

IS **P****L****A****Y** OKAY?

Loosening our grip on structured learning

Learn@Lunch

Sydney, AUSTRALIA

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UNSW
SYDNEY



1. The state of play

STATE OF PLAY

Fewer parents are playing outdoors with their children.

STATE OF PLAY

Parenting paradigms are shifting to overprotecting children from risk-taking.

STATE OF PLAY

Many parents believe that their children benefit more from structured activities as opposed to unstructured free play and outdoor activities.

STATE OF PLAY

United States: Only 13 states has laws that mandate recess time during the school day, and 8 has recommendations for physical activity in schools.

England: "Nurseries not preparing children for school", says Ofsted.

Mexico: Many parents don't want to pay for the time their children play or sleep in Early Childhood Centers.

Australia: "The word 'play' has become problematic in Australian schools."

STATE OF PLAY



REPORT CARD 2018

Overall physical activity	D-
Physical activity in school	B
Active transportation	D+
Sedentary behaviours	D-
Family and peers	C+
School	B
Community & environment	A-
Government	D
Physical fitness	D+

STATE OF PLAY

38%

of parents say they don't feel they play enough



30%

of Families spend less than five hours playing together every week

10%

of Families spend less than two hours playing together every week

61%

of parents get distracted when they do play

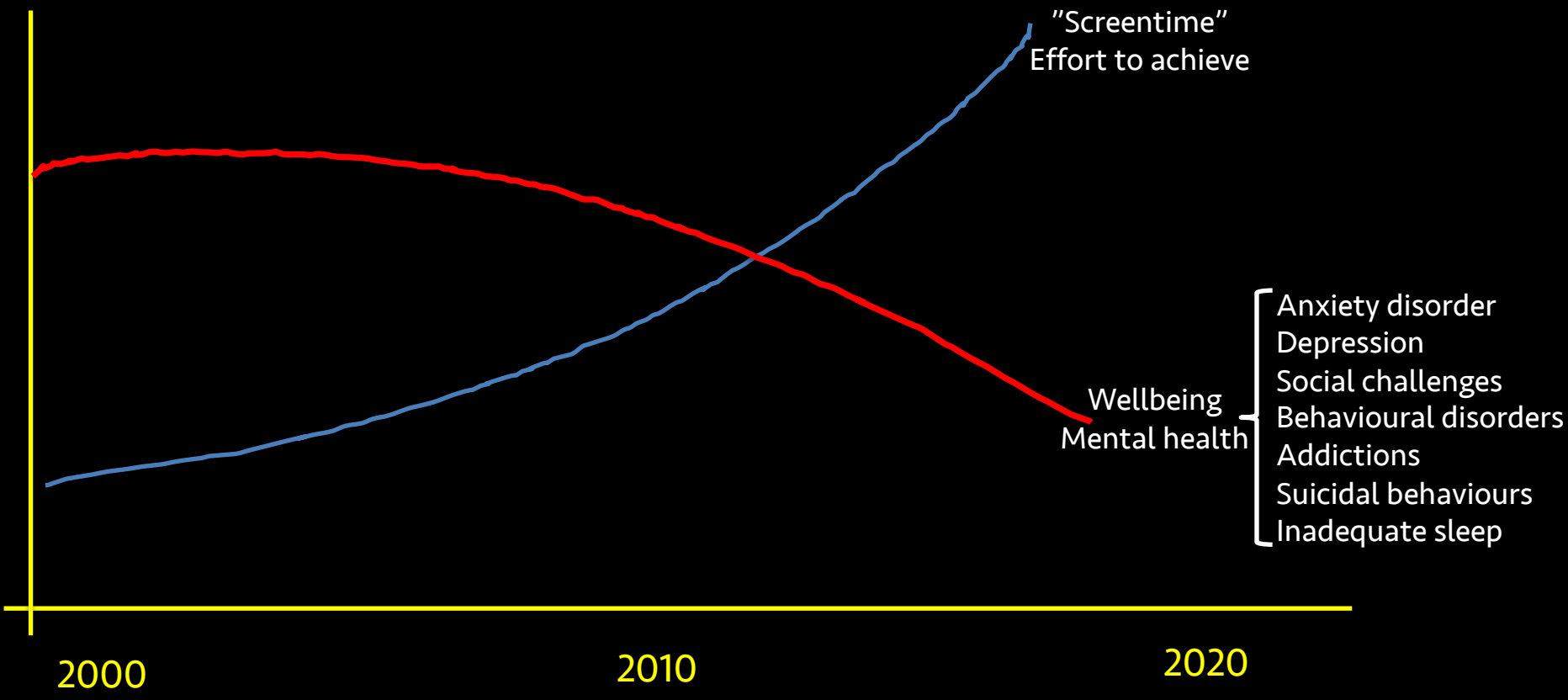


1 in 5 (17%)

