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My poster uses a short story and refers to the ‘Play Cycle’ (Howard & McInnes, 2013) to explore issues relevant to the play community, including:

• Playfulness in practice: what does this look like?
• Playfulness in research: playful methodological approaches to gathering and presenting data.

I believe there is a need for playful, creative approaches that allow children and young people to have fun and to feel comfortable being in nature, rather than always doing things to, in and for nature. The role of the facilitator is key: effective communication – direct and indirect - is vital. If we say one thing, but do another, what message are we communicating?

Keywords: Playfulness; Creativeness; Responsiveness; Belonging; Comfort; Story; Nature; Outdoor Learning.

For more about me and my work, please see www.makingsenseofnature.co.uk or email me: tracy.hayes@cumbria.ac.uk


Discussion Points

• Being a role model...
• Play partners...
• Effective communication...

• Muddy Moments...
• Play terminated...
• or is it?