

Joan Almon On Play

Quotes From *Adventure: The Value Of Risk In Children's Play*

...play ideas bubble up from within children themselves, not to meet an external goal but to satisfy their own needs. Children then choose how to play out their ideas. They direct and change the play scenarios as needed. The end result is usually a rich and deeply satisfying experience.

Play is the way children discover themselves—starting with their fingers and toes and gradually including their whole body, their emotions, and their minds.

In play, children work together to change the rules to meet the situation they face, which is a powerful social experience.

Play stretches children's boundaries as they explore their world in ever deeper and wider ways. Such stretching inevitably brings some risk. Fortunately, children have an innate ability to assess risk. That allows them to sense risk and either back away from it if they feel unready to cope with it, or move forward, step by step, as they test their skills.

Play is...the way children discover the world around them. They explore, invent, and transform it to suit their needs. Cut off play and a wide range of children's abilities never fully develop. Play-deprived children fail to know themselves and the world around them with the depth available to the playful child.