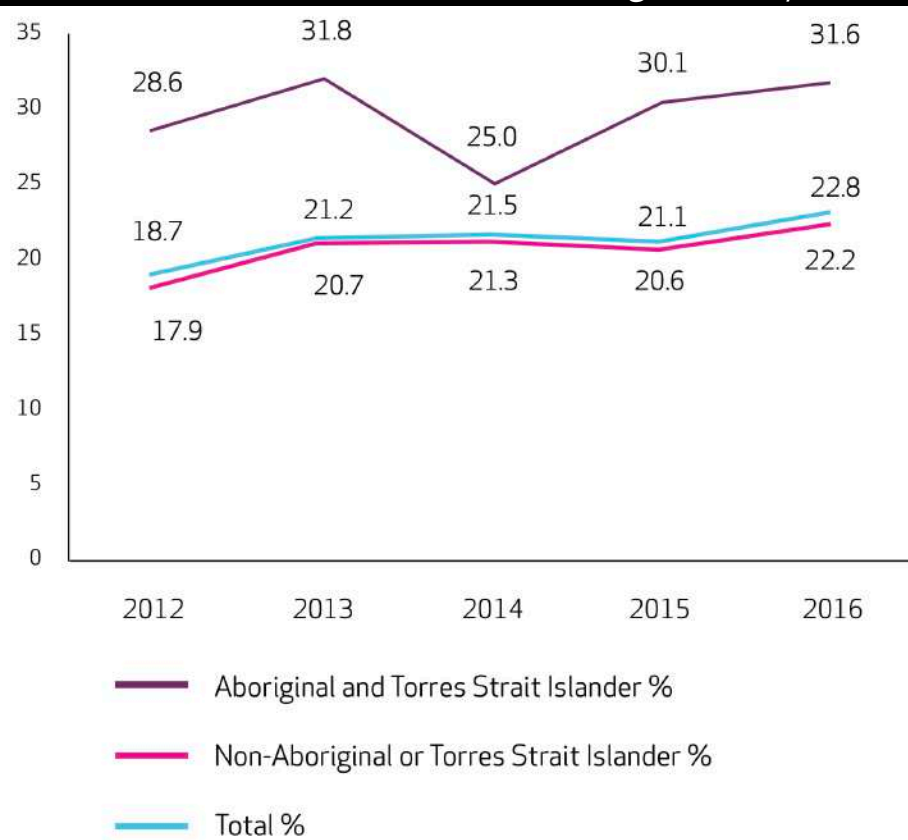
children say they are too busy to play

LEGO Play Well Report 2018

2. Doctor's order

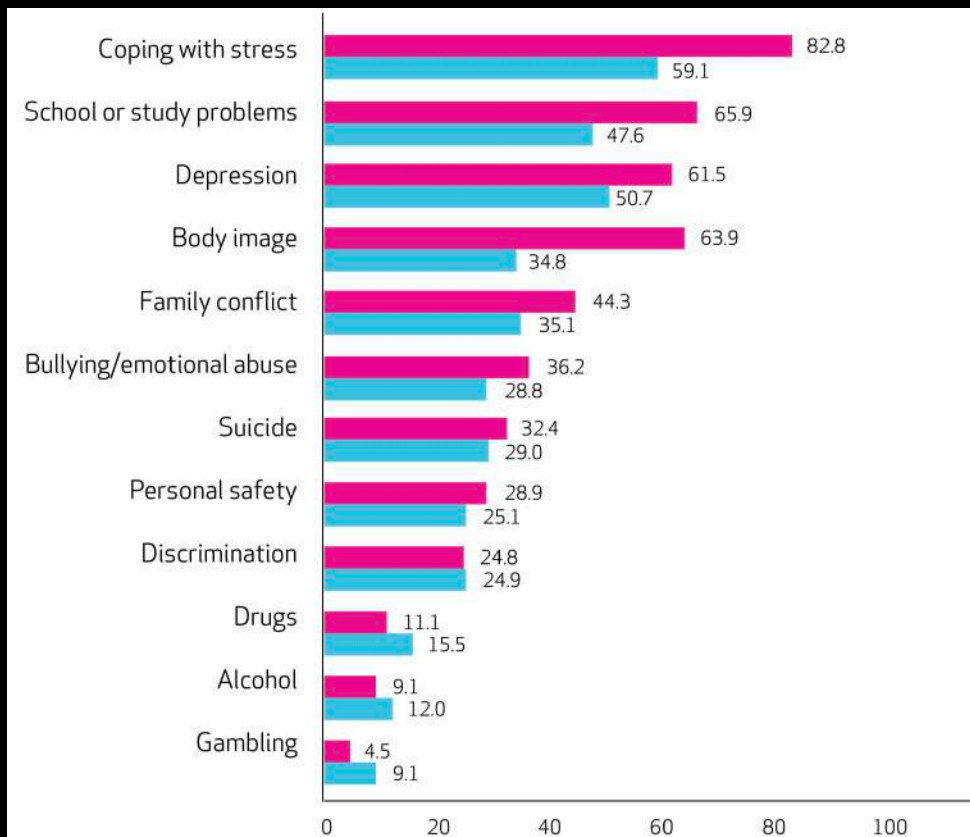


Probable serious mental illnesses among 15 to 19-year-olds



Source: Youth Mental Health Report 2017

Young people aged 15-19 with a probable serious mental illness who were 'very' or 'extremely' concerned about issues



Source: Youth Mental Health Report 2017

DOCTOR'S ORDER: The Children Must Play

“Play is integral to a child’s education. The importance of playtime for children cannot be overemphasized to parents, schools, and community organizations.”



Let the Children Play

HOW MORE PLAY WILL
SAVE OUR SCHOOLS AND
HELP CHILDREN THRIVE

PASI SAHLBERG & WILLIAM DOYLE

foreword by SIR KEN ROBINSON

DOCTOR'S ORDER:

The Children Must Play

“The lifelong success of children is based on their ability to be creative and to apply the lessons learned from playing.”



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DOCTOR'S ORDER: The Children Must Play

“Recess is fundamental to the school experience and develops lifelong skills of communication, negotiation, cooperation, sharing, and problem-solving.”



