Idea 8

DESIGN FOR PLAY

Photo: Eleazar Cuadros/Bernard van Leer Foundation
Playgrounds – or designated play spaces – are bounded in space and not evenly spread. When possible, it is better to think of the whole city as a playground.

Use behavioural prompts and design to encourage play during the walk along the street, at the bus stop, in plazas and waiting areas. Undesignated play spaces like these offer additional play opportunities and a more diverse learning environment for young children. And remember to include benches and other areas where people can stop and rest, as young children and caregivers are especially likely to need a break along the way.

In some contexts, negative parental behaviours towards outdoor play remain a challenge. Improving parents’ and caregivers’ perception of safety will also foster more play, and contribute to reducing their levels of stress.