

# HomeTalk

thoughtful conversations for families and schools

## Issue 33 – Play

*compiled by Roger Sutcliffe [www.dialogueworks.co.uk](http://www.dialogueworks.co.uk)*



**Note to parents/carers and teachers**  
This pack contains links to external websites. Whilst we take every care to make sure these are suitable, you may want to check the content before showing them to children.



To get HomeTalk emailed every week  
message [bobhouse@dialogueworks.co.uk](mailto:bobhouse@dialogueworks.co.uk)

# This week's focus is play

Through play, children  
learn to forge  
connections with others...

UNICEF 2018



People tend to forget  
that play is serious.

David Hockney –  
painter



Not only is active play physically  
good for children and young people,  
it helps their mental health too.

Play England 2017



# Thinking about play

## Caring thinking

Is playing something to be taken seriously? If so, can you take it too seriously?

## Collaborative thinking

Have you made up games with other people? How did it go?



## Creative thinking

Is all play creative, and is all creativity play?

## Critical thinking

What examples of decision-making during play can you think of?

What play times have made you happiest in the past?

What games or sports might you hope to play in future?

What do playing a musical instrument and playing a game have in common?



Think **AHEAD**

Think **BACK**

**CONNECT**



**DIVIDE**

**LISTEN/LOOK**

**ZOOM (in/out)**

What is the difference between playing a game and playing a part in a movie?

What can you hear or see that tells you whether someone is playing or not?

Is there one thing in common to all play?

Is playing more about taking part than winning?

# Discussion suggestions (age 3 - 5)

## Stimulus

An **ELEPHANT & PIGGIE** Book



<https://youtu.be/wNi7qa8etEU>

## Talking Points

- How many different people do you play with?
- How many different games do you play? Which do you like best and why?
- Are you good at asking if you can play? Are you kind if someone asks to play with you?
- Was it a good idea to throw more balls at the snake? Can it be fun to be thrown around?

## Activity

- Think of four different ways to play with a ball, then try them out with someone.
- Pretend that animals can really talk, and make up a conversation between two or three of them (use toys if you like).

# Discussion suggestions (age 6 - 9)

## Stimulus



<https://youtu.be/1oY7BobbmjI> A prize-winning poem by a class of children, describing different sorts of play.

If you have time, also watch 'Taking Flight', a Disney Pixar short film about imaginative play:

[https://youtu.be/Gj6V-xZgtIQ?list=PLRza9ng-gU7xKHgkttUffXAkvhrrv\\_ydqf](https://youtu.be/Gj6V-xZgtIQ?list=PLRza9ng-gU7xKHgkttUffXAkvhrrv_ydqf)

## Talking Points

- How many types of play were in the poem?
- Does playing always need imagination?
- Is 'thinking hard' play or work?
- Do you think everyone has a special sort of play or game that suits them? If so, can you name yours?
- Do you like playing in imaginary worlds? If so, why?

