

Play Cave: Play in a Basket

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Overview

- Method
- Nature of Play Cave: Play in a basket
- History of Play Cave: Play in a basket
- The Play Framework
- The physical setting
- Moore & McDonald (2013)

Method

- Case study method following Robert Stake (1998)
- The nature of the case;
- The historical background;
- The physical setting;
- Other contexts, including economic, political and social;
- Other cases through which the case is recognised;
- Those informants through whom the case can be known

The Nature of the Case: Play Cave...Play in a basket

- How do individuals understand play?
- What is the pathway that leads you to the encounter with the child?
- What can we engender in play that can be life affirming and be the beginning of life long learning?

The History of Play

Cave...play in a basket

- To provide a space that is welcoming and safe.
- To engage in play and play culture.
- To acknowledge the benefits of play.
- To experience building trust to nurture the relationship between parents and caregivers in a play context.
- To create in the space an environment of 'wonder'.
- To provide basic natural materials as the tools of play.
- To support children's choices in play.
- To see and experience the scope of the child's imagination, creativity problem solving.
- To create a shared space for children to drive the play.
- To listen to what children are saying

The Play Framework

- Ros Cornish (2012)
- Dau, (2005)
- Deviney, Ducan, Harris, Rody, & Rosenberry, (2010),
- Edwards, Gandini & Forman (1998)
- Early Years Learning Framework (2009)
- Gill (2007)
- Lester & Russell (2008)
- Louv (2010)
- Warden (2002, 2005)

The Physical setting



Physical setting con't



Physical setting con't



Physical setting Con't



Physical Setting con't



The physical setting con't



The physical setting con't



Moore & Mc Donald (2013)

Effective early intervention and Prevention programs are:

- relationship-based;
- involving partnerships between parents and clients (eg, parents, young people, communities);
- targeting goals that clients see as important;
- providing clients with choices regarding strategies;
- building client competences;
- non-stigmatising;
- demonstrating cultural awareness and sensitivity; and
- maintaining continuity of care. (2013, p. 25)

Moore & McDonald con't

Relationship-based, involving partnerships and managing continuity of care.

- Play cave...play in a basket was a very collaborative activity with Community Partners and CfC staff all participating together.
- Parents and children were able to see the familiar faces of staff with whom they had previously engaged.
- Play cave...play in a basket provided an opportunity for parents to feel welcome and relaxed as familiar staff were able to facilitate this process. This meant that the environment was friendly and welcoming as staff from a multitude of programs worked together to engage parents and children in the play process.

Moore & McDonald Con't

Providing clients with choices regarding strategies, building client competence and non-stigmatising

- As the service was universally offered, there was a mix of different families participating.
- Families were able to observe other families and see how different people were interacting with their children.
- Parents were unobtrusively able to act as mentors for each other. In this case, client competence was built by modeling interaction through and around play, which would likely lead to increases in knowledge and skill in less able parents.
- Clients of the program were not only able to see how other parents engaged with their children during play but they were also able to witness staff interactions. This meant that staff could model competent strategies as a support mechanism for parents (Moore & McDonald, 2013).

Moore & Mc Donald con't

Demonstrating cultural awareness and sensitivity and targeting goals that clients see as important.

- Research indicates that children in non-western communities do not play in the same way as described by western play theorists.
- Parents in other cultures have completely different expectations of their children's play. Play activities of children can be understood as being culturally defined, value-based and interpreted.
- This means that what western professionals understand as play might not be what professionals in other parts of the world understand as play (Macfarlane, Cartmel & Nolan, 2011).
- Play Cave...play in a basket was designed in an open-ended way, authentic experiences were not necessarily organised according to western ideals.
- Children and parents were co-constructors of the experiences and so were able to engage according to their own values and beliefs. Additionally, as parents and staff were initially involved in the organization of Play Cave...play in a basket and the compilation of baskets, then what they saw as important in relation to play, was able to be incorporated in what was eventually offered.

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