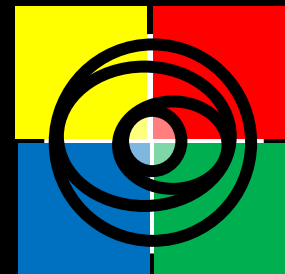


Four quadrants: a model for understanding play

Perry Else 2011



A model for understanding play

There are many play theories –
which is right?

This model aims to integrate
different paradigms of
development and progress with
less mainstream views of
individual choice and intuition

The presentation aims to link some
of the key concepts for
understanding play

Characteristics of Play Else 2009

Immediacy of action and
response

Choice for the player

A sense of control

Accomplishment is self
defined

Timeless – ‘In the moment’

Benefits of play After Lester and Russell 2010

Helps develop more efficient brains by enhancing cortical connections

Contributes directly to good physical and mental well-being

Helps children experience control over their world

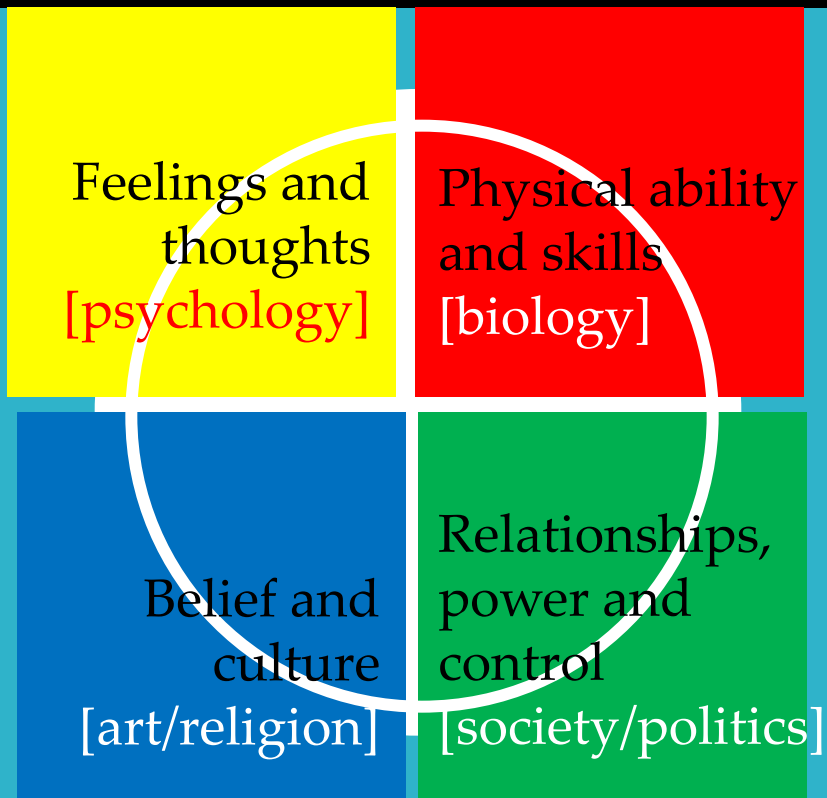
Contributes to resilience and problem solving

Is undertaken for the pleasure it affords, helps with overcoming stress and aids learning and creativity

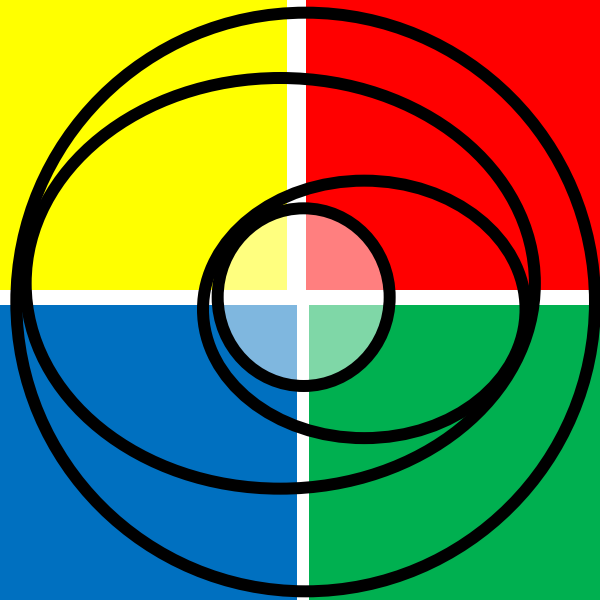
Four Domains

Confidence and intellectual ability	Physical abilities and attributes
Culture and beliefs	Power and relationships

