



MAP-ing a New Way to Play:

Lessons learned from the Mobile
Adventure Playground

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City of Calgary

September 13, 2017

Our Adventure Playground

- The City of Calgary is creating a new way to play – one that encourages inclusive, independent, unstructured, creative, ‘risky play’ with its Mobile Adventure Playground.
- In 2016, the City of Calgary received funding from the Lawson Foundation to help increase active, outdoor play in Calgary... and the Adventure Playground was born!





- Topography
- Community Access
- Geography
- Attraction



Rapid Challenge Discussion

What are some challenges you would expect to come across with a Mobile Adventure Playground?



Challenges - Mobile





Challenges - Weather





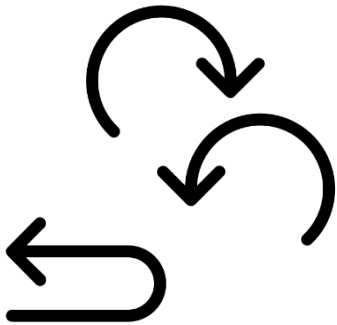
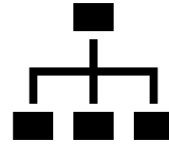
Challenges – Parents

- I. Inform & Educate
- II. In Play





Challenges - Internal



Challenges - Staffing

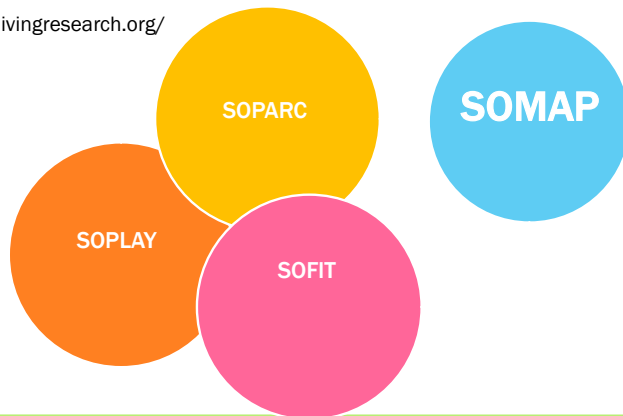
SR Re. Mobile Adventure Playground & Play Ambassadors I LOVE that the City is providing new interesting ways to keep kids moving & playing outside. However, the programs are not accurately represented. The staff at both programs do NOT engage with the children or facilitate participation. They sit/ stand to the side and chat with each other or look on their phones the WHOLE time. I have attended MAP numerous times and a PA activity once and it was the same every time. Please hire staff that are outgoing & interested in engaging with children, plus willing to do the job they were hired for



How did we evaluate the MAP?

ACTIVE LIVING RESEARCH

<http://activelivingresearch.org/>



System for Observing Play and Recreation in Communities
System for Observing Play and Leisure Activity in Youth
System for Observing Fitness Instruction Time
System for Observing Physical Activity and Recreation in Natural Areas





Variables

1.



Activity levels

Sedentary
Moderate
Vigorous

2.



Risk

Heights
Speed
Tools
Rough & Tumble
play
Hiding/
Disappearing

3.



Social

Solo
Group (kids)
Adults

4.

