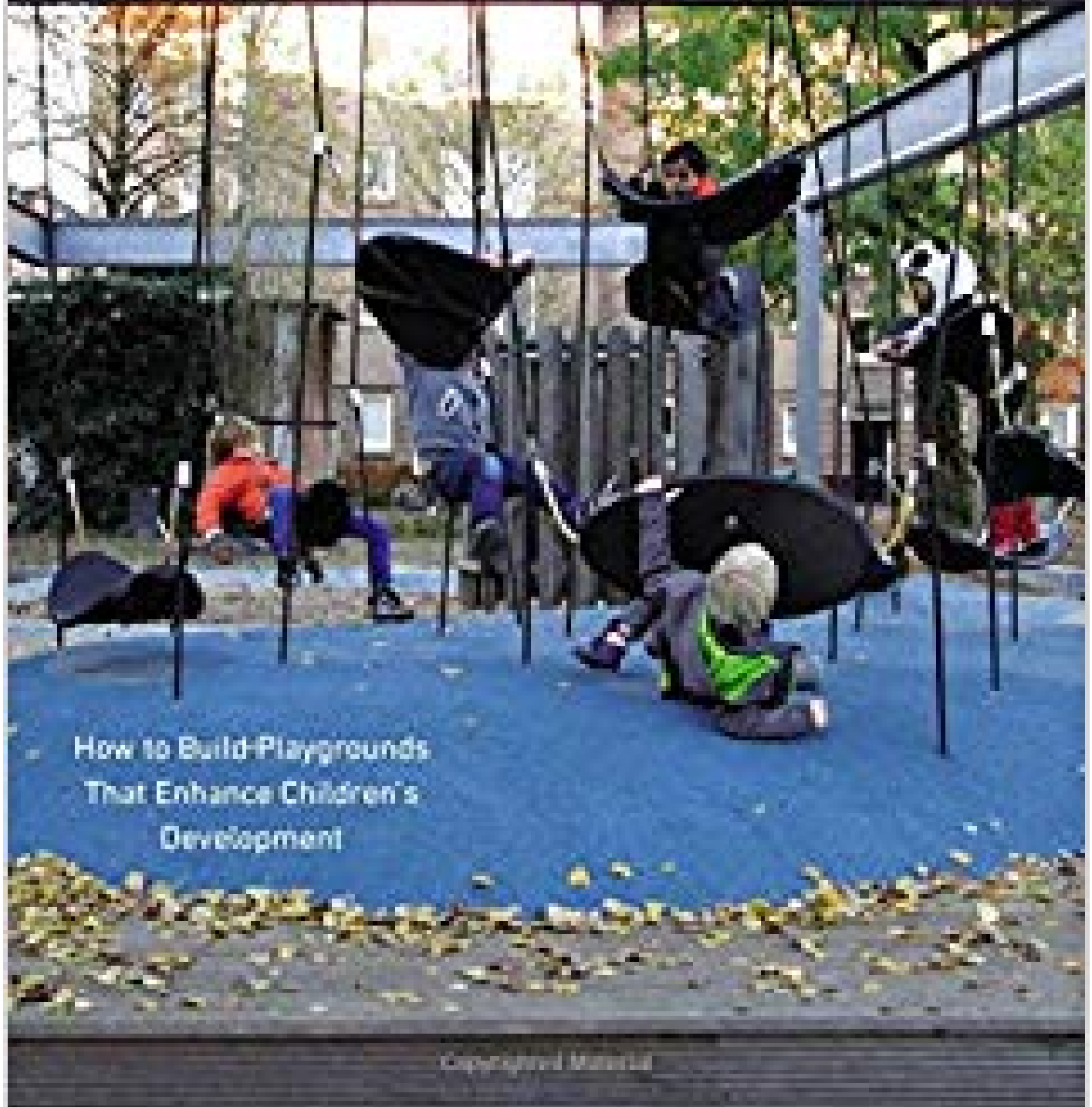


Susan G.
Solomon

THE SCIENCE OF

PLAY



How to Build Playgrounds
That Enhance Children's
Development

Susan G. Solomon

The Science of Play: How to Build Playgrounds That Enhance Children's Development



