

Playworlds



Playworlds are imaginary scenarios where children go on an imaginary journey's using staged and spontaneous pretend play. Playworld pedagogy fosters adult and child joint play with integrated, multifaceted learning experiences that are respectful of the child's culture, creativity and spontaneity, supporting holistic social, cognitive and emotional development (Fleer, 2015).

Pedagogy are the teaching practices and strategies that support learning and development.

What is a Playworld: <https://youtu.be/y5MlxZHMDkM>

Creating a Playworld

Observe your child's interests and choose a book they really enjoy to create a Playworld that you can explore together.

"***How Maui Slowed The Sun*** by Peter Gossage provoked a lot of interest from our tamariki"

"***The Curious Little Witch*** by Lieve Baeten gave a variety of experiences to explore and investigate"

"The children were really enjoy ***We're Going on a Bear Hunt*** by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury so we decided to immerse ourselves in the story"



The idea is to revisit a story over several occasion with the tamariki in an imaginary space.

The Playworld creates an opportunity to explore the story from different perspectives fostering exploration, creativity, and executive brain functions such as working memory, flexible thinking and self-control (Fleer, 2017).

Preparing and entering a Playworld

To enter in the Playworld you could choose a prop or create a set to transport you. It could be a hula hoop you climb through, a magic wand with a phase, or a special chair.

Setting the space can be done in a planned and spontaneous way, you can gather a variety of props, material and costumes or allow imagination to create the set.

Fleer, M., Learning, Culture and Social Interaction (2017), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.lcsi.2017.04.003>
Fleer, M., Early Child Development and Care (2015), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03004430.2015.1028393>

Playworld Roles

Playworlds are collaborative play between all participants of all ages. You become play partners as everyone takes on a character. By playing alongside the young learners you can pepper the play with inquiring questions, dramatic challenges and sensory experiences. Depending on the characters you can either position yourself as learner and explorer to problem solve together, or present the problem and lead the processes to work out solutions. It's important to think about how you want to interact and to consider whether it is age appropriate.

Playworld Pedagogical toolkit (Marilyn Fleer)

1. Select a story
2. Design the Playworld inside and outside
3. Entering the Playworld
4. Introducing a problem
5. Planning adult interaction

Watch to learn more about
conceptual Playworlds:

[https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=WT4_Zgpw5_8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WT4_Zgpw5_8)

Potion Commotion - Exploring a Playworld



'Potion Commotion' by Peter Bentley is a story about a little witch who when left home alone decides to make dinner but it gets out of control when the potion bubbles all over town.

I set the scene in the garden by creating a kitchen and we used a hula hoop as a way to enter the Playworld. During the Potion Commotion Playworld both of the girls played witch sisters and I played a friend that came over to play!

As the friend I suggested we make bubbling potions. We explored different ways to make bubbles, dishwashing liquid and water and mixing vinegar and baking soda. We talked about how and what made the bubbles, trying a variety of combinations of ingredients with the girls adding sand, mud and flowers. The girls enjoyed mixing, pouring, stirring, naming colours and making new colours.



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Revisiting the Playworld

A couple of days later we revisited the Playworld but this time I set it up in our garage. I played the witch Mum and left my youngest alone to explore and experiment with bubbling mixture ingredients (vinegar & baking soda) and gloop mixture (cornflour and water).

The play continued for the whole afternoon as we remained witches to cook and eat dinner!



Gloop recipe

2 cups cornflour

1 cup water

Food colouring

Place the cornflour into large container and place a few drops of colouring, add the water and mix.



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