Integral Play Framework Fields of study



IPF: Personal questions



Myself Who am I? What are my feelings?

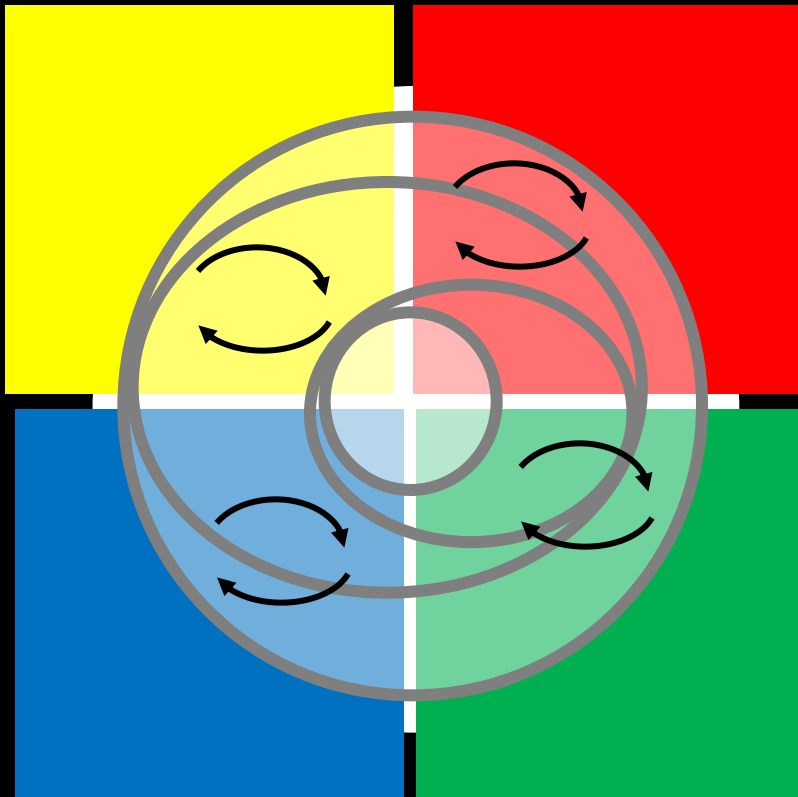
My body What can it do?
What is the world like?

Us Who are we? What are our beliefs?

Our society What is my role?
What status do I have?

