



The pedagogy of play

CPD

LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

VALUING CHILDREN'S PLAY

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Description

This training sessions looks in depth at the importance and value of play in young children's development. Play is an integral part of being human - it is how we are programmed to learn and develop in a holistic and healthy way. Play helps children relate to their inner world of feelings, ideas and lived experiences, taking them to new levels of thinking as children make sense of the world around them. Through play children relate to others, collaborating, negotiating and constructing narratives. By referring to 'the pedagogy of play', I highlight how our approach as teachers is crucial in providing the optimal conditions to allow children's play to flourish. We will examine the theory and practice of their learning and explore the role of the adult.

Children apply their imagination and develop their creativity through play, building skills that will empower them as life-long learners. The training will delve into the theory, looking at pioneering theorists such as Froebel, Vygotsky and Dewey and more recently the work of Tina Bruce, looking at the core elements of play. We will examine the many different modes of play we can see young children engage in, such as role play, physical play and exploratory play. We will see how children apply and develop their creative and critical thinking skills as they express themselves and problem-solve.

We will also get active and engage practically in play such as exploring socio-dramatic play, and play and exploration with open ended materials. The session will also highlight the importance of the outdoor environment to support play and children's healthy development.

Aims & Objectives

From this course you will:

- Discover what counts as 'play' and 'playful activities'
- Learn how play supports children's creative expression
- Learn how freely chosen play can support all areas of learning
- Explore the adult role in supporting playful learning
- Learn about key theorists approaches to play
- Explore the different types of play we can observe
- Distinguish between free play, guided play and structured didactic teaching

Pete Moorhouse is an early years creative consultant. He is an associate trainer for Early Education and a Froebel tutor and has delivered training in many countries. He is the author of several journal articles and books and was awarded an honorary research fellowship at Bristol University, currently researching creative and critical thinking in early years. Pete won the national award from the Creative Learning Guild for his work promoting creativity in education and is Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and a Churchill Fellow.

AUDIENCE: EARLY YEARS LEADERS, MANAGERS, TEACHERS & PRACTITIONERS

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