

Gun and Superhero Play Resource List

Online Resources

Case Study — Superhero Play

This excerpt from Chapter 5, *Play and the Developing Child*, in the book *Exploring Early Childhood*, by Louise Weißen (Pearson Australia/Heinemann 2001), discusses superhero play, the benefits of superhero play to children's development, and strategies parents and early childhood educators can successfully use to manage this play. www.hi.com.au/eec/super_case.htm

Illinois Early Learning Project — Ask Dr. Katz

This Web site offers a variety of resources, including a question and answer column with Lilian G. Katz, director of the Illinois Early Learning Project. In this column Katz discusses gun play and provides an extensive list of Web and print resources for further reading.

<http://illinoisearlylearning.org/ask-dr-katz/question006.htm>

Managing Superhero Play — Tip Sheet

This brief from the Media Awareness Network offers tips for parents and teachers to help control the aggression that may arise in superhero play, while recognizing the important role that it can play in children's healthy development.

www.media-awareness.ca/english/resources/tip_sheets/superhero_tip.cfm

TRUCE (Teachers Resisting Unhealthy Children's Entertainment)

TRUCE is a national group of educators concerned about how children's entertainment and toys are affecting the play and behavior of children in classrooms. Their Web site provides resources, information, and two annual guides for families and teachers, the *Toys, Play, and Young Children Action Guide* (also available in Spanish) and the *Media and Children Action Guide*.

www.truceteachers.org

Books

Carlsson-Paige, N. 2008. *Taking back childhood: Helping your kids thrive in a fast-paced, media-saturated, violence-filled world*. New York: Hudson Street Press.

Dyson, A.H. 1997. *Writing superheroes: Contemporary childhood, popular culture, and classroom literacy*. New York: Teachers College Press.

Hoffman, E. 2004. *Magic capes, amazing powers: Transforming superhero play in the classroom*. St. Paul, MN: Redleaf.

Levin, D.E. 2003. *Teaching young children in violent times: Building a peaceable classroom*. 2nd ed. Cambridge, MA: Educators for Social Responsibility.

Levin, D.E., & N. Carlsson-Paige. 2006. *The war play dilemma: What every parent and teacher needs to know*. 2nd ed. New York: Teachers College Press.

Paley, V.G. 1986. *Boys and girls: Superheroes in the doll corner*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Young Children articles

Boyatzis, C.J. 1997. Of Power Rangers and V-chips. *Young Children* 52 (7): 74–79.

Cain, B., & C. Bohrer. 1997. Battling Jurassic Park: From a fascination with violence toward constructive knowledge. *Young Children* 52 (7): 71–73.

Carlsson-Paige, N., & D.E. Levin. 1995. Viewpoint #4. Can teachers resolve the war-play dilemma? *Young Children* 50 (5): 62–63.

Greenberg, J. 1995. Viewpoint #3. Making friends with the Power Rangers. *Young Children* 50 (5): 60–61.

Gronlund, G. 1992. Coping with Ninja Turtle play in my classroom. *Young Children* 48 (1): 21–25.

Levin, D.E. 2003. Beyond banning war and superhero play: Meeting children's needs in violent times. *Young Children* 58 (3): 60–64. www.journal.naeyc.org/btj/200305/warAndSuperhero.pdf

NAEYC. 1998. *Media violence and children: A guide for parents*. Brochure. Washington, DC: Author.

Thornburg, K.R. 2002. From Our President. Exporting TV violence—What do we owe the world's children? *Young Children* 57 (2): 6, 74.

Other articles

Anderson, K.J., & D. Cavallaro. 2002. Parents or pop culture? Children's heroes and role models. *Childhood Education* 78: 161–68.

Barnes, H. 2008. The value of superhero play. *Putting Children First* 27: 18–21.

Bauer, K.K., & E. Dettore. 1997. Superhero play: What's a teacher to do? *Early Childhood Education Journal* 25 (1): 17–21.

Boyd, B.J. 1997. Teacher response to superhero play: To ban or not to ban? *Childhood Education* 74: 23–28.

Butler, S., & D. Kratz. From superhero to real-life hero: Encouraging healthy play. *Early Childhood News* www.earlychildhoodnews.com/earlychildhood/article_view.aspx?ArticleID=567

Fonville, B., & S. Afflerbach. 1995. Superhero play: Making it a part of your curriculum. *Texas Child Care* 19 (2): 2–8.

Hampton, M. 1995. Limiting superhero play in preschool classrooms: A philosophy statement. *Texas Child Care* 19 (3): 2–9.

Himle, M.B., R.G. Miltenberger, B.J. Gatheridge, & C.A. Flessner. 2004. An evaluation of two procedures for training skills to prevent gun play in children. *Pediatrics* 113 (1): 70–77.

Meltz, B.F. Making superheroes worthy of youngsters' admiration. *The Boston Globe*. May 5, 2005. www.boston.com/yourlife/family/articles/2005/05/05/making_superheroes_worthy_of_youngsters_admiration/

Parsons, A., & N. Howe. 2006. Superhero toys and boys' physically active and imaginative play. *Journal of Research in Childhood Education* 20: 287–300.

Watson, M., & Y. Peng. 1992. The relation between toy gun play and children's aggressive behavior. *Early Education and Development* 3 (4): 370–89.