

LET THE CHILDREN **PLAY**

ACEL webinar series Part 1: The State of Play

6th August 2020

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ACEL webinar series: Let the Children Play

PART 1: THE STATE OF PLAY

- What do we know about children's play today?
- Why we need to talk about the importance of play?
- Who are the real advocates of children's play?
- Where are interesting things happening today in play?

6th August 2020

PART 2: THE POWER OF PLAY

- What is play?
- Why is play important to children?
- What are doctors' telling us about play?
- How to tell the story to those in doubt?

13th August 2020

PART 3: LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

- What are the essential elements of deep play?
- When does learning through play succeed?
- Why people talk about Finnish schools?
- What can we do?

20th August 2020

ISSUE 1:
Early childhood education

Childcare price rises leave Felicity working for almost no money

By [Pallavi Singhal](#)

Updated August 5, 2019 –
9.31am, first published August
4, 2019 – 4.12pm



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TODAY'S TOP STORIES

RUGBY WORLD CUP

'Super Typhoon' could wreak havoc on World Cup: Wallabies, Ireland in eye of the storm



BUSHFIRES

'Everthing's gone': Up to 20 properties destroyed in out-of-control bushfires in NSW



BREXIT CHAOS

'Stupid blame game': Donald Tusk berates Boris Johnson as hopes of a deal fade



SYRIA



Fee rises of 20 per cent or more at childcare centres in NSW have prompted calls for the government to "name and shame" some of Sydney's most expensive centres.

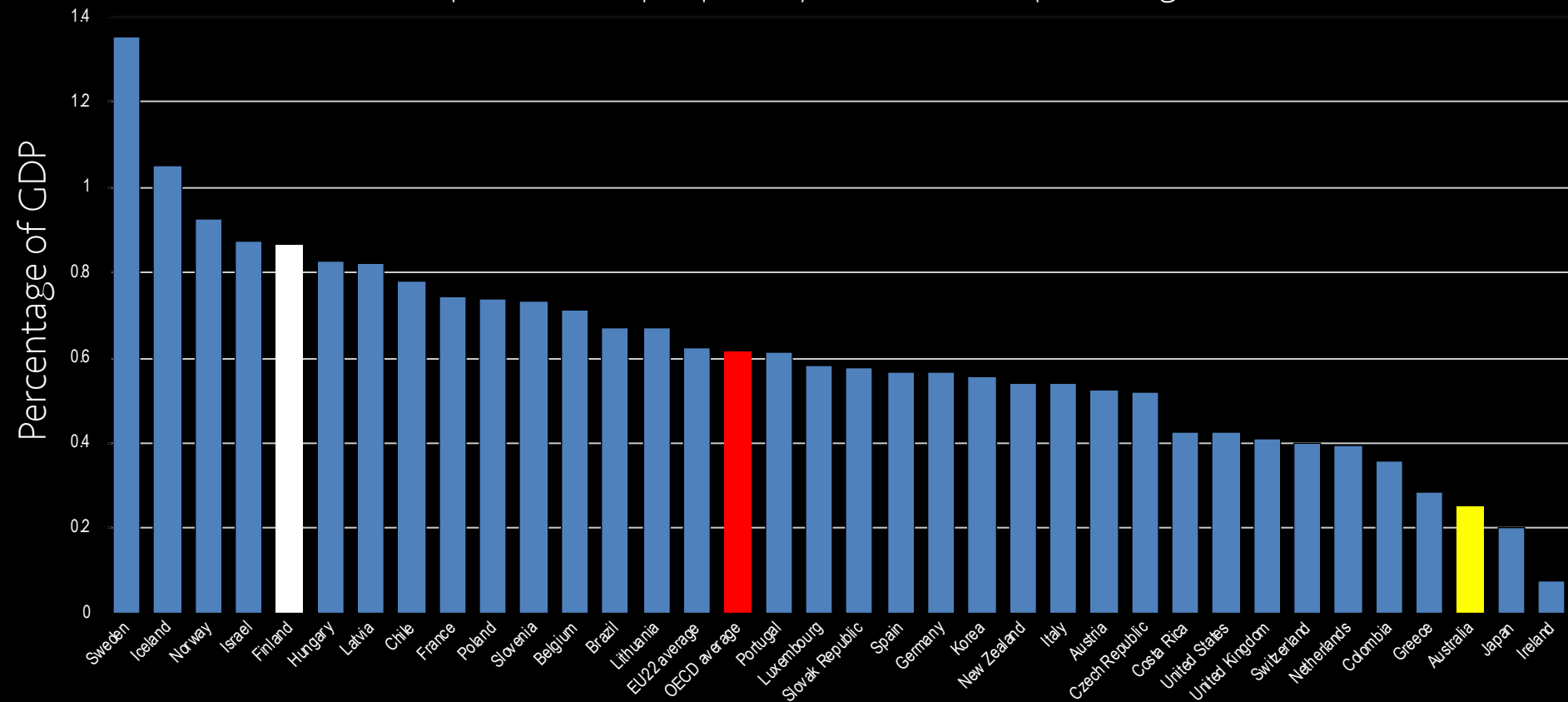
Childcare centres in some parts of the city, including the CBD, the north shore and northern beaches are charging up to \$200 a day.



