

**Karla Roberts writes in response to Sandra Smidt's article on play:**

As a childcare practitioner I was extremely satisfied to read the article and wholeheartedly agree with Sandra's definition of play. It is so important for ownership of play to belong to the child. The explanation that the reason for the play belongs to the child is food for thought, because adults find it difficult to detach their own values to childhood. I find it sad to find that parents confuse such 'irritating' elements of schematic play as behavioural issues, and it would be good if society could allow children to use their rights more freely. It is annoying when a child draws on the wall, but it is also a heart warming memory of childhood, that adults lose the value of.

The article has helped me to understand the value of all play, and that the play resources are less important than the opportunities for play. After reading the article, I have scrapped the idea of renewing the toys in the setting in favour of bits and bobs for them to use their imagination and lead their own play.

The article was enlightening and inspiring.

*8<sup>th</sup> November, 2012.*