Let the Children Play

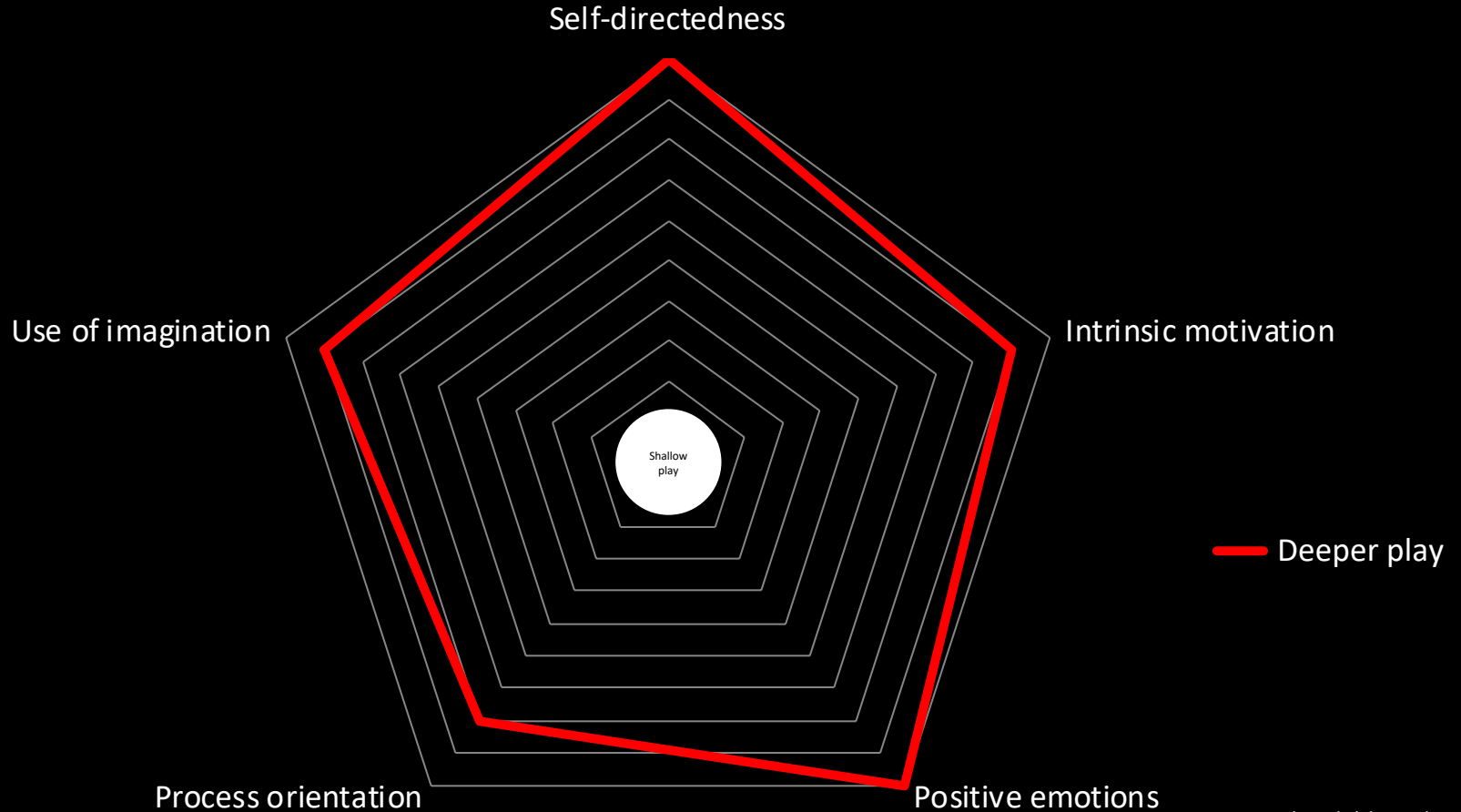
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3. Learning through deep play

DEEP PLAY



“All activities in early childhood education and care are based on shared values and a shared conception of learning, on play and on broad-based competence and content of learning areas.”

