



CHILD AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

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As the largest cohort in history, today's children and youth present an unprecedented opportunity for global development. In the developing world, young people make up the largest segment of the population – with numbers expected to peak in the next 10 years. Because children and youth in the developing world face compounded barriers, specialized interventions aimed specifically at the healthy advancement of children and youth in the developing world are needed.

RIGHT TO PLAY'S APPROACH

Right To Play's sport and play activities have been specially designed to facilitate physical, cognitive and emotional strength amongst young people. At the most fundamental level, our programming is rooted in the recognition that sport and play are crucial for the healthy and holistic development of children and youth.

Right To Play's sport and play programs create fun and joyful experiences for young people by providing them with opportunities to collaborate with their peers, receive praise, increase self-esteem and self-confidence, and work towards the achievement of common goals. Our innovative methodology is founded on a unique understanding of social learning theory and child development needs. Our programs contribute to constructive behavior change amongst children and youth by employing experiential learning and role-modeling techniques. Programs are designed to be appropriate and interesting to children at each development stage and are delivered by local coaches

and leaders who are carefully selected and thoughtfully trained. By participating in our programs, children and youth gain basic life skills and characteristics like personal responsibility and commitment, empathy, moral cognizance, resiliency, decision-making, communication, team-building and readiness to learn.

At Right To Play, we believe that sport and play are basic human rights. In the developing world, where children and youth face compounded challenges, our programs act as powerful vehicles that equip children with the skills they need to navigate key life transitions successfully.

In the *UN Declaration on the Rights of the Child (1959)* and subsequent *Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)* the right to play is explicitly articulated, stating that every child has the right to "engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child". Both international frameworks call upon all parties and public authorities to promote the realization of this right.



Right To Play's vision is to create a healthier and safer world through the power of sport and play

RIGHT TO PLAY'S RESOURCES

Right To Play's programmatic approach involves the application of our specially-designed resources. These resources are made up of sport-based games and activities that support the holistic and healthy development of children and youth at each stage of human development. **Red Ball Child Play®**, our 'flagship' resource, is a highly innovative and extremely sought-after tool developed by child development experts. It contains more than 130 sport and play activities for children, ages 6-12, which exemplify our approach to participatory development and experiential learning.

Because the foundations for learning and functioning later in life are established prior to the age of 6, Right To Play also developed a complimentary resource, **Early Child Play®**. This resource, developed by early child education experts, contains over 70 games for children ages 1-6, to encourage the healthy physical, cognitive, social and emotional development of very young children. And, to stimulate leadership, efficacy, pride and confidence during adolescence, Right To Play has also developed **Youth As Leader®**- an innovative training program for youth, ages 13-19.

Both **Red Ball Child Play®** and **Early Child Play®** are currently being implemented in 23 countries worldwide, with more than 600,000 children and youth participating regularly. All of the activities being delivered employ our Reflect-Connect-Apply methodology which provides children with a structured way to apply their learning to other areas of their lives.

In addition to implementing activities in local communities and refugee camps, we also work in a number of schools around the world. Right To Play games and activities are easily adapted to school settings to assist children in the development of literacy, numeracy and other academic areas. As a result of growing demand for our programming in schools, we are now responding to requests from various national Ministries of Education and local school authorities to design sport and play curricula for local school settings. By working with government champions at a policy level, we are able to reach many more young people and contribute to the sustainability of our programming over the long term.

In Azerbaijan, a focus group held with 149 child beneficiaries (69 urban and 80 rural,) and 22 parents, indicated positive outcomes as a result of RTP's child development activities. Children indicated that programs helped them to "become a better student", "learn problem-solving skills" and "increase concentration to study". Parents indicated their children were "more motivated" and intellectually stimulated, noting they were "studying better than before".

Parents and community leaders in Tanzania reported that Right to Play activities in schools reduced school dropouts. Additionally, the head teacher at a partner school in Dar es Salaam noted that attendance is higher on days when Right To Play activities are delivered.

All of our child development activities are implemented by carefully selected and thoughtfully trained coaches, leaders and teachers. Exposing children and youth to positive adult role models teaches them to communicate more effectively and openly with their peers and families, to resist peer pressure, and to exemplify healthy attitudes towards the principles of respect, inclusion and cooperation.

WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY

Effective child-centered development requires interventions that involve a variety of stakeholders at the policy, programmatic and activity-based levels – all of which have influence on the lives of children and youth. This is why Right To Play's approach to child and youth development goes beyond individual capacity-building to also include activities that strengthen partnerships with parents, gatekeepers, community leaders and governments.

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