Children denied chance to develop 'resilience' by too strict health and safety rules, warns Ofsted chief

By Christopher Hope, www.telegraph.co.uk
August 5th, 2017

School trip pupils and adults wearing high visibility jackets on visit to The Tower of London
Coddled no more? Yellowknife's Dangerous Camp offers risk and reward

By Katherine Barton, www.cbc.ca
August 26th, 2017

Two ex-British military officers launched a week-long kids camp earlier this
Have Smartphones Destroyed a Generation?

By Jean M. Twenge, www.theatlantic.com
August 3rd, 2017
The Quest to Make Vertical Living Family-Friendly

By Feed, www.citylab.com

July 6th, 2017

From the 1950s through the ’70s, Toronto built up. High-rises appeared downtown as well as in suburban areas, and a good number of them featured spacious layouts and amenities such as playgrounds to attract and accommodate families.

In the past decade, the city has seen another surge in vertical housing, but of a different sort. Buildings of five or more stories, which comprise...
‘Playing Out’ revolution tops 500 streets

www.childinthecity.org
June 29th, 2017

The English city of Nottingham is the latest to embrace the Playing Out
City of North Vancouver Launches Patios, Parklets and Places to Play

By More, www.civicinfo.bc.ca
June 28th, 2017

NORTH VANCOUVER - The City of North Vancouver is energizing popular locations this summer with outdoor dining patios, parklets and placemaking.

Patios: A creative partnership between the City and local businesses has resulted in an enlivened, outdoor dining experience in Lower Lonsdale. Five restaurants located south of Esplanade now feature expanded outdoor wooden dining patios.
The benefits of ‘free’ play may not be what you think

By Wendy Russell, Stuart Lester, www.childinthe_city.org

June 4th, 2017

The importance of play to children’s learning, development and
A child plays skips through a sidewalk in Los Angeles, where the Kounkuey Design Initiative is creating pop-up play streets in low-income neighborhoods. Photo by: Kounkuey Design Initiative
A member of the National Assembly (MNA) for the Canadian province of Quebec, Danilo Dupuis, recently introduced a bill aimed at improving child safety. The proposed bill seeks to enhance pedestrian safety by creating pedestrian zones on streets and avenues. In addition, it encourages the installation of speed bumps and other traffic calming measures to reduce the speed of vehicles in residential areas. The bill also aims to increase awareness among drivers about the need for caution around schools and other areas where children are present.
The charity London Play has launched ‘The Playtime Project’ to ‘put play at the heart of London’s schools’. A pilot will run until May 2017, with a London-wide roll out planned later that year.
Seattle neighbors close streets for play time

By Tegna, www.kings5.com
August 30th, 2016

A unique program to encourage kids to play outside is really taking off in parts of Seattle.

Photo by: A unique program to encourage kids to play outside is really taking off in parts of Seattle.
How can we learn what children and adults want and need in playgrounds? And how can we make sure that those playgrounds are a vital public space?
Denmark has figured out how to teach kids empathy and make them happier adults

By Jenny Anderson, qz.com
August 22nd, 2016

Empathy, or the ability to read another person’s emotions, is a critical life skill. Many fear children are losing it—and that they’ll be less happy as adults as a result.

A University of Michigan study of nearly 14,000 college students found that students today have about 40% less empathy than college kids had in the past.
Where the Wild Kids Are

By Katherine Martinelli, www.citylab.com
March 29th, 2016
A Melbourne Natural Playground Named Australia’s Best Playground

A Melbourne children's playground designed to encourage risk-taking through rocky outcropped terraces and lofty climbing ropes - has been crowned the nation's best.
To Help Kids Thrive, Coach Their Parents

November 1st, 2016
Glued to your phone? Need a sense of perspective? One veteran tree-climber argues we should
look up from the kudos to reach the heights of nature with his
five favourites in London.
Children are being priced out by ‘pay to play’ in public spaces

By Rebecca Ratcliffe, www.theguardian.com
December 12th, 2015

Councils raise cash by privatising green spaces but for many the playgrounds are too expensive
Park and slide: artist plans to turn Bristol street into a giant waterslide

By Will Coldwell, www.theguardian.com
March 11th, 2014

Artist Luke Jerram hopes to install a 90-metre waterslide in central Bristol this May, and has set up a crowdfunding site to ensure the project goes ahead

Mock up of the Park and Slide project for Bristol Photograph: LukeJerram
Tame playgrounds aren’t moving children, expert says

ERIN ELLIS, VANCOUVER SUN  04.01.2015 |
The Murky Law on Free-Range Kids

AMANDA KOLSON HURLEY  APR 17, 2015
Parents camp out to nab spot in nature kindergarten

SARAH PETRESCU / TIMES COLONIST
JANUARY 10, 2015 09:54 PM

Parents camp outside South Park Elementary School in January 2015 to sign up for a spot in the nature kindergarten program. Photograph By ADRIAN LAM, Times Colonist
The Overprotected Kid

By Hanna Rosin, www.theatlantic.com
March 19th, 2014

A preoccupation with safety has stripped childhood of independence, risk taking, and discovery—without making it safer. A new kind of playground points to a better solution.

A trio of boys tramps along the length of a wooden fence, back and forth, shouting like carnival barkers. “The Land! It opens in half an hour.” Down a path and across a grassy square, 5-year-old Dylan can hear
As much as anyone, I have touted changing demographics in the U.S. that show the growth of childless households as a portion of overall population. Given that families with kids are the traditional market for many things, including not only consumer goods but also real estate, the 

...
Give childhood back to children: if we want our offspring to have happy, productive and moral lives, we must allow more time for play, not less

By Peter Gray, www.independent.co.uk
January 12th, 2014
For much of human history we lived close to the natural world. As civilization evolved we became increasingly urbanized, and most of us now live in cities. As we’ve moved away from nature, we’ve seen a decline in other forms of life. Biodiversity is disappearing. The current emphasis on infinity and isolation has caused a decline in our health. The connection between nature and health is becoming more evident. Getting dirty can strengthen our immune system.
"All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." It's a folk proverb that was first recorded in English in 1659 (and used to horrific effect in The Shining). Whatever its origin, the truth behind it is self-evident. People who grind away ceaselessly at labor lose their sparkling edge.
There is nothing fancy about the schoolyard at P.S. 309 in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn. It’s just a few hundred square feet of bare asphalt bounded by a chain link fence, with a couple of basketball hoops to provide some limited court space.