

Bristol Men in Early Years Network Meeting

17/04/2018

Guest Speaker: Ben Tawil



Planned Agenda

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Time	Item
2.30	Welcomes and introductions.
2.45	Ben Tawil - 'Play, the importance of the seemingly frivolous' Ben will be joining us for a workshop on all things play: risk in play, physical activity and play, play in schools, play sufficiency, play auditing and the private and public realm.
3:30	Networking tea and coffee break.
3:45	Final Q&A and discussion with Ben.
4:00	Learning Stories workshop.
4:30	Conference/ any other business.

Play: The Importance of the Seemingly Frivolous

Ben Tawil

LUDICOLOGY
advice, research and training for all concerned with children's play

Report/Minutes

Apologies from Shaddai Tembo.

Ben Tawil delivered session – ‘Play – The importance of the seemingly frivolous’
(paraphrased words of Ben Tawil – presentation attached)

- Ben describes *Where the Wild Things Are* as the perfect children’s book. It displays how a child reconciles through the freedom of their own play.
- Play is not a linear process and doesn’t fit neatly into Early Learning Goals criteria. They often focus on a product of play, rather than the procedurally important aspect.
- Groos (1985 p75) – The period of youth is a vital stage for learning, i.e not a frivolous activity.
- Developmental Model - Play is relegated to 1) Being linked to meeting criteria for adulthood. 2) Benefits to society. 3) Fixall for data driven observations.

The unique design features of play

Heterogeneous
‘As if’ behaviour
In control of being out of control
Flexible, unpredictable
Within the safety of a frame
Intrinsically motivated



- Post Developmental view – provides a wholistic approach that links genes brain, body, behaviour and environment. Supports the idea that children are resilient, capable and require play for a spectrum of reasons.
- Play is culture creating.
- We are target facing...preparing for the next year group rather than developing 'now'.



Network Updates

- Discussed the BMiEY conference (10.7.2018) and showed the [Eventbrite page](#)

Learning Stories

- Network members wrote short summaries on why they chose to work in early years.

Meeting Ends