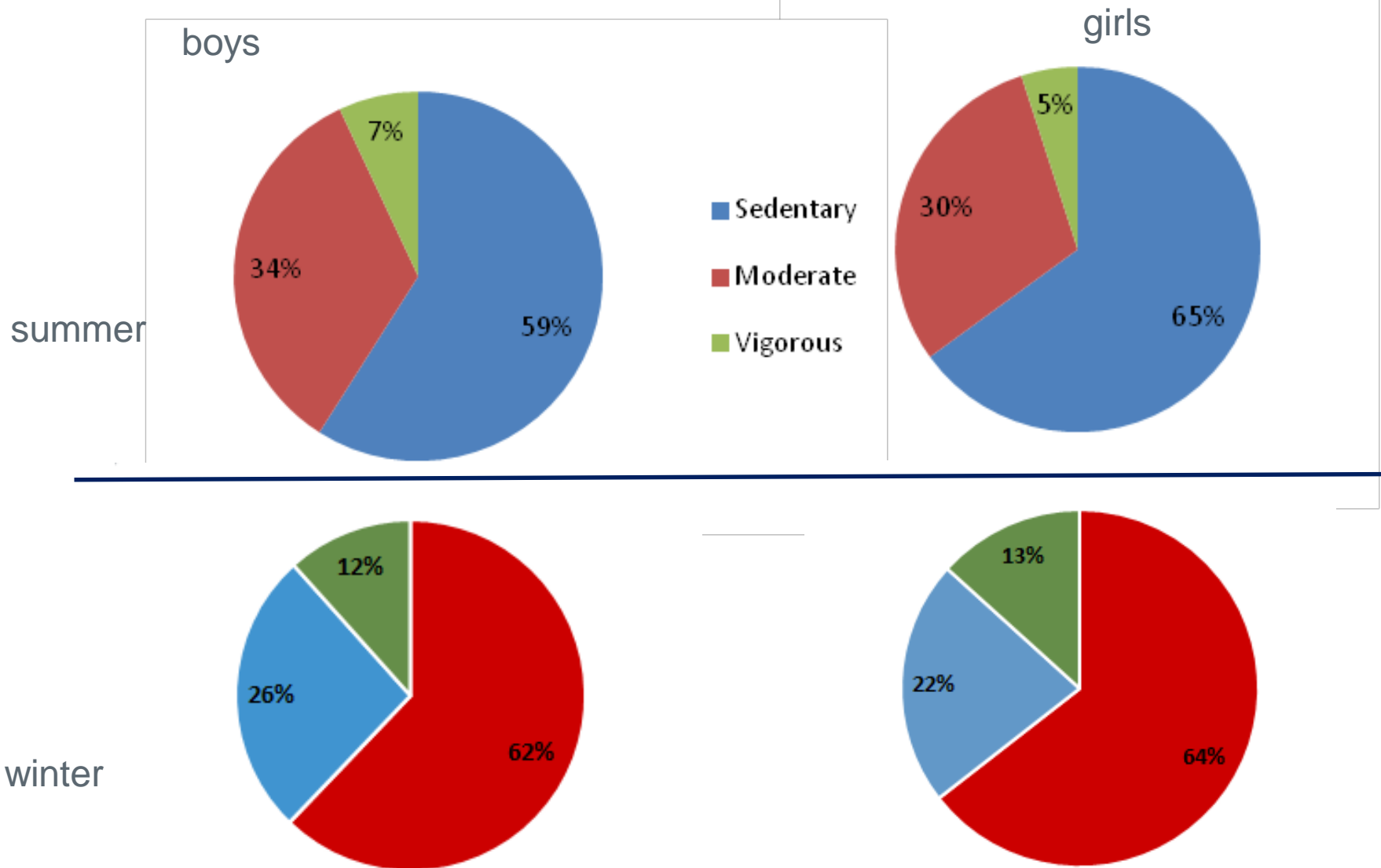


Engage- ment

Creative play
Building
Free play
Other

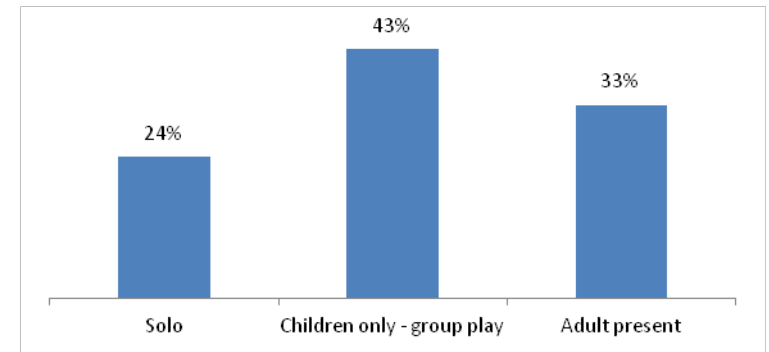
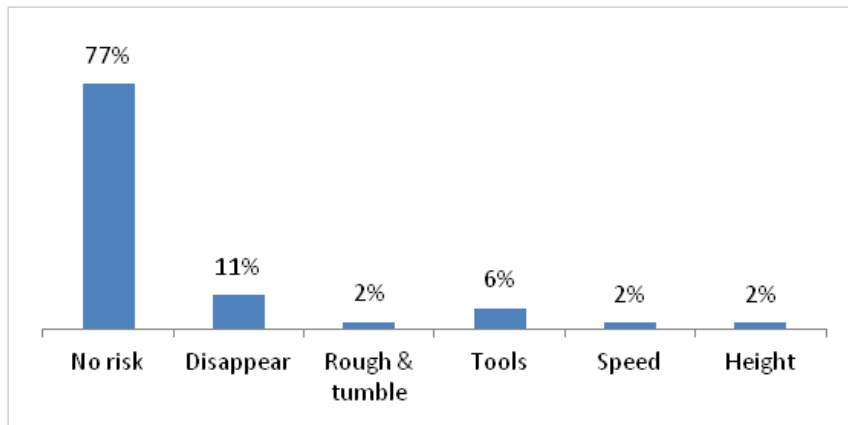
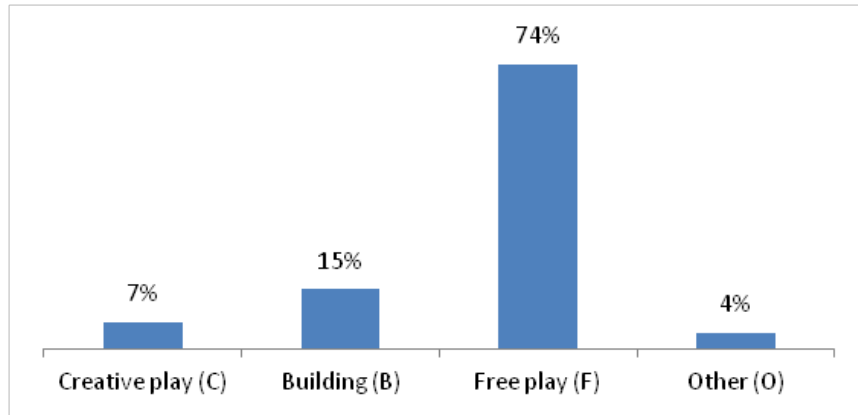


Activity Levels





Lots of Free Play, Little Risk, and mixed social groups





Parental Feedback

Positive experience



We would return!



Social Media – friend or foe?



CKC

August 19, 2016 · 

Has anyone gone to the City's Mobile Playground? We went today and I'm curious what other experiences were.

Today's looked like they picked up a bunch of trash and brought it for kids to play with- ripped cardboard, old tires, broken toys, metal pipes with duct tape, old gross pieces of fabric... I was excited about this project but really disappointed when we arrived.

5 Comments



Like



Comment



shared a link to the group:

Calgary Outdoor Playgroup Community.

May 17 · 

Kiddos and I chanced upon this pilot program last summer, and are so happy that it's back.... if your kids are found of outdoor, imaginative play check it out.

<http://www.calgary.ca/.../Locations/Adventure-Playgrounds.aspx>.

I



The City of Calgary - Mobile Adventure Playground

The City's mobile adventure playground is back this summer in a park near you. The playground runs May 4 until September 29.

WWW.CALGARY.CA



July 27, 2016 · 

Calgary Outdoor Playgroup Community

...

The mobile adventure playground at Canmore Park was SOOO cool, make sure you check one out this summer! We headed over to the spray park after to cool down. 3 families (5 kids) that we could count, probably more out there, but so many people it was hard to keep track! And no photos today- we were too busy playing!!!!



6

5 Comments



City of Calgary – Your Local Government ✓

August 24 at 6:26pm · 🌐

Will my son need a tetanus shot after playing here?



FELIX AND MAX

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CITY OF CALGARY MOBILE ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

June 25, 2016

Remember being a kid and discovering the endless possibilities and play options of a simple cardboard box? Sometimes it was a race car, a rocket ship, a castle, or a hidden fort. The City of Calgary is bringing the joy of discovering, building, and playing with minimal supervision by introducing the Mobile Adventure Playground pilot program. Even though this is new to the city, Adventure Playgrounds have been around since 1943. The first one opened in Denmark, followed by one in England.

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