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experience failure but also have an opportunity to succeed and master difficult tasks; A range of elements—including a litigious tradition, overzealous safety guidelines, and an ethos of risk aversion—have created uniform and unimaginative playgrounds. These spaces fail to nurture the development of kids or promote playgrounds as an active element in enlivening community space. Solomon's book demonstrates how exactly to alter the position quo by allying data with design. Recent information from the behavioral sciences signifies that kids need to take risks; Poor style and wasted funding characterize today's American playgrounds. and develop friendships. exercise self-control; learn to plan and solve problems; The Research of Play, a clarion call to use playground design to deepen the American commitment to open public space, will curiosity architects, landscape architects, urban policy manufacturers, city managers, local politicians, and parents. These innovative spaces, a lot of which tend to be more multifunctional and affordable than traditional playgrounds, are both sustainable and welcoming. Having become lively hubs of their neighborhoods, these play sites are models for anyone designing or commissioning an urban area for children and their own families. Solomon illustrates how architects and scenery architects (most of whom function in Europe and Japan) have already addressed these needs with strong, successful playground designs.



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The Science of Play How to Build Playgrounds That Enhance Children's Advancement by Susan G. As a practicing design professional, I admit guilt to selecting dumbed-down yet "safe and sound" playground products, as a safeguard against potential litigation. Clar Susan Solomon's new publication, *The Research of Play*, is an essential and remarkable publication that requires a fresh approach to the subject of playgrounds. This amazing overview explores the significance of play and playgrounds for children, with special focus on play solutions that encourage risk taking, succeeding and failing, preparing in advance, experiencing nature, and making friends. It is also a remarkable book since it asks us to aggressively rethink playgrounds and the need for perform, despite our over-litigious society's drive to eliminate risk from life. By doing this, she stresses that parents need to recognize that some degree of risk is appealing and even essential to children's development. The result is a missed chance for children to learn and develop. examples by architects such as the Rockwell Group; She positions these in a historical context which includes the pioneering playgrounds of Aldo van Eyck, Kahn and Noguchi. they are not stimulating places where kids want to be; nor do they enliven their communities. Citing behavioral science research, Solomon stresses the developmental need for energetic and inspired perform. The publication is a call to action for re-introducing such stimulating play. She includes more than 50 greatest practice state-of-the-art yet inexpensive examples from around the world, with unique focus on international solutions in England, Europe and Japan that "steer clear of the rigidity and predictability of traditional playground equipment" to create inspiring, stimulating environments for kids. There he was able to use a longer rope swing to property on an intertube in the middle of a lake. about the utilization and style of urban playground space. along with by artists, that manage to enrich play while still meeting safety recommendations. Many, if not most of our playgrounds and play equipment, Solomon notes, have become boring: uniform, unimaginative, banal. landscape architects such as for example Michael Van Valkenburgh, and Steven Koch; S. They do not encourage play; S. Solomon, examined by John W. And yet one of my favorite playground encounters was at a rustic in Finland, where my young son could do stuff that would never have already been feasible at a public park in america. These examples are tastefully selected, with special emphasis on sustainability, and range between such diverse projects because the intimate Norwegian fire bowl and Cave by Haugen/Zohar Arkitekter to the huge knitted fabric climbing sculpture in Japan by the artist Toshiko Horiuchi MacAdam. In simulated rapids, while struggling to retain my hold on him while I watched kids shoot past us in the swift water to wind up who understands where, it occurred if you ask me that not merely did these Finns appear hardier, heartier, and less litigious than we Americans, but it also seemed their kids were having far more fun. The Technology of Play targets the tiny explored yet

tremendously important and influential environments of children's playgrounds, and through many specific examples displays how they can be repositioned from the stultifying configurations they too often are to the inspiring, stimulating and educational configurations they have to be. Super important book! This is this incredible book. I am so happy that she wrote this. These books are important to helping the United States address a national play reform. These play areas make a compelling case for how circumscribed the typical American playground is becoming. We are building an adventure playground and are using this publication as research. My husband and I have both discovered a whole lot about the theories behind play. Challenges conventional considering urban playgrounds and exciting alternatives Susan Solomon has challenged conventional thinking in the U. She writes also how playgrounds can become multi-use lively community hubs. She also includes U. She provides many intriguing good examples that show the lively alternatives which exist, mostly in Europe and Japan. Well written, straight forward, readable and comprehend. In our risk-adverse tradition, the fenced-in, standardized post-and-deck structure provides small in the way of exploration, careful risk-taking and cooperative learning. She actually is also requesting us, as parents, public officials, style professionals, and those in charge of children's lives, to take risks ourselves: In a nutshell, to be more inspired and creative ourselves in the interest of childhood betterment. She implies that a professionally designed space does not have to become prohibitively costly and that it can result in areas that entice intergenerational use. The skillfully taken and thoroughly chosen photographs enhance the obviously written prose. Her material should appeal to parents, teachers, neighborhood activists and design experts.



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