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Play
Súgradh

In the early years, Play provides one of the most important contexts for learning and development and it is somewhat surprising that more research relating to the Irish context has not been generated.

Play is one of the sixteen national Standards of *Síolta* and is represented within the Second Edition of the Audit of Research by 43 publications.

A focus on play facilities for children in hospital has been provided by the Association for Welfare of Children in Hospital (1993), Bannon (2002; 2005), Children in Hospital Ireland (2002a) and Children in Hospital Ireland and the Irish Association for Hospital Play Specialists (2000). Atkinson (2002), Brennan (2005a), Carswell (2002), Douglas (2004b) and Murphy (1996a) have espoused the correlation between the quality of play opportunities provided and the overall quality of the ECCE service provided. The importance of outdoor play and a strategy for its provision has formed the subject of a number of pieces of research, including the BCCN (2002b), Duffy (2006a; 2006b), South Dublin CCC (2006b) and Webb (1997; 1999). Brennan (2004a), Brennan and Connolly (2005), Hayes (2003c; 2006c), Horgan (1991), IPPA (2004c), Murphy (2004a), Ní Bhroin (2004) and Walsh (2001) document the critical significance of including play as an integral element of curriculum and pedagogical practice in the early years. An exploration of children's participation in socio-dramatic play has been undertaken by Brennan (2005b; 2006a; 2006c). Halpenny (2006) focuses on the opportunity for play for children living in emergency accommodation, while O'Toole (2005) asserts the importance of symbolic play for children with Down Syndrome. A rationale for a national play policy was forwarded by Maam Children's Playscheme, Playshare (2003) and the National Play Policy was published in 2004 (National Children's Office, 2004a; 2004b).

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Le linn na mblianta luatha, cuireann Súgradh ceann de na comhthéacsanna foghlama agus forbartha is tábhachtaí ar fáil, agus is cúis iontais é nár táirgeadh níos mó taighde faoi i gcomhthéacs na hÉireann.

Tá Súgradh ar cheann de na sé Chaighdeán náisiúnta déag de *Síolta* agus tá 43 foilseachán ina leith sa Dara hEagrán den Iniúchadh Taighde.

Chuir an Association for Welfare of Children in Hospital (1993), Bannon (2002; 2005), Children in Hospital Ireland (2002a) agus Children in Hospital Ireland agus Irish Association for Hospital Play Specialists (2000) taighde ar fáil le fócas ar áiseanna súgartha do leanaí san ospidéal. De réir Atkinson (2002), Brennan (2005a), Carswell (2002), Douglas (2004b) agus Murphy (1996a) tá nasc idir caighdeán na ndeiseanna súgartha a chuirtear ar fáil agus cáilíocht tríd is tríd na seirbhíse COLO. Bhain roinnt píosaí taighde, lena n-áirítear an BCCN (2002b), Duffy (2006a; 2006b), CCC Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas (2006b) agus Webb (1997; 1999) le tábhacht an tsúgartha lasmuigh agus straitéis chun an súgradh sin a chur ar fáil. Déanann Brennan (2004a), Brennan agus Connolly (2005), Hayes (2003c; 2006c), Horgan (1991), IPPA (2004c), Murphy (2004a), Ní Bhroin (2004) agus Walsh (2001) cur síos ar an tábhacht shuntasach a bhaineann le súgradh a chuimsiú mar ghné lárnach den chleachtas curaclaim agus oideolaíochta sna blianta luatha. Rinne Brennan (2005b; 2006a; 2006c) taighde ar rannpháirteachas leanaí i súgradh soch-dhrámata. Díríonn Halpenny (2006) ar an deis súgartha a bhíonn ag leanaí i gcóiríocht éigeandála, agus míníonn O'Toole (2005) an tábhacht a bhaineann le súgradh siombalach do leanaí le Siondróm Down. Leag Maam Children's Playscheme, Playshare (2003) réasúnaíocht amach do bheartas súgartha náisiúnta agus foilsíodh an National Play Policy i 2004 (an Oifig Náisiúnta Leanaí, 2004a; 2004b).

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