Neighborhood play: Practice and results

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PLAYBORHOOD
TURN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD INTO A PLACE FOR PLAY

MIKE LANZA

"Playborhood is important reading and an inspiration for all of us concerned with how childhood has changed."
— Po Bronson, co-author of Nurture Shock
THE PROBLEM
This is a social problem.
Problem Frame

Neighborhoods are B-O-R-I-N-G!
So what?
Birth cohort increases in psychopathology among young Americans, 1938–2007: A cross-temporal meta-analysis of the MMPI

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:  
Received 17 June 2009  
Received in revised form 15 October 2009  
Accepted 19 October 2009

Keywords:  
Culture  
Psychopathology  
Birth cohort  
Generations  
Anxiety  
Depression

ABSTRACT

Two cross-temporal meta-analyses find large generational increases in psychopathology among American college students (N=63,706) between 1938 and 2007 on the MMPI and MMPI-2 and high school students (N=13,870) between 1951 and 2002 on the MMPI-A. The current generation of young people scores about a standard deviation higher (average d = 1.05) on the clinical scales, including Pd (Psychopathic Deviation), Pa (Paranoia), Ma (Hypomania), and D (Depression). Five times as many now score above common cutoffs for psychopathology, including up to 40% on Ma. The birth cohort effects are still large and significant after controlling for the L and K validity scales, suggesting that the changes are not caused by response bias. The results best fit a model citing cultural shifts toward extrinsic goals, such as materialism and status and away from intrinsic goals, such as community, meaning in life, and affiliation.

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Abstract

[the cause is] . . . cultural shifts toward extrinsic goals.
The Moral Judgment of the Child

Jean Piaget

with the assistance of seven collaborators
Translated by Marjorie Gabain
MY PLAYBORHOOD
Our Street is us and we are it. Our street is where we like to be and it looks like all our dreams.
~ Sarah Rasmussen
Back Yard
Back Yard
Back Yard
10 YEARS,
10 LESSONS
Sustainability is the Goal
2 Experience, not Age
3 Skilled Risk-Takers
Deep Play
Playground? Huh?
Neighborhoods Rule
Independent Mobility
It’s Very Messy
It’s Chaotic
You Had to Be There

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