1. Play is a right for all children, including those who have an impairment

2. Play activities, play tools, play settings should be accessible and inclusive

3. A radical change is needed in society, in attitudes, in scientific approaches, in design of play tools and in related technologies. New directions in overall policies should be taken

4. An epistemological distinction between two possible conceptions of play should be clearly defined

LUDI launches a great challenge to the world:
• re-discover the child hidden behind the impairment
• give him or her the same rights of the other children

LUDI Statements

PLAY ACTIVITIES
Play for the sake of play

PLAY-LIKE ACTIVITIES
Their main objective is other than play

WHO ICF, 2001; 2006
UNCRC, 1989
UNCRPD, 2006

EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH

Trans-Domain COST Action TD1309

Action chaired by Serenella Besio and Pedro Encarnaçô

http://ludi-network.eu
www.cost.eu/TD1309

The widest European network on play for children with disabilities

32 participating countries

Advisory Board of persons with disabilities and families’ representatives

More than 100 researchers from different fields: education, pedagogy, psychology, medicine, rehabilitation, sociology, engineering, design, law, ...
Giving evidence to children’s voice will be the natural foundation of their social inclusion

LUDI challenges

to spread the belief that children with functional limitations are first and foremost children with natural needs and rights
to spread awareness on the importance of giving children with disabilities the opportunity to play
To assure children with disabilities the full opportunity to claim the accomplishment of their right to play
To establish the need for a further more specific General Comment ART. 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
to put play at the centre of multidisciplinary research and intervention regarding children with disabilities
to grant the issue of “play for children with disabilities” the status of a scientific and social theme of full visibility and recognized authority

LUDI expected results

Societal impact
• To spread to clinical, educational and family contexts the idea of a child who can rely on play as the strongest spring of his/her own development, despite of his/her disability
• To spread the idea that play must be supported, encouraged, and enhanced through appropriate relationships, contexts and effective tools

Scientific impact
• To develop tools and theoretical-critical methodologies of effective intervention for children with disabilities
• To reach new knowledge in the psycho-pedagogical, medical, rehabilitative sciences

Technological impact
• To increase stability of tools and technologies for play available on the market
• To create a repertoire of assistive technology for play and a guide to their use

Policy impact
• To widespread awareness of the importance of play for the sake of play through the dissemination and the application of LUDI results
• To impact positively on the recognition of the right to play for children with disabilities
• To adopt measures to allow the exercise of the right to play
Play Development in Children with Disabilities
https://www.degruyter.com/view/product/481126

Barriers to Play for Children and Young Persons with Disabilities. Exploring Environmental Factors
https://www.degruyter.com/view/product/481918

Forthcoming books
• Theoretical model for the evaluation of the play of children with disabilities

A Training Model for professionals in various fields that can be replicated and tailored for specific purposes has been developed to spread the LUDI perspective:
- to disseminate the LUDI developed knowledge
- to spread the best practices in the area of play and children with disabilities
- to contribute to change the culture of play as well as the culture on disability

LUDI OUTCOMES

Barriers to Play for Children and Young Persons with Disabilities. Exploring Environmental Factors

LUDI Books

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Forthcoming books

LUDI Database

It collects a series of technologies and studies to support play for children with disabilities, paying special attention to the role played by technological devices

LUDI Training School

1st edition
7 trainers
9 supervisors
44 trainees

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LUDI Conference presentations

2015
• Beit Issie Shapiro International Conference on Disabilities (Tel Aviv, IL)
• AAATE, Association for the Advancement of Assistive Technology in Europe (Budapest, HU)
• “New friends” (Almere, NL)
• Day of Persons with Disabilities, European Parliament (Brussels, BE)

2016
• TASP, The Association for the Study of Play Conference (New Brunswick, US)
• Early Childhood Ireland “Play is FUNdamental” (Dublin, IE)
• Counterplay (Aarhus, DK)
• ICCHP, International Conference on Computers Helping People with Special Needs (Linz, AT)
• DSAI, International Conference on Software Development and Technologies for Enhancing Accessibility and Fighting Info-exclusion (Vila Real, PT)

LUDI Position Statement

The right to play is for children with disabilities too!
February 2017

Play for children with disabilities is not an insignificant or marginal issue. Play matters for all children – and for humankind – and consequently for children with disabilities since primarily they are children. Play matters for human development in society – growing, learning and socializing – because this is what play supports during childhood.

LUDI Publications

Special Issue
Play and children with disability – interdisciplinary perspectives 2017

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