

The Primary School as a Playful Space

Theories and Practices in an International Perspective

Francesca Berti, Simone Seitz (Eds.)





bu,press

Bozen-Bolzano University Press, 2025
Free University of Bozen-Bolzano
www.unibz.it/universitypress

Cover design/layout by DOC.bz/bu,press
Printed by Medus Druckwerkstatt-Arti grafiche

ISBN 978-88-6046-205-3
DOI 10.13124/9788860462053



Except where otherwise noted, this work is licensed under a
Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

Table of Contents

A Playful Frame for Primary School Francesca Berti, Simone Seitz.....	1
--	---

Section 1

Conceptual Frameworks

Germany and Scotland – Conversations on Playing and Learning in Transition to School <i>Ulrike Beate Müller, Aline-Wendy Dunlop, Mareike Pfeiffer</i>	17
Discovering Spaces for Play in Schools. Exploring the Role of Play in Primary School Education <i>Wiebke Lohfeld</i>	35
“What Game Shall We Play?” Interpreting Theoretical and Practical Insights From Education and Design Classics in Contemporary Contexts <i>Franca Zuccoli</i>	55
More Than Just Learning Games. For a Sound and Effective Pedagogy of Play <i>Roberto Farné</i>	73

Section 2

Wellbeing at School

Lifeworld Experiences of Pupils During Play <i>Marina Brenner</i>	85
PALS – Play and Life Skills Play as an Opportunity for Developing Life Skills. Insight into an international educational project in North Macedonia, Serbia, and Switzerland <i>Wiltrud Weidinger, Doris Kuhn, Corinna Borer, Svetlana Lazic, Alma Tasevska</i> ...	105
„I Trust You“. Fostering Social-Emotional Skills of Pre-Service Teachers Through Cooperative Games <i>Giovanna Malusà</i>	123

Playing and Daring in Childhood: Benefits, Limitations and Ethical Challenges in the Practice of Risky Play <i>Milena Masseretti</i>	147
---	-----

Section 3

Forms of Playful Learning

Learning Through Play. The Importance of Play in Childhood and its Implementation in the Learning Process <i>Gabriela Moser</i>	165
Play is Serious Work! Play Didactics for the Development of Life Skills <i>Alessandro Barca</i>	179
Playfully Learning About History Through Objects? <i>Bernd Wagner, Klaus-Christian Zehbe</i>	191
Pushing. Typing. Clicking. Primary School Children Playing with Writing Tools <i>Franziska Herrmann, Katharina Egerer</i>	209
Play and Literacy in Literacy Centers: Language and Literacy Development in a Literacy-Rich Environment <i>Sven Nickel</i>	229
Video Games and New Generations. Analysis of Perceptions, Uses and Consumption Among Children and Young People <i>Federica Pelizzari, Michele Marangi</i>	247

Section 4

Narrative Play and Storytelling

Playing with Language and Possible Worlds on a <i>Field Trip to the Moon</i> – Talking about Wordless Picturebooks in German- and Italian-Speaking Primary Schools <i>Jeanette Hoffmann</i>	273
Picturebooks as Inclusive and Participatory Play Objects in School <i>Elisabeth von Leon</i>	301
Imagining Spaces, Tools, and Activities for Playful Training: The Art of Kamishibai <i>Rita Casadei, Sara Baroni, Alessandro Gelmi</i>	321

Narrative Experiences Between Play and Education: A Study on Narrative Learning through Eudaimonic Design <i>Michael Schlauch</i>	337
---	-----

Section 5

Best Practices

Walking Among Trees: Scientific, Naturalistic and Narrative Itineraries. A Playful-Expressive Approach for Citizen Science and the Heritage Curriculum <i>Alessandra Landini, Elisabetta Bedogni, Giulia Domenichini, Claudia Reggiani, Alfonso Trillicoso, Tiziana Altiero</i>	357
---	-----

Let's Play Together. Deconstructing Stereotypes in School Games: The Potential of Play for Participation and Inclusion <i>Elena Pacetti, Claudia Baiata</i>	375
---	-----

Let's Play! Interweaving All-Day Education and Playfulness in the Italian Context <i>Valerio Ferrero</i>	391
---	-----

"Pierino Wrote 'Go Juve' in the Class Padlet!". Playful Creativity in Managing Digital Tools With Off-Topic or Dysfunctional Contributions From Students <i>Leonardo Menegola</i>	413
---	-----

Tinkering in Primary School: From Episode to Science Practice <i>Stefano Rini, Sara Ricciardi</i>	433
--	-----

The Authors	455
-------------------	-----