When I play, I use my imagination,
I characterise, I explore, I discover,
I organise, I lead, I delegate, I contribute
and relate my ideas, I question,
I compromise, I follow.


I work both cooperatively and
independently, I create, I socialise,
I practice caring and sharing, I regulate my
emotions, I indulge my senses,
I re-enact my experiences and tell stories
through games. I negotiate and problem solve.

I am making sense of my world
and my place in it.


**I am learning through play
for I will make a difference
one day.**



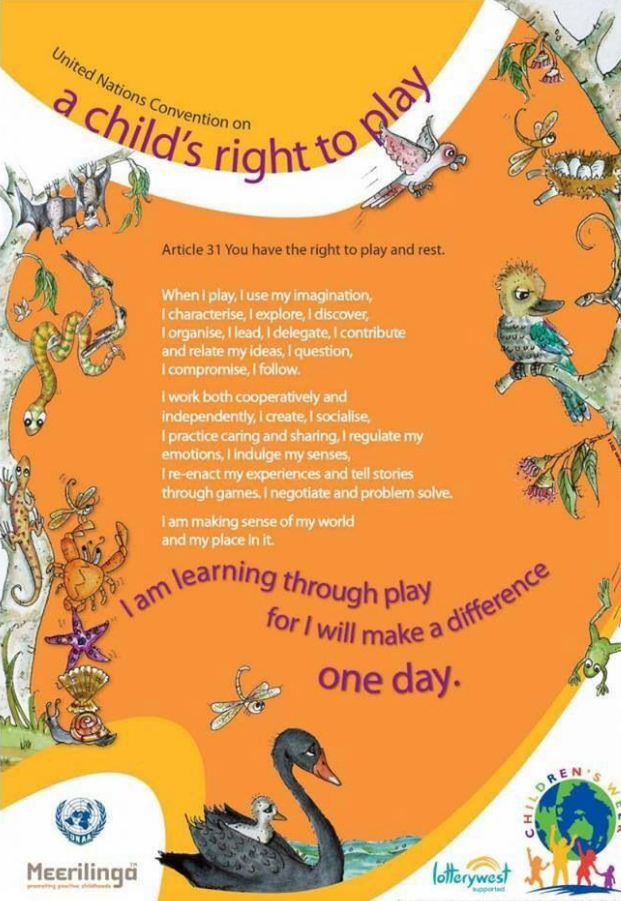
Meerilinga



lotterywest
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CHILDREN'S WEEK



What's play got to do with it?!



“The science of child development points to three core principles that can guide what society needs to do to help children and families thrive.

These include:

- 1) Supporting responsive relationships
- 2) Strengthening core life skills
- 3) Reducing sources of stress

Play in early childhood is an effective way of supporting all three of these principles.”



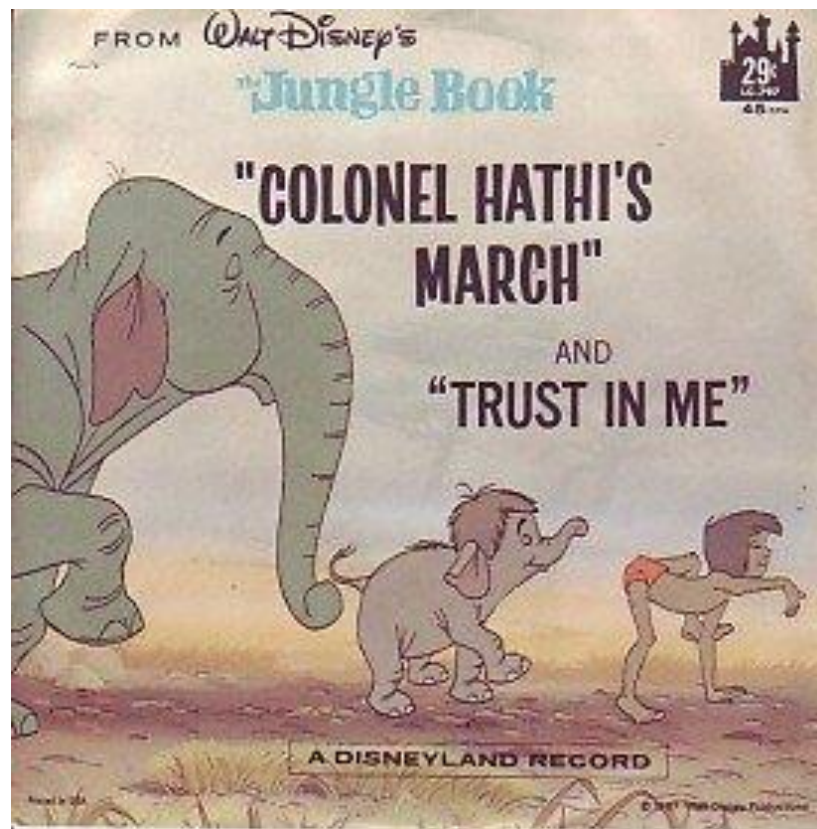
Play is the universal language of early childhood



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Child-led play



Your child's favourite
toy?

Good enough
IS
good enough!

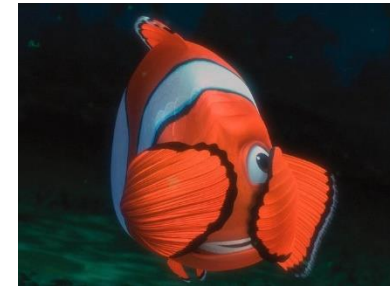
Attunement:

The ability to be aware of and respond to child's needs by using signals such as eye contact, facial expression, tone of voice, gestures and touch



Access to Play: Potential Barriers

- Physical barriers to accessing **space**
(indoors & outdoors)
- **Time** for play....dosage
- **Nurturing caregiver(s)** to engage in play with children & ensure **CHILD-LED** play
- Risk averse
(Nemo's Dad!)



Support
caregivers to
play...



it comes naturally.....

But

it comes naturally the way that you have learnt it



“just” playing

When we make
play the foundation
of learning, we
teach the whole
child.

-Vince Gowmon

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Serve & Return



Thank you!

