Playing in Nature - the experience of Tupinambá children

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Presenter information

- Environmental Psychologist
- Research in children-nature experience
- Professor and researcher in Universidade Estadual de Santa Cruz/UESC – Ilhéus/BAHIA – Brazil
- Master and Doctoral supervisor in the Environmental and Development Graduate Program/PRODEMA
Children-Nature

Biophilia (Wilson, 1985) – attachment to natural world
Psychological development and wellbeing

Place attachment (Chawla, 2006) – sense of belonging to a place
Part of the nature

Childhood – very sensitive period

Urban/Indoors/Sedentary lifestyle – interruption of biophilia – health problems– obesity, cognitive disorders, videophilia

Environmental concern – place attachment to natural environments
Research

• Tupinambá children's feelings and knowledge about nature – **drawings and interviews**

• Tupinambá children’s experience in nature – **observation of school activities (2013-2015)** – 10 schools

137 children age 6 to 14 49,5% Girls/50,5% Boys

Staff: Supervisor, 05 undergraduate students, 01 master student.
TUPININAMBÁ LAND

In contact with nos-indians from 1500

5000 Tupinambá (2014)

Atlantic Forest Biome
Tupinambá Schools
Tupinambá Schools
Tupinambá Schools
Tupinambá Schools
Tupinambá Schools/Surroundings
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Tupinambá Schools

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Drawings sessions

PLEASE DRAW THE NATURE, THE NATURE AROUND YOU.
Drawings sessions
Interviews

WHAT’S YOUR FEELING ABOUT NATURE?
Drawings analysis

- Not a lot of humans in nature – 24%
- Easy task
- High level of biodiversity
- Ecological and landscape knowledge
What’s your feeling about nature?
A lot of stuff I don’t remember, I like it because it is good to play.
(Luara. Girl, age 6).
What’s your feeling about nature?

I like it because it's cool to play with.

(Maria Luiza. Girl, age 9).
What is the usefulness of nature?
*To play, to play ball and to run.*

How do you think it should be the relationship between humans and nature?
*Playing, playing ball.* (William Max. Boy, age 7).
What’s your feeling about nature?
There is all for us to do, for us to play, to make all things. I feel good, I like.

What's good in nature?
Play, study, work, do everything.

(Marco Antonio. Boy, age 11).
What's good in nature?

A house, a river, the sun that able us to play, the rain, I like also to fill the tanks, that’s it.

(Rilary. Girl, age 8).
What’s your feeling about nature?

I feel very happy, because when I'm in town the air is polluted and there is a lot of dirt.

(Saulo. Boy, age 10).
Tupinambá children have a strong bond with nature and a sense of belonging to the natural world – environmental concern.

Absence of industrial toys which - children need to create their own toys.

Play in natural spaces is a cultural heritage transmitted between generations as reported by teachers in schools.

The importance of natural areas for the full child development – improvement of biophilia in nature.

Need to promote wall less style of life in urban contexts.
Thank you!

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