

## 14. 遊びを通して学ぶこと (2) : 構造理解

Another point to consider is how much time children have to play.

Some people say that four to five hours a day of playing outdoors with others is necessary, even for twelve-year-olds.

It is very doubtful, however, whether any Japanese children get that much free time.

Concerned about their future in an increasingly competitive society, parents generally tell their children to study more; very few would tell them to go out and play.

What do these children do at home when they are not studying?

They tend to spend time by themselves. They play video games or watch TV, for instance.

These activities do not teach them how to get along with others.

This can only be learned through playing with other children. They need to play without being told what to do by adults in order to learn about leadership and group harmony on their own.

Outdoor space is particularly suitable for this purpose. Children need a proper outdoor environment where they can freely spend their time playing with friend.

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