

# INVITATIONS FOR LEARNING

FROM DAN HODGINS

[DKJ5075@AOL.COM](mailto:DKJ5075@AOL.COM)

**What are the causes of the disappearance of play?**

- **Electronic devices luring children**
- **Creativity is not encouraged**
- **Amount of outdoor time is declining rapidly**
- **Safety issues and concerns**
- **Over-emphasis on academics**
- **Play spaces are decreasing**

## *Play is on the Extinction List*

A major study by the National Children's Bureau found that half of all children have been stopped from climbing trees, 21% have been banned from running on the playground and 17% have been told they cannot take part in games of tag or chase. I am scared that PLAY is on the Extinction list.

What did you play as a child?

- Did you always have a goal in mind?
- Were the props you used bought or found?
- Did you play by yourself or with others?
- Did you take a class to learn how to play?
- How much of your play included adults?

The answers are probably that you played with other children with very little adult supervision and you made up the rules as the activity developed.

We have plenty of evidence that Play is important for children's growth and development:

- **Emotion and Cognition** seems to increase during play
- **Retention of information** increases by during natural play
- **Play helps develop** problem solving skills
- **When movement and language occurs during play cognition increases**

We must prevent play from going extinct....

For more information on workshops contact me at:  
[DKJ5075@aol.com](mailto:DKJ5075@aol.com).  
or visit my website:  
[www.danieljhodgins.com](http://www.danieljhodgins.com)

**Lots of activities are being disguised as Play:**

**coloring books**

**crafts**

**organized sports for young children**

**dance, gymnastics, music classes**

***Natural Play - is spontaneous and comes  
from the child....***

***I am Counting on YOU to Prevent Play from  
going EXTINCT!***

- **provide blanket/sheets for tent making**
- **bring back Red Rover, London Bridge and Kick the Can**
- **allow rolling down hills**
- **encourage climbing higher than their bodies**
- **provide boxes for getting in and out of**
- **play cops and robbers**
- **run with children using kites**
- **squirt each other with water**