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Playground on the move

Boundless scope for play and skill development

Climbing frames, see-saws and pirate ships are items of play apparatus that have become firmly established in today's playgrounds. However, for certain fields of application, permanently installed apparatus is inappropriate. The play and learning space of the future does not necessarily have to be tied to a certain place, let alone to permanently installed equipment. The modern, alternative play-scape is mobile and consists of blue play blocks that encourage children to engage in imaginative, free and improvised play.

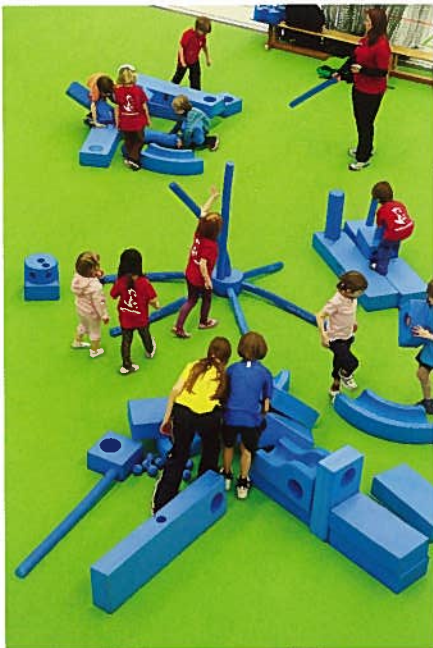
The portable playground, developed by its inventor, the architect David Rockwell, as the Imagination Playground for children of all age groups, consists of 105 pieces of different sizes and shapes – including boxes, gearwheels, curves and cylinders that can be inserted together or super- or juxtaposed. They can be used in schools and child-minding facilities, by clubs, by animators at hotels in the tourism sector, or on cruisers as a play alternative.

Like its makers, Playparc domiciled in Willebadessen in eastern Westphalia, which exclusively markets the Imagination Playground in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, is very taken by the new innovative play space strategy of the pop-up play event. Creative, unstructured and self-directed play is hugely important for unburdened and healthy development and supports children's acquisition of intellectual, social, physical and emotional skills.

While classical playgrounds cater to the furtherance of basic motor skills, playing with the blue blocks and tubes offers far greater potential. Using these elements, children create their own play environment and shape their own play realms and dream worlds – and all this in constant social interaction. At the University of Paderborn, a six-month study is currently in preparation that will determine to what extent these elements promote the development of children in schools and child-minding facilities in terms of their motor, cognitive, social

and emotional skills. Even now, after a trial run at the Paderborn Ahorn-Sport-park, it is obvious that the Imagination Playground is enormously inspiring and promises huge potential for children. It has been observed that 10-year-olds make totally uninhibited and creative use of the blue blocks. While girls quickly invent role plays, boys tend more towards ball games.

Unlike conventional toys or playgrounds, the Imagination Playground does not dictate the structure of play. Thanks to the uniform colouration, there are no arguments over blocks or hierarchies. A new world is created every day in which children alone or in groups can invent their own scenarios, games and, above all, their own rules. The sets are water-repellent, easy to clean and recyclable at the end of their useful life. They can be used in a variety of ways indoors and outdoors and combined with other materials, such as water and sand.





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Spielplatz to go

Grenzenlose Spiel- und Lernräume

Klettergerüste, Wippen und Piratenschiffe sind wichtige Spielgeräte, die einen festen Platz auf den heutigen Spielplätzen einnehmen. Für bestimmte Einsatzgebiete sind fest installierte Geräte allerdings nicht das Richtige. Der Spiel- und Lernraum der Zukunft muss nicht zwangsläufig an einen Ort, geschweige denn an fest installierte Geräte gebunden sein. Die moderne, alternative Spiellandschaft ist mobil und besteht aus blauen Spielblöcken, die Kinder zum fantasievollen, freien und spontanen Spiel anregen.

Der transportable Spielplatz, der von seinem Erfinder, dem Architekten David Rockwell als „Imagination Playground“ für Kinder aller Altersstufen entwickelt wurde, besteht aus 105 Teilen in unterschiedlichen Größen und Formen,

darunter Kästen, Zahnräder, Kurven oder Zylinder, die ineinander gesteckt, über- oder nebeneinander gesetzt werden. Sie können in Schulen und Kitas, in Vereinen oder im Touristik-Animationsbereich in Hotels oder auf Kreuzfahrtschiffen als Spiel-Alternative eingesetzt werden.

Wie seine Macher ist die Firma Playparc mit Sitz im ostwestfälischen Willebadessen, die den Imagination Playground in Deutschland, Österreich und der Schweiz exklusiv vertreibt, von dem neuen innovativen Spielraum-Konzept des Pop-Up-Play-Events überzeugt. Das kreative, unstrukturierte und freie Spiel ist für ein unbeschwertes und gesundes Heranwachsen von großer Bedeutung. Es unterstützt die intellektuelle, soziale, physische und emotionale Entwicklung von Kindern.



Während klassische Spielplätze die Intention hegen, die Grobmotorik zu fördern, schlummert in dem Spiel mit den blauen Blöcken und Nudeln ein noch viel größerer Mehrwert. Mit den Elementen erschaffen die Kinder ihre eigene Spiellandschaft, gestalten Spielräume und Traumwelten – und dies in ständiger sozialer Interaktion. An der Universität Paderborn ist nun eine für ein halbes Jahr angelegte Studie in Planung, in der ermittelt werden soll, inwieweit das Material die Entwicklung von Kindern an Schulen und Kitas in motorischer, kognitiver, sozialer und emotionaler Hinsicht fördert. Schon jetzt ist nach einem Testlauf in dem Paderborner Ahorn-Sportpark klar, dass der Imagination Playground einen außerordentlichen Aufforderungscharakter hat und tolles Potential für die Kinder besitzt. Man konnte beobachten, dass die Fünftklässler vollkommen unbefangen und kreativ an die blauen Blöcke herangingen. Während die Mädchen schnell Rollenspiele entwickelten, waren es bei den Jungen Ballspiele.

Anders als konventionelles Spielzeug oder Spielplätze, diktiert Imagination Playground nicht die Struktur des Spiels. Durch die einheitliche Farbgestaltung entstehen keine Streitigkeiten um Spielblöcke oder Rangfolgen. Jeden Tag entsteht eine neue Welt, in der Kinder allein oder in der Gruppe ihre eigenen Szenarien, Spiele und vor allem eigenen Regeln entwerfen können.

Die Sets sind wasserabweisend, leicht zu reinigen und am Ende der Nutzungszeit recycelbar. Sie können vielfältig im In- und Outdoorbereich eingesetzt und mit anderen Materialien wie Wasser und Sand kombiniert werden.

