

The habitat of childhood



Jason Tyndall
NATURE PLAY SA

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Side by side

We can never feel what they felt.
We can never see what they saw.
We can never lose what they lost.

But we can listen.
And we can learn.
And we can try.

We can walk
side by side,
as we journey together
into a better world.
A more united world.

We shall never forget
the wrongs of the past,
nor sit in their shadows,
together we will find
a new light.



Nature is not a sometimes
thing for children. It's an
everyday thing.



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the creatures they encounter...

the soil their hands...



the mud between their fingers ...




the things they create...



the food they grow...

A child wearing a pink rain suit and a light-colored beanie is walking away from the camera down a muddy, leaf-strewn path in a forest. The path is flanked by tall, thin trees and green undergrowth. The scene is captured in a cinematic style with soft, diffused light.

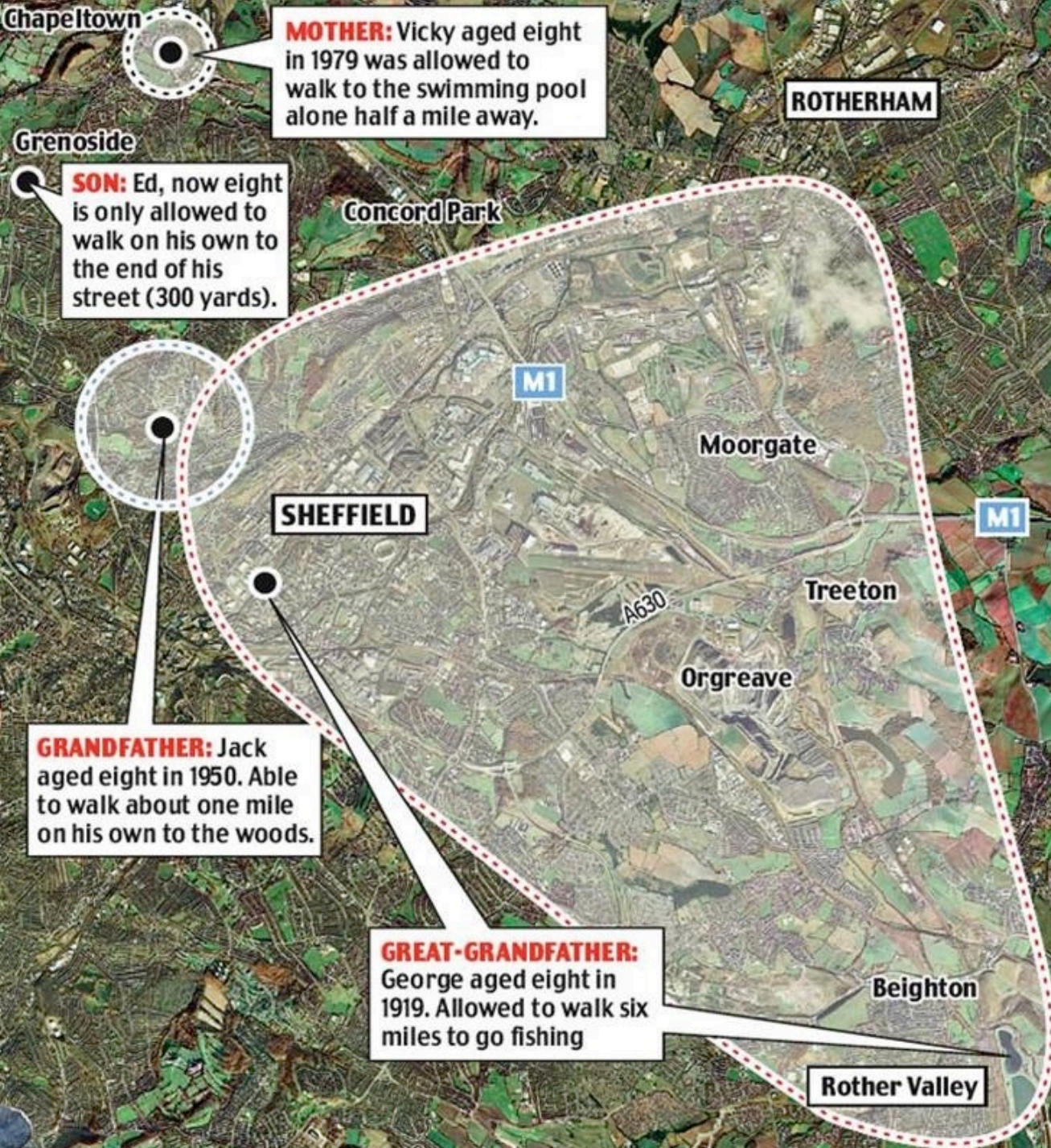
the places they go...

A close-up photograph of a child's hand, wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt, gently touching a green fern frond. The background is a blurred forest scene with more foliage and a hint of a path.

*“The child in nature is an
endangered species”*

Richard Louv, 2005, Last Child in the Woods






How much
has play
changed?



Source: Tim Gill, 2012
www.rethinkingchildhood.com



Where do
children play
today?



Images: Jason Tyndall, Copyright 2022

Checklist for play

- Physical play
- Construction play
- Imaginary play
- Sensory play



A young girl with a braid, wearing a pink shirt, a patterned skirt, and a straw hat, is climbing a large tree. She is holding onto a thick branch. The background shows a wooden fence and more trees.

Physical play



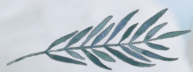






A photograph of two children in a forest. On the left, a child wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt and a dark blue bucket hat is seen from the side, looking towards the right. On the right, another child in a blue short-sleeved shirt is also seen from the side, reaching out to touch a vertical wooden stick. They are surrounded by dense green foliage and trees. A semi-transparent white circle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the text 'Construction play' and a small leaf icon.

Construction play



A top-down view of a child's hands reaching into a sensory play station. The station is a large, irregular pile of light-colored wood chips and bark. Several small, green, cone-shaped objects are scattered throughout the wood chips. A pinecone is visible on the right side of the pile. The child's hands are positioned at the bottom of the frame, with one hand reaching towards the center and the other towards the right. The child is wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt and a yellow and blue striped shirt. A red bracelet is visible on the left wrist. The background is a mix of wood chips and some green foliage.

What do you
see?






A photograph of three children running away from the camera on a dirt path through a forest of tall, thin trees. The ground is covered in pine needles and fallen branches. A semi-transparent circular overlay is on the left side of the image.

Imaginative play









Preschool children use
richer language in a
natural environment
compared to an indoor
classroom

Richardson and Murray, 2017




Sensory

The sensory curriculum of childhood







We have just as many
nerves in our feet then we
do our hands – wearing
shoes all the time is like
wearing gloves everyday

Childhood is an
'atmosphere'



A deep connection to nature



Thank you

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[Short video](#) narrated and written by Jason Tyndall

[Where Birds Sing and Wildflowers Dance](#)

A book about the flora and fauna of southern Australia – but also features poetry, photography, and mindfulness ideas in natural settings.

Price: \$49.95

10 % CODE: Book10

There also other items in our [online shop](#)

