Idea 1

POP-UP PLAY

Mobile containers of books, toys and games for small children, along with movable benches and chairs, can be easily towed by bicycle or car.

It fills public space with life, engages community members and is an efficient way to test ideas for permanent infrastructure. It can provide moments for parents and children to socialise and may contribute to reducing their stress. It is widely used around the world, but there is a need to develop more experiences that are inclusive of the youngest children.

At a glance...

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<th>COST</th>
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GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT
- Social Services
- Education
- Health
- Parks
- Planning
- Transport

MINIMUM SCALE
A few square meters

EXISTING IMPLEMENTATION LEVEL
Tested and implemented
OUTCOME AREAS

- Increased time spent outdoors together by caregivers and children
- Increased exposure to nature
- Increased connectivity and trust between caregivers and children from different families
- Increased exercise
- Increased frequency and efficiency of public space usage
- Increased sense of safety
- Increased profits for local businesses

REAL WORLD EXAMPLES

- In Canberra, Australia, an eight-day pop-up park experiment on Garema Place led to a sixfold increase in children and families spending time in public spaces.

- In Brussels, Belgium, Cultureghem’s PlayBox adapts the idea of the play-box to fit the needs of young kids in the city’s most deprived neighbourhood, to create a safe and challenging play environment.

- In Bogotá, Colombia, the city introduced a pop-up play initiative combined with murals and street closure in a low-income neighbourhood. Young local artists painted a graffiti mural, honouring early childhood by depicting games they remember playing on the streets. This is the first step in a longer process through which the city is planning progressively more permanent interventions.

- Imagination Playground is a mobile block-based play system that can be easily placed in any kind of open space and allows children to creatively build their own playground. Developed in the USA, it has also been used in Turkey, Vietnam, Australia and Russia.

- In Amman, Jordan, two architects designed a modular, easy-to-assemble system of wooden street furniture called Stackable Playscapes, to cost-effectively bring play elements to public spaces in cities and refugee camps.

RELATED IDEAS

2 Urban stories
5 Temporary play streets
11 Merging green and play spaces
13 Playworkers and free play
4 Safe, interesting and playful transit

RESOURCES

- Playbox – moveable play space in Brussels
- Play Everywhere Playbook by KaBOOM