Sydney mother Felicity Frankish, who has just had her third child, says she is now having to choose between working for almost no money or staying home with her children and forgoing the educational benefits of preschool. JAMES ALCOCK

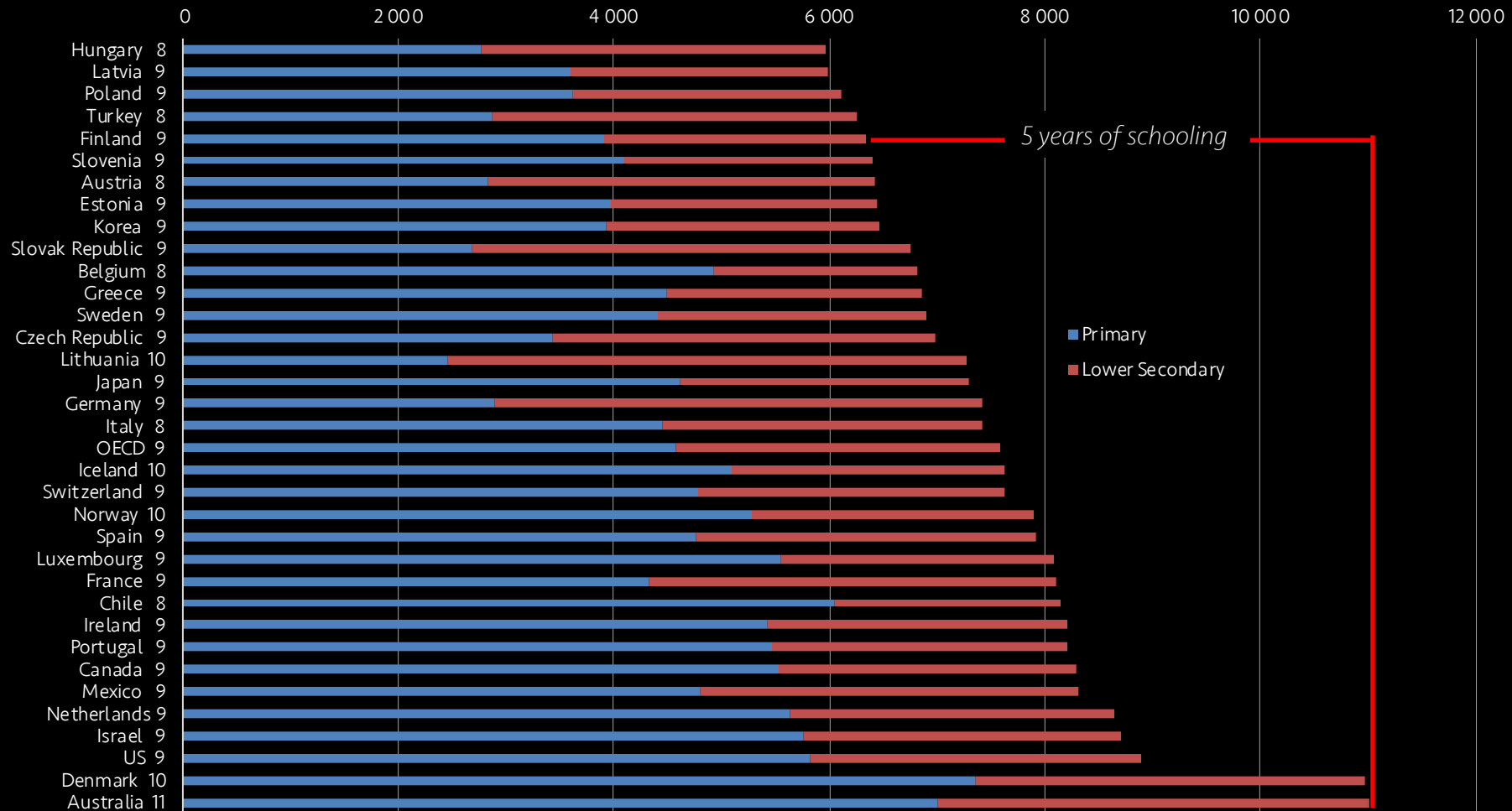
How much national wealth goes to early childhood education?

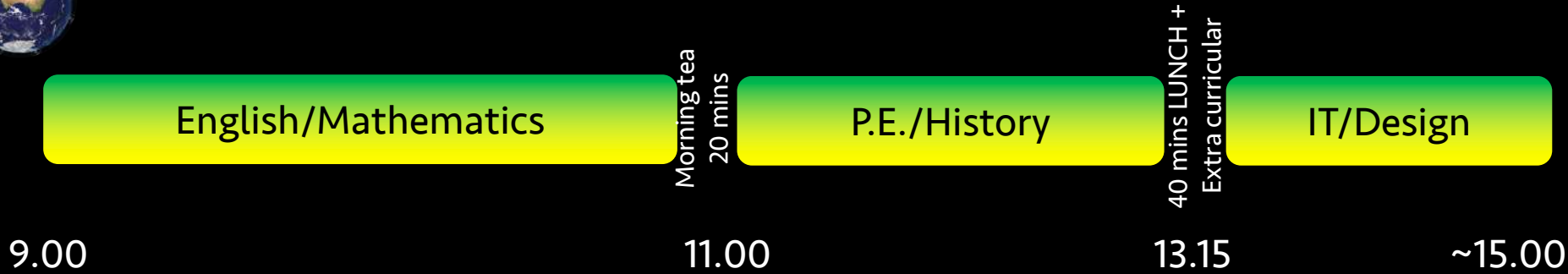
Expenditure on pre-primary education as a percentage of GDP



