The Play of Children: Current Theory and Research

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In this volume we have attempted to provide the psychologist and educator interested in children's play with an overview of the major theoretical and research-based issues dominating the field today. Consequently the contributions concern such wide-ranging topics as the early theoretical roots of contemporary play research and the definition of play. Moreover, different types of children's play are considered at various points in infancy and childhood. Finally, critiques of extant research and suggestions for future directions have been formally included as separate chapter contributions.

The chapter contributions have been written by many of the leading figures in the study of children's play. We thank them for their efforts. We would also like to thank Andrew German and Amy and Joshua Rubin, our children, for providing us with first-hand insights into what children's
play is all about.

Debra J. Pepler
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