

*“NOT  
computer  
games”*

Poland  
2012



# The importance of playing games

- Children learn through first-hand experience, in activities they have chosen.
- Play can involve a child playing alone, alongside another child, or cooperatively with another child, children and or an adult.



# The importance of playing games

- Children are given opportunities to test their ideas, themselves, their relationships and materials.
- Play and exploration promotes brain development.



# The importance of playing games

- Children and adults can make and learn from their mistakes.
- Play fosters imagination and flexibility of mind, promoting children's ability to be 'players' now and in the future.



# The importance of playing games

- Children's competences and confidence are developed through play.
- Children are given opportunities to explore their fears and anxieties in their play.



# Play and Exploration

Play and Exploration in early years settings means children are able to choose activities where they can engage with other children or adults or sometimes play alone, and during those activities they learn by first-hand experience – by actively ‘doing’. They need sufficient space, time and choice with a range of activities, learning styles and stages of development.

# Play and Exploration

‘Children at play are able to stay flexible, respond to events and changing situations, be sensitive to people, to adapt, think on their feet, and keep altering what they do in a fast-moving scene. When the process of play is rich, it can lead children into creating rich products in their stories, paintings, dances, music making, drawings, sculptures and constructions, or in the solving of scientific and mathematical problems.’

(Bruce, 2001, p.46)

# Play and exploration

Play and learning take place in contexts that are familiar to the children involved. They share experiences and understandings, talk and thinking with the other children and the adults who join in the play and explorations.

# Why Play and Exploration is important

Play and Exploration is important because it offers opportunities for:

- making choices and decisions;
- using one's own ideas and imagination;
- experimenting;
- trying out new behaviours and practising old ones;

# Why Play and Exploration is important

- practising skills and learning new ones;
- exercising, developing and coordinating body, mind and brain;
- adapting or transforming knowledge, attitudes and skills;
- negotiating;
- following an interest or line of enquiry;

# Why Play and Exploration is important

- engaging in ‘What if?’ activity;
- making up rules and changing them;
- making mistakes;
- demonstrating one’s competence in many areas of development;

# Why Play and Exploration is important

- trying to emulate someone else;
- using symbols;
- making sense of puzzling situations, events or equipment;
- becoming and being confident and enjoying challenges;

# Why Play and Exploration is important

- setting one's own goals;
- having fun with friends and/or familiar adults;
- learning how to be a 'player' fit for life in a high-tech, post-industrial society.

# Why Play and Exploration is important

- Learning through experience Children engaged in play and exploration are learning through experience, because young children's development and learning, whether physical, social, emotional, moral or cognitive, requires real, hands-on engagement – it cannot be done by means of a worksheet.

# Why Play and Exploration is important

In play, children can express their fears and re-live anxious experiences in controlled and safe situations. They can take risks and make mistakes, try things out and make sense of relationships.

**Thank You**

**Lithuanian group  
2012**