

Jane Hanckel

Wings to the Future –

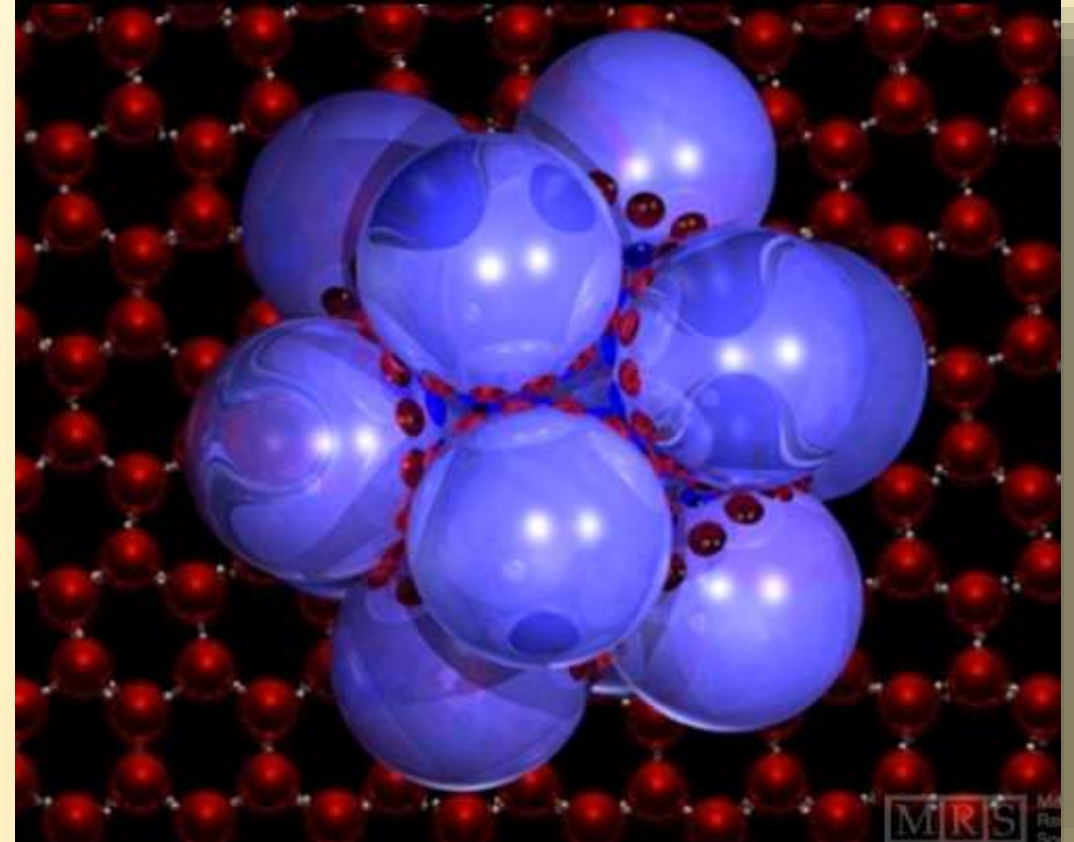
Implementing Nature Play in Early Childhood



Introduction

Key concepts

- Scientific rationalism
- Education and demands of commercial and political interests
- Holistic education



Overview

- Critique of the current context
- Vision of the way things could be
- Theory of change



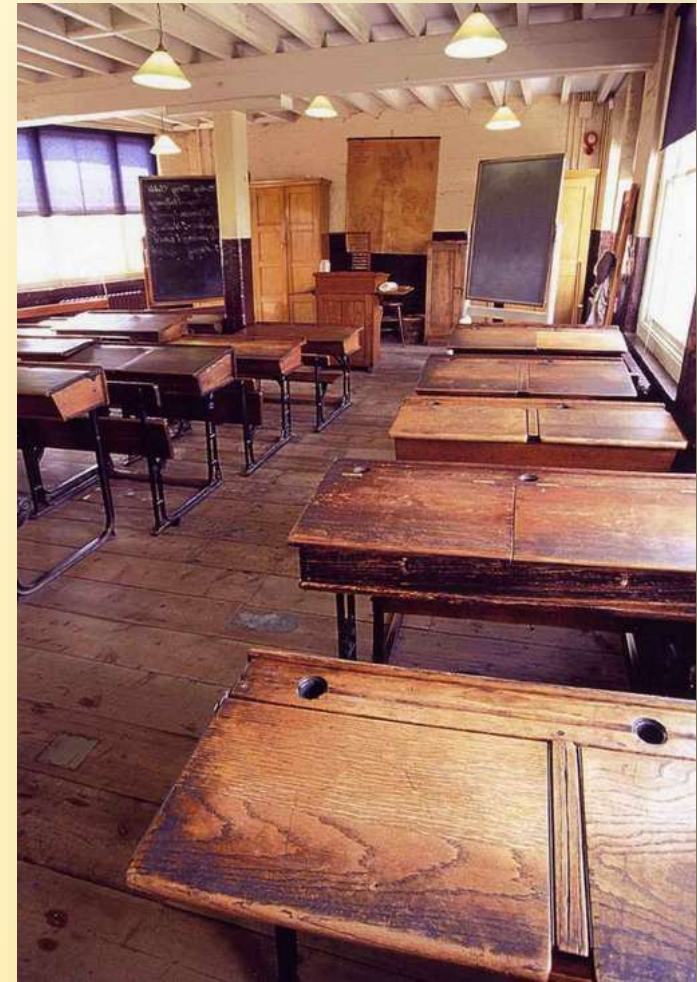
Problems

- Risk aversion – not confident and comfortable outside with children – fear of litigation
- Academic focus – real learning happens indoors?
 - Technology focus – not important if it doesn't involve technology?
- Control – challenge of working in nature



Background

- Industrialisation – labour market
- Science as a belief – some core myths of modern science
- Institutionalisation of education – standardised testing
- Technology – mass media control and the individual
- Materialism and consumerism – 4 dimensions of wellbeing



Santa, Santa in your sleigh,
Come and take my toys away
While I'm sleeping in my cot
Visit me and take the lot.

Santa, Santa set me free,
Clear an open space for me;
Me and all the girls and boys
Buried under heaps of toys.

Santa, Santa with your sack,
Come and take some plastic back;
Take it back and in its place,
Leave a little breathing space.



Vision

- Forest Kindergarten movements
- Finnish educational system
- Eco=Inspired in communities
- Rainforest Kindergarten Project



Vision

Eco=Inspired

a wholistic early childhood project
for enhancing parent-child wellbeing





Theory of Change

- Developing a holistic nature education program 0-4 years
- 7 Key Enrichment Elements
 - Benefits of nature
 - Creativity
 - Healthy Nutrition
- Understanding children's developing consciousness



Summary

- ✧ Academic focus
- ✧ Technology focus
- ✧ Control

- Industrialisation
- Science as a belief
- Institutionalisation of education
- Role of technology
- Materialism and 4 dimensions wellbeing



"Our highest endeavour must be to develop free human beings who are able, of themselves, to impart purpose and direction to their lives."
Rudolf Steiner (1861-1925)



Conclusion

- ❖ Create a vision
- ❖ Revolutionise education from the ground up
- ❖ Support an education for the freedom of the child

We can choose –

- ✧ Make changes within the system
- ✧ Press for changes to the system
- ✧ Take initiative outside the system



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