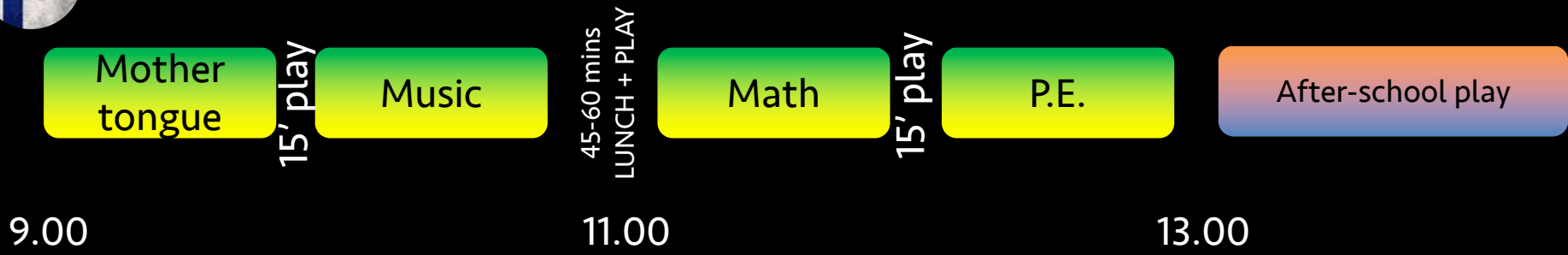
ISSUE 2:
Instruction time

Total number of compulsory instruction hours in primary and lower secondary schools





Example of a typical Year 2 day



THE STATE OF PLAY

Children play less than before.

85%

of parents say kids today spend less time playing than they did when they were their children's age.

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.”

Let the Children Play, 2019

LEGO Play Well Report 2018

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



When Australians* are asked about children's access to opportunities for free play...



acknowledge the
benefits of play.



however, 51 per cent
want less break time
at school.



think the first few
years of schooling
should focus more on
learning through play
than they do now.



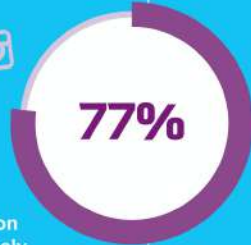
Prepubescent children in Australia spend about 11 hours sitting each day, half of it on screens.

- One third of pre-schoolers own a screen-based device
- Two thirds of primary school children have smartphone

When Australians* are asked about the affect of smartphones and social media...



think smartphones and social media have reduced time that children have for daily physical activity and active outdoor play.



say social media is a distraction in their child's life that negatively impacts their wellbeing and family relationships.

80%

of parents believe that children are under pressure to grow up too quickly.

THE CHAMPIONS OF PLAY

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.”



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WHERE DO CHILDREN PLAY?

Scotland: Active Play

1. **Active Play** developed by *Inspiring Scotland* with University of Strathclyde:
 - Play-based intervention to support health & wellbeing in early to primary years
 - Research-based approach that specifically aims at enhancing equity
2. **Active Play** is being tested in Dundee, Highlands, North Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire and now expanding nationwide
3. **National Position Statement on Outdoor Play and Learning:** *“Playing and learning outdoors is essential for our children and young people to understand, value, enjoy and protect our natural world. It connects them to their environment, enhancing their appreciation and understanding of its physical properties and diversity.”*

China: Anji Play

1. **True Play** is developed in Anji County in China's northern Zhejiang Province:
 - Based on love, risk-taking, joy, engagement and reflection (self-determination)
 - Almost 20 years of experimentation and innovation of 3-6-year-olds curriculum and self-initiated play
2. **Anji Play** is showcased by the Chinese Ministry of Education as a model for its new national guidelines for kindergarten play materials.
3. **Anji Play philosophy and key principles:** *"Children in the Anji Play environment interact with simple objects made of natural materials to create their own playground govern by their own rules. Inherently through Anji Play, children collaborate develop social and motor skills in order to play."*

Finland: Playful learning

1. **Play is children's right in Finland.** It is protected by international agreements and national legislation and directives. For example,
 - every child has right to high-quality early learning
 - every child must have an **Individual Learning Plan** in early childhood centers
2. **Learning through play** has a significant role in promoting children's well-being, interaction with others, and learning essential skills.
3. **National Framework Curriculum for Early Childhood Education and Care:**
"Early childhood is a phase of intense development and learning. Understanding the importance and pedagogical possibilities of play for the child in the promotion of wellbeing and learning is essential for ECEC."

THANK YOU!