

Play insights since Covid 19

May 2020

Whānau are spending more time together.

Some parents loving the opportunity to spend more time with children.

Guilt about screen time and ability to spend quality time with children while balancing work and whānau commitments.

Some parents struggled with ideas on how to keep their children busy, this has led to lots of new social media activity on this and sparked sports and recreation organisations to build online resources.

Boredom is good for creativity and play.

Took time for children to adapt to play verses structured sport/activities.

Finding the right balance between learning, play and learning through play hard.

Impact on single parents is more significant as even less capacity to play and assist in learning.

Crowded homes present challenges for learning and play.

Flood of play inspiration and sharing of resources on social media, new groups and pages popping up with intergenerational play content.

Teens and younger siblings interacting more, creating different kinds of play.

Being outside is important.

Adults are being more playful or spending more time playing with their whānau.

More time spent with children has grown understanding of them as people and will contribute to stronger connections and relationships.

Less group activities and more unstructured play close to home.

People are more familiar with their neighbourhoods, connecting with neighbours and walking, cycling and playing close to home.

People are realising the value of what they have at their doorsteps/neighbourhoods and because they are using it they are also seeing how it can be improved/changed.

Playing in street has built a sense of connection , people are acknowledging each other, smiling and saying hello to each other. This will lead to more resilient communities.

People acknowledged each other in new ways and sought small reassurances through physical cues, smiles or similar.

With the time and inclination, people stopped to have the chat that they might not have previous. There will be spinoffs in social capital as people will find babysitters and new friends and improve their sense of community.

Our communities have been reminded that any space is a play space, this was evident across generations as kids re-connected to the joy of simple things (long-grass, rain and puddles) and older adults walked gaily down the middle of the road.

A new generation of kids have an appreciation of the native birds that are around us.

When the malls are closed, we go to the beach and green-spaces. We are pulled towards play, we are pulled towards the diversity of nature.

Since being in our homes/bubbles so much, being out in the street has provided the opportunity to “just be” contributing to mental wellbeing and resilience.

Capacity of previous community partners for this type of mahi may be lower as time and resource is focused on reestablishing community sport.

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