

## The Problem:

A child who can play, is his own therapist (Pim v/d Pol). This essential role of play in child development is under threat, because more and more children cannot find into free play by themselves (multicausal play deprivation).

## The Solution:

Building a bridge between structured activity based youth work and facilitating free play so youth workers can support children through the steps they are missing.

## The Result:

Children find their ability to find into their own play and transfer this skill to similar loose parts environments & to playing outside in general. Youth workers are aware of their specific play setting and use playwork strategies such as risk benefit analysis to navigate them and support the play development of the children they are working with. Hereby they also take the environment of the children into account.

# POP UP PLAYGROUND SPELENMAAR

## FROM STRUCTURED TO FREE PLAY

An approach to alleviate play deprivation

### Programme Content:

#### 4 PLAY PROGRAMMES:

- ✓ Parachute to Chill-Out Zone
- ✓ **Marble Run to Castle**
- ✓ Hopscotch to Obstacle Course
- ✓ Big and Small Bubbles

#### What is new:

We use collaborative play to help children connect with each other and explore play materials in a safe environment. Taking away the competitive element creates an inclusive atmosphere where the children can find a space for everyone to join in. Moreover we introduce the child-led approach of traditional playwork to the work field in the Netherlands add proactive tools to it to create the awareness and space to support children in play deprived situations.

#### The SpelenMaaR play process:

Explore the material: What can you do with a gutter?

Explore each other: Which games can we think of with 2 children and 2 gutters? Can we make a living marble run with everyone?

Move into SpelenMaaR: Let's see what we can create and play if we use the rest of the materials, too!

Take care that you and the others have fun!

Clean up together

- A selection of loose parts sourced from the local waste recycling circuit based on functionality and play value
- A facilitator's manual with easy to follow activities, illustrative photos & suggestions on how to support every step of the play process
- A FABS kit (First Aid bij SpelenMaaR) for extending play
- An in-company training resulting in a play plan which is applied to your specific setting
  - Come-back meetings with supervision and cooperative learning

#### Target group:

- ★ Buurtsportcoaches
- ★ Kinderwerker
- ★ Speeltuinenverenigingen
- ★ Pedagogische medewerker
- ★ Vrijwilligers
- ★ ...

#### Key words:

Material exploration  
Cooperative games  
Playwork informed approach  
Inclusive play  
3 step process  
Free time

SpelenMaaR Programmes  
in your organisation?

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Ilse v/d Put and Franziska Nath are  
excited to hear from you!

[empowermentbyplaying.nl/spelenmaar](http://empowermentbyplaying.nl/spelenmaar)

Wanna see free  
play in action?