-National Core Curriculum for Early Childhood Education and Care 2016

4. Loosening the grip on structured learning

Time spent in school around the world

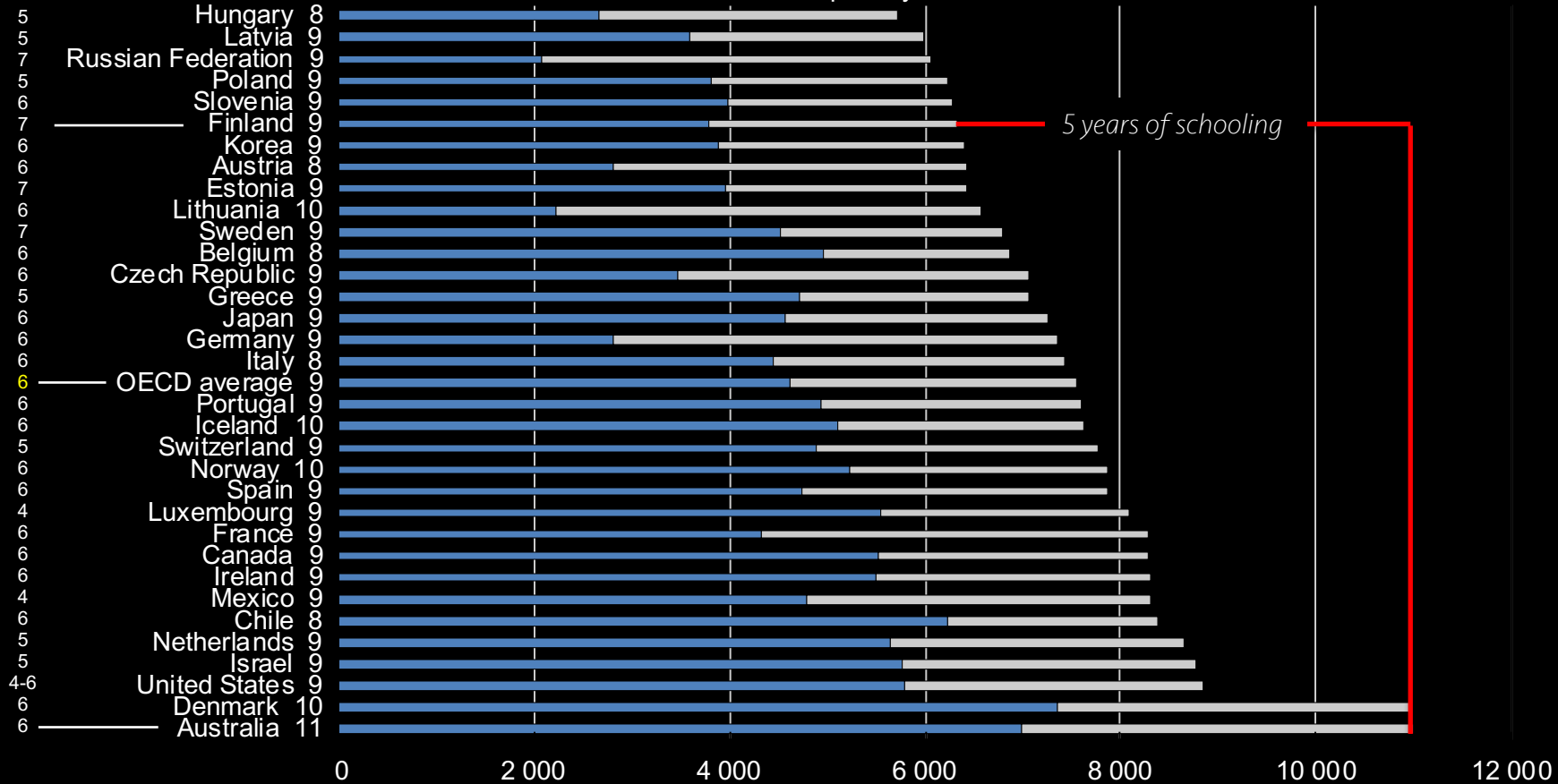
Starting age of compulsory education

Duration of primary and lower secondary education, in years

