

Fostering Creativity Through Play-Based Experiential Learning (Pbel)

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What is Pbel?

Pbel refers to the integration of two key elements in preschool and kindergarten education:

- Age-appropriate content presented by teachers in engaging, and creative ways
- Ample time for child-initiated play, indoors and out

Children integrate the content they experience at school, at home, and in the community, all of which enriches their play and which, in turn, helps them to digest what they are learning and make sense of their lives.

Resources on Play and Play-based Experiential Learning:

Website describing Pbel by the Alliance for Childhood, with text and videos:

<http://play-based-learning.org/>

An overview of research on play-based learning

“The Crisis in Early Education: A Research-Based Case for More Play and Less Pressure” by Joan Almon and Edward Miller (Alliance for Childhood: 2011)

http://www.allianceforchildhood.org/sites/allianceforchildhood.org/files/file/crisis_in_early_ed.pdf

How did kindergarten become so heavily academic?

Crisis in the Kindergarten: Why Children Need to Play in School by Edward Miller and Joan Almon (Alliance for Childhood: 2009)

http://www.allianceforchildhood.org/sites/allianceforchildhood.org/files/file/kindergarten_report.pdf

“Is Kindergarten the New First Grade?” Research article by Daphna Bassok, Scott Latham, and Anna Rorem. (University of Virginia: Updated February 2016)

Abstract and summary:

http://curry.virginia.edu/uploads/resourceLibrary/20_Bassok_Is_Kindergarten_The_New_First_Grade.pdf

<https://news.virginia.edu/content/uva-researchers-find-kindergarten-new-first-grade>

Challenges and successes when an urban district restores play to kindergartens:

“Inserting Child-Initiated Play into an American Urban School District After a Decade of Scripted Curricula: Complexities and Progress” by Julie Nicholson, Anne Bauer, and Ristyn Woolley. *American Journal of Play*, Vol. 8, Nr. 2, Winter 2016.

<http://www.journalofplay.org/sites/www.journalofplay.org/files/pdf-articles/8-2-article-inserting-child-initiated-play.pdf>

Publications about the importance of play:

Playing It Up—With Loose Parts, Playpods, and Adventure Playgrounds by Joan Almon, Editor. (Alliance for Childhood: 2017)

http://allianceforchildhood.org/sites/allianceforchildhood.org/files/file/Playing_It_Up.pdf

Adventure: The value of risk in children's play by Joan Almon. (Alliance for Childhood: 2013)

http://www.allianceforchildhood.org/sites/allianceforchildhood.org/files/file/Risk_Intro_website.pdf

The Playwork Primer by Penny Wilson. (Alliance for Childhood: 2010)

http://allianceforchildhood.org/sites/allianceforchildhood.org/files/file/PlayworkPrimer_color.pdf

Videos about the importance of play:

“What happens when you add loose parts to Elementary School recess?” (Portland Free Play: 2017)

[youtube.com/watch?v=TIkHCNd7wk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TIkHCNd7wk)

“The Best Day Ever: Forest Days in Vermont Kindergartens” (Antioch University: 2018)

<https://www.antioch.edu/new-england/resources/community-resources/best-day-ever/>

“Play:ground NYC – an adventure playground in NY.” (Play:groundNYC and Alliance for Childhood: 2017)

<https://vimeo.com/187973729>