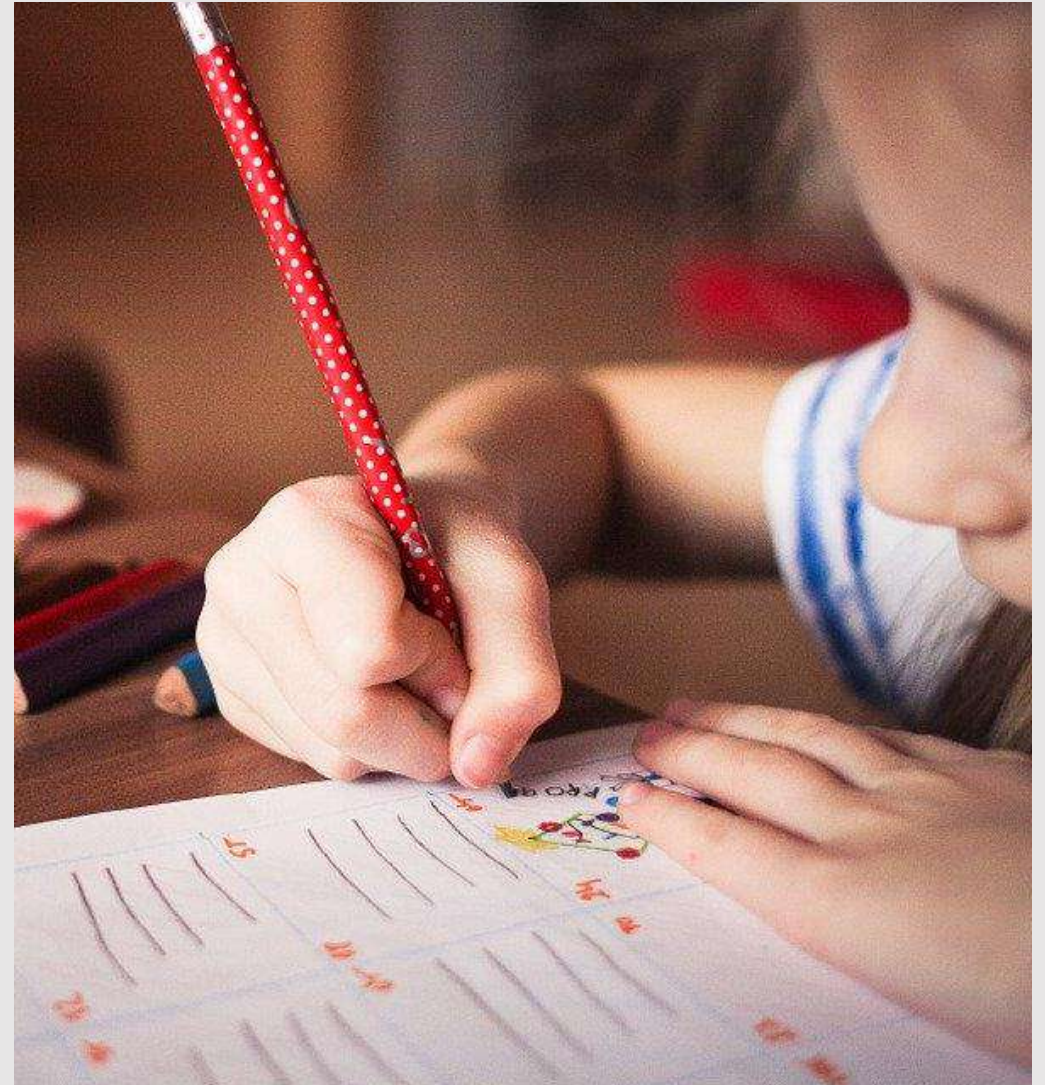
## Activity

- Write a playscript of a meeting between a Martian who does not know what play is and a human child who tries to explain it.
- Write a poem about play with one or more friends. Get someone to video you performing it.

# Discussion suggestions (age 6 - 9)

## Bonus Activity

- Find out what 'wordplay' means by visiting <https://examples.yourdictionary.com/examples-of-puns-for-kids.html>.
- Make a collection of 10 or more puns that amused you. Arrange the puns into a Top Ten, and see if your family or friends agree with your order.
- Pun challenge – can you make up some new puns of your own?
- Why not have an online 'pun party'? Ask everyone to bring some puns. Everyone scores each other's puns 0 – 5, to see which come out as the Top Ten.



# Discussion suggestions (age 10+)

## Stimulus



<https://youtu.be/UqJ6f-cddbK>

A 5-minute TEDx talk by an 11 year-old, arguing for more play time, especially outdoors.

## Talking Points

- Can you list some things you've learnt when playing outdoors? How does it compare with what you've learnt in the classroom?
- Brody states that outdoor play improves critical and creative thinking – what is his evidence? What do you think?
- Are outdoor sports for older children and adults just a continuation of outdoor play?

## Activity

'Outdoor education' is growing in popularity, but it actually has quite a history – see [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Outdoor\\_education](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Outdoor_education).

Research and discuss this, then decide how important learning outdoors is to you.



# Discussion suggestions (age 10+)

## Bonus activities

### DICTIONARY PLAY

- Words can have lots of different meanings. For example, playing a song is different from playing a role in a play! In this [online dictionary](#) there are over 40 different ways to use the word 'play'.
- Make as many sentences as you can, based on the different meanings of 'play'.
- Challenge your family to see how many they can think of.

### CALL MY BLUFF

- 'Call My Bluff' was a popular TV quiz game in the 1960s, played in two teams of three.
- For a full explanation, see [www.activityvillage.co.uk/call-my-bluff](http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/call-my-bluff). Here's a [clip of the TV version](#).
- See if you can organise your own game of Call My Bluff!

[➤ More about HomeTalk, including previous editions](#)

[➤ Parent Talk Moves – tips for great conversations with your children](#)

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[Course brochure](#)

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- Thursdays January 28th, February 4th and February 11<sup>th</sup>
- £125 per person, or £200 for two people

[Course brochure](#)

Bookings: [enquiries@dialogueworks.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@dialogueworks.co.uk)