

**CHILDREN'S PLAY AND ITS  
PLACE IN EDUCATION, AN  
APPENDIX ON THE  
MONTESSORI METHOD**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649088881

Children's play and its place in education, an appendix on the Montessori method by Walter Wood

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**WALTER WOOD**

**CHILDREN'S PLAY AND ITS  
PLACE IN EDUCATION, AN  
APPENDIX ON THE  
MONTESSORI METHOD**



# CHILDREN'S PLAY

AND ITS PLACE IN EDUCATION

WITH AN APPENDIX ON  
THE MONTESSORI METHOD

BY

WALTER WOOD

OF THE MIDDLE TEMPLE; BARRISTER-AT-LAW

LONDON

KEGAN PAUL, TRENCH, TRÜBNER & CO., LTD.

BROADWAY HOUSE, 68-74 CARTER LANE, E.C.

1913

LB 1137  
W8 .

" I leave to the children the flowers of the fields, and the blossoms of the woods, with the right to play among them freely according to the customs of children. And I devise to them the banks of the brooks, and the golden sands beneath the waters thereof, and the odours of the willows that dip therein, and the white clouds that float high over the giant trees. And I leave the children the long, long days to be merry in, in a thousand ways, and the night and the moon and the train of the milky way to wonder at. . . .

" I devise to boys jointly all the useful idle fields and commons where ball may be played ; all pleasant waters where one may swim ; all snow-clad hills where one may slide . . . ; and all meadows with the clover blossoms and butterflies thereof, the woods and their appurtenances, the squirrels and birds, and echoes and strange noises, and all distant places which may be visited, together with the adventures there found.

" And I give and bequeath to the said boys each his own place at the fireside at night, with all pictures which may be seen in the burning wood, to enjoy without let or hindrance and without any incumbrance and care."

*Charles Lounsbury's Will.*

*(By courteous consent of Messrs. Harper and Brothers.)*

ALBANY

## NOTE

THE purpose of this book is not to deal scientifically with the subject of Children's Play, but rather to present one or two aspects of the matter which may be new to the public in general and to teachers in particular.

I have to acknowledge my indebtedness to Professor Colozza's book "*Il Giuoco nella Psicologia e nella Pedagogia*" for the inspiration of Chapter II. ; also to the writings, in contemporary periodicals, of Mr. Joseph Lee, of Boston, and many other supporters of the Playground Movement in America.

"Happy hearts and happy faces,  
Happy play in grassy places,  
That is how in ancient ages  
Children grew to Kings and Sages."

R. L. STEVENSON.



## CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
NOTE . . . . .	v
I. THE PLAY THEORIES . . . . .	9
II. PLAY IN THE HISTORY OF EDUCATION . . . . .	32
III. THE PLAY PERIODS AND THEIR CHARACTERISTICS. SOME CLASSIFICATION OF GAMES . . . . .	59
IV. THE EDUCATIONAL VALUE OF PLAY . . . . .	93
V. THE PLAY SPIRIT . . . . .	118
VI. JUVENILE LITERATURE AND THE VALUE OF STORIES . . . . .	136
VII. THE PLAYGROUND MOVEMENT IN AMERICA . . . . .	154
VIII. PLAY AND CIVILISATION . . . . .	178
APPENDIX . . . . .	207
INDEX . . . . .	215



# CHILDREN'S PLAY

## CHAPTER I

### THE PLAY THEORIES

It is perhaps advisable in opening this chapter to explain what is meant by the term "Play Theory." A play theory is a scientific attempt to answer the query, "What is Play?" In our country we have accepted the phenomenon without much inquiry as something inevitable, and in the nature of original sin; elsewhere play has been called many things from "a system of ideographic hieroglyphs" to "the first poetry of the human soul." The play theory, however, has a task beyond defining play, and is concerned with the answer of a further perplexing question, "Why do children play?"

Only four of the play theories are sufficiently developed to merit serious consideration, and no more than a very brief reference to each of