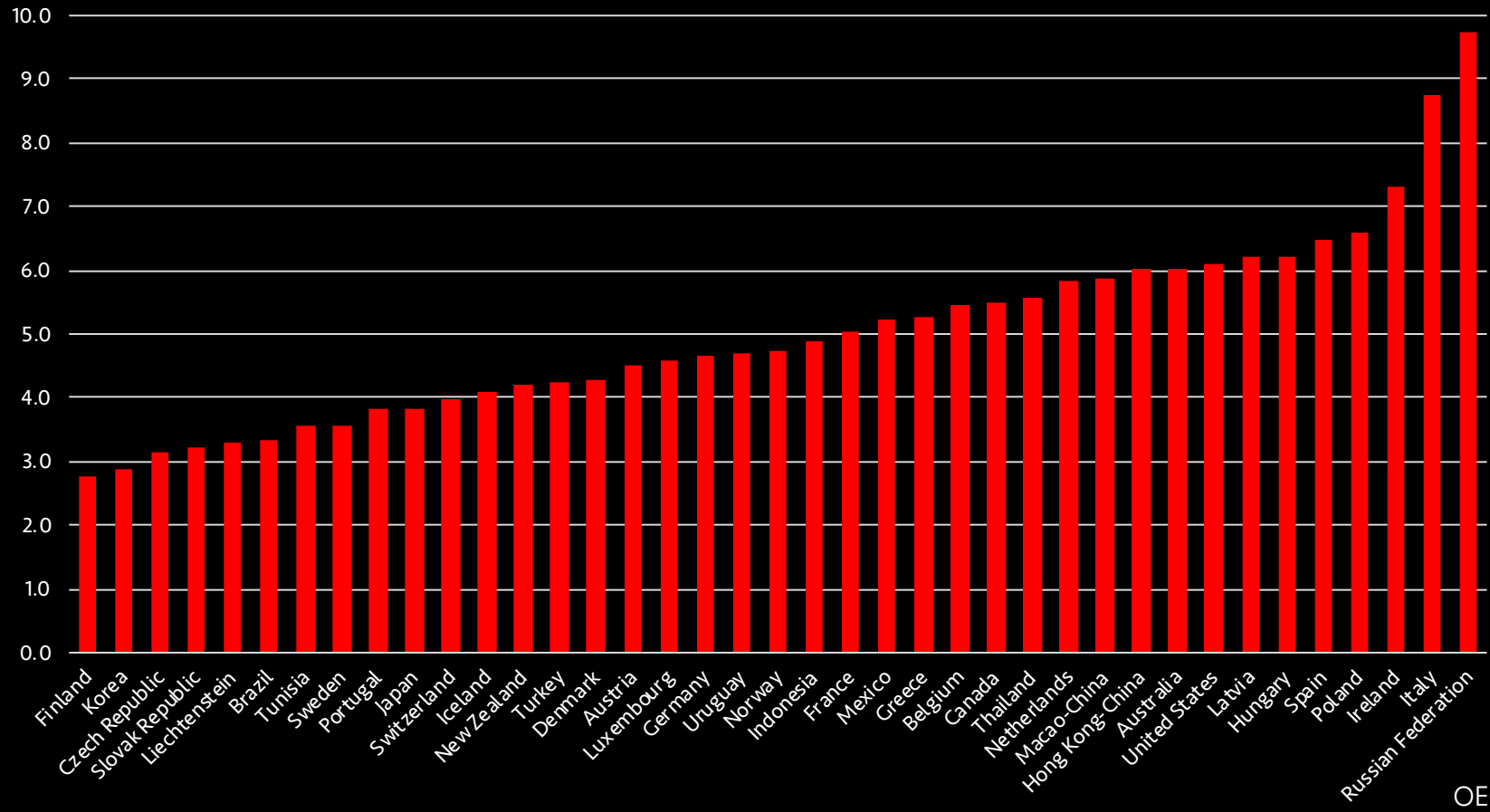
■ Primary

■ Lower secondary

Total number of compulsory instruction hours

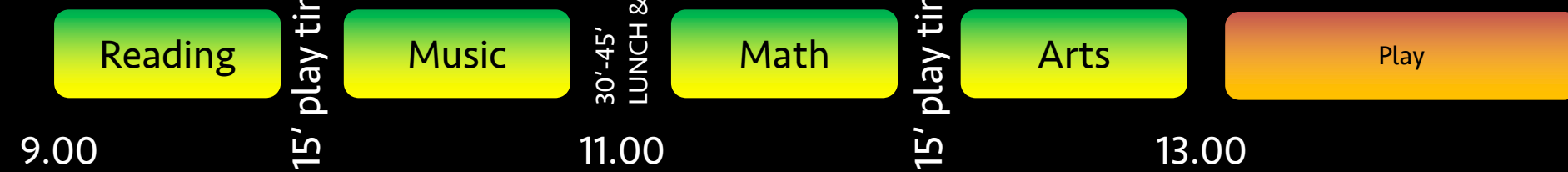
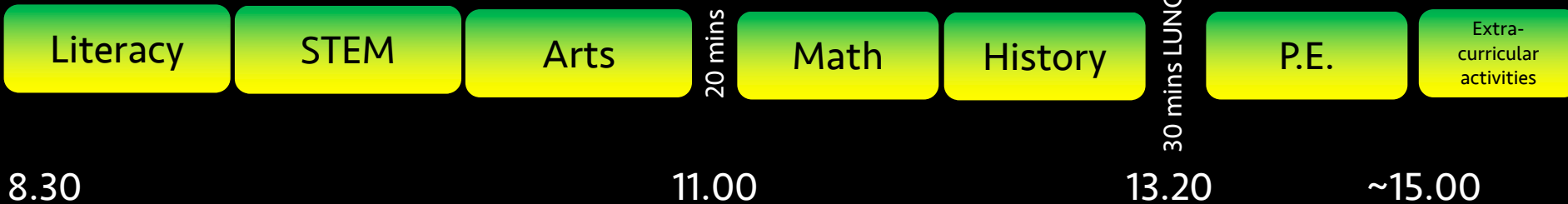


Homework or other study set by teachers per week (hours)





Primary school day



5. Finishing up

GIE research: Fair Play

“How unstructured free play and structured learning through play in school affect student resiliency and engagement in NSW primary and secondary schools?”

Unstructured free play



Structured learning through play



THANK YOU!