Integral Play Framework/Play Cycle

Sturrock and Else 1998



Playing helps us explore different domains

- Identity
- Physical abilities
- Beliefs and values
- Rules and roles

Integral Play Framework/Play Cycle

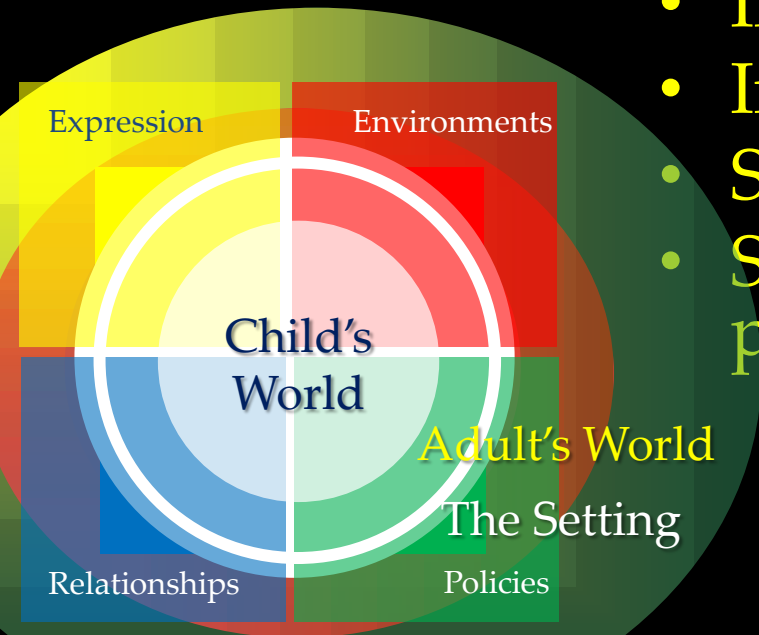
Sturrock and Else 1998



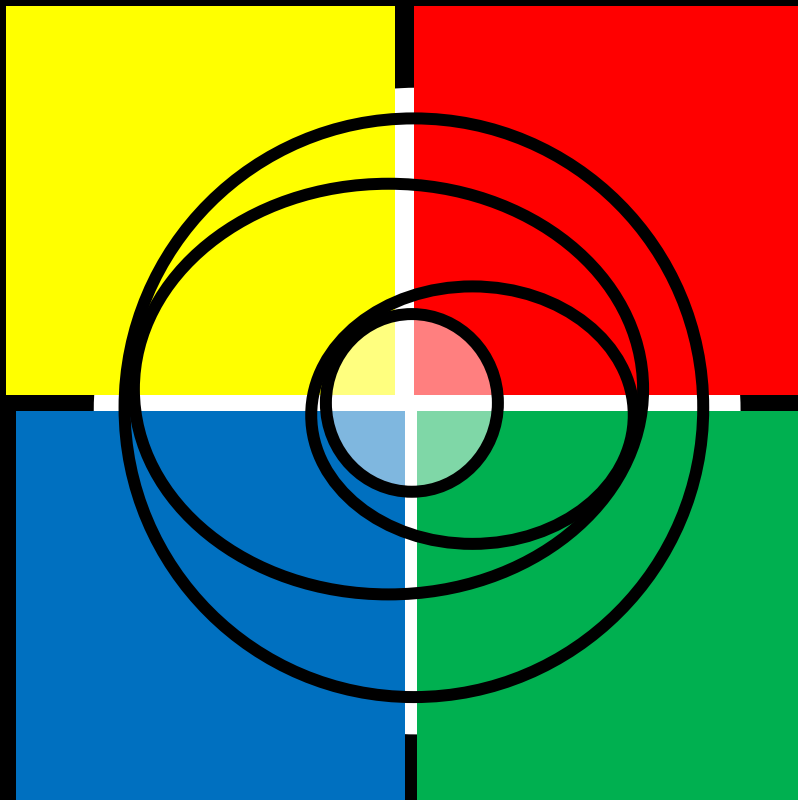
Considerations for provision

To play – and so benefit from play's outcomes – children need to be able to:

- Play freely
- In ways that they choose
- In a supportive, interesting space
- Shared by others
- Supported by knowledgeable and professional adults



Four quadrants: a model for understanding play



Shows how play ideas are
linked and supported

Being (now-ness)

Becoming (possibility)

Choice – at every level

A sense of control

Accomplishment is self
defined – ‘I know when
I’m done’

References

Bruce T (2001) Learning through Play, Babies, Toddlers and the Foundation Years

Else P (2009) The Value of Play

Gardner H (1999) Intelligence Reframed: Multiple Intelligences for the 21st Century

Gordon G and Esbjorn-Hargens S (2007) Integral Play

Kilvington J and Wood A (2010) Reflective Playwork

Lester S and Russell W (2010) Children's right to play: An examination of the importance of play in the lives of children worldwide

Sturrock G and Else P (1998) The playground as therapeutic space

Sutton Smith B (1997) The Ambiguity of Play

Wilber K (2000) Integral Psychology

Photo credits: Various

