

# Inclusive Play for All Ages

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# Decline in Play

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Sandra Hofferth conducted a long-term study of how children spent their time.

- 1997 only 16% of 9- to 12-year-olds went outdoors to play
- 2003 only 8% went out to play
- time spent: 35 minutes per day

# What is play?

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From the playworkers in the UK:

Play is a set of behaviors that are

- Freely chosen
- Personally directed
- Intrinsically motivated

# What are playworkers?

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Staff — often in parks departments, zoos, and children's museums — who support children's independent play.

In the UK one can receive a certificate in playwork, a bachelors, or a masters degree.

# Playworkers understand

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The vital role of play

Stages of play

How to support play while wearing a  
cloak of invisibility

The art of inclusive play

Types of play

# Creating inclusive play opportunities

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Consider challenges for all ages  
and all abilities – up to age 12 or  
beyond

Build for communal play opportunities

# Communal house play





# Raised sand and water play





# Natural climber





# Swings that face each other



# Photos from

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Richter Spielgeräte in Germany

[www.unitedplay.com](http://www.unitedplay.com)

# From Sutcliff Play

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# A mud tug



# Alaskan mud wallow

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[allianceforchildhood.org](http://allianceforchildhood.org)

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- *The Playwork Primer*
- Videos of playworker Penny Wilson and doctors speaking about play
- Playwork and Play fact sheet

# More Alliance materials

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*Crisis in the Kindergarten: Why  
Children Need to Play in School*

Policy briefs on play

**For hundreds of play listings see**

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[caroltorgan.com/category/play](http://caroltorgan.com/category/play)

# Join the US Play Coalition

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[usplaycoalition.clemson.edu](http://usplaycoalition.clemson.edu)

Membership is free of charge

Conference: February 26-29, 2012  
Clemson University

