Playfulness and Creativity

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“We don’t stop playing because we grow old, we grow old because we stop playing.”
Social Play
Object Play
Social play in keas
Play with objects
Characteristics of play

Intrinsically motivated

No immediate benefit

Novel combinations of actions

Sensitive to well-being

Most often seen in the young
“Play” is used colloquially for many different activities such as competitive sports and theatrical events.

Playful play

Playfulness

Play as I have just defined it
Playfulness is associated with positive, light-hearted mood. It facilitates creativity.

Creativity refers to coming up with a new idea or new way of behaving.
Alternate Uses Task

What can you do with a brick?

**Converger**

Build a wall

**Diverger**

Use as door stop

Use as hammer

Break windows

Repell attacker

Grind to make paste, etc.

Fluency, Flexibility, Originality
What word is associated with the following?

Violin
Bells
Tie

Answer: Bow
**Big Five Personality characteristics**

- **Extraversion**
  - Outgoing
  - Aloof

- **Neuroticism**
  - Worried
  - Stable

- **Conscientiousness**
  - Organised
  - Chaotic

- **Agreeableness**
  - Empathetic
  - Misanthropic

- **Openness to Experience**
  - Creative
  - Analytical
Innovation refers to implementation and changing the way things are done.

Being a successful innovator requires many psychological and attributes, such as determination, focus and resilience.

These attributes have little to do with the ability to generate novel thoughts.
Opportunities for play have been severely curtailed in recent years.

Breaks between classes reduced.

Formal teaching pushed to earlier and earlier ages.

Real and imaginary fears for the safety of children have increased.
Creativity in 9 year olds

THE BAD NEWS

Elaboration score

1984 2008

The good news is that creativity can be enhanced by providing organised play opportunities.