BIG IDEAS : BUILDING-SCALE
DESIGNING FOR FAMILIES

MAYA – AGE 8
VISIONS OF A FUN PLACE TO PLAY!

Presentation by:
THE PLAY COLLECTIVE
Skill-Testing Question: How are Babies Made?

Downtown West Population Growth 2001 to 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>Net Change</th>
<th>% Change</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>16,290</td>
<td>73,584</td>
<td>+57,294</td>
<td>+352%</td>
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<tr>
<td>20-39 yrs</td>
<td>8,820</td>
<td>50,330</td>
<td>+41,510</td>
<td>+471%</td>
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<tr>
<td>0-4 yrs</td>
<td>645</td>
<td>2,450</td>
<td>+1,805</td>
<td>+280%</td>
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</tbody>
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City of Toronto – 2017 Growing Up Guidelines: Planning for Children in New Vertical Communities

toronto.ca/growingupto
Feedback from Parents/Families living in condos:

“We don’t buy into the notion that you need large living spaces. We both know that you won’t die if you grow up sharing a room with your sibling.”

“We love being able to walk out the door for groceries, visit a nearby museum and just hop on transit outside my door.”

“The big house brings many problems, always fixing, cleaning, lots of money and time wasted.”

“We don’t see the value of moving...We have friends with large homes and they are constantly working on it, and we’re like ‘bye, we’re going to the ROM’. That’s what we try to remember when it gets cramped and crazy in here.”
BUILDING GUIDELINES

2.1 Building Configuration
2.2 Flexible Building Design & Construction
2.3 Common Indoor & Outdoor Amenity
2.4 Building Lobby
2.5 Social Circulation Spaces
2.6 Building Massing & Typology
2.7 Privately Owned Publicly Accessible Spaces (POPS)
2.8 Storage & Utility Needs

UNIT GUIDELINES

3.1 Entrance & Storage
3.2 Laundry
3.3 Kitchen & Dining
3.4 Living Room
3.5 Bedrooms
3.6 Balcony & Terraces
3.7 Unit Flexibility

NEIGHBOURHOOD GUIDELINES

1.1 Mobility
1.2 Parks & Open Spaces: Access & Type
1.3 Child Care Facilities
1.4 Schools
1.5 Shared Use & Integrated Co-located Community Services & Facilities
1.6 A Complete Community to Meet Daily Needs
1.7 Whimsy & Design for Four Seasons
1.8 Ecological Literacy
1.9 Civic Engagement
"Children are a kind of indicator species. If we can build a successful city for children, we will have a successful city for all people."

Enrique Peñalosa, former Mayor of Bogatá, Colombia
Cities are where over 50% of our children grow up, and play is fundamental to how children learn and grow into capable, confident, creative and caring adults.

So building a successful city for children means the city must be a great place to play.
BUT the type of play increasingly offered in our 21st century cities today is not necessarily the type of play that our children need (or even want).

Whereas play by its nature should be as free, unstructured, imaginative, self-challenging, fun and spontaneous as possible...
Instead, play is increasingly relegated to carefully curated & fenced playgrounds designed by adults, neatly separated from other uses, full of ‘safe’ playground equipment, installed on ‘safe’ rubber surfaces, often devoid of complexity, thrill and imaginative elements needed for real play, and worryingly disconnected from nature.
**RISK AND DANGER** are apparently everywhere now. Lawyers and insurance companies seem to have taken over community and public spaces... even rocks, ponds, and trees are no longer ‘safe’.
Authority: Economic Development and Parks Committee Report No. 6, Clause No. 10, as adopted by City of Toronto Council on September 28, 29, 30 and October 1, 2004
Enacted by Council: September 30, 2004

CITY OF TORONTO

BY-LAW No. 854-2004

To adopt a new City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 608, Parks, and to repeal various by-laws of the former municipalities relating to parks.

No person shall in a park:

C. Unless authorized by permit, climb, move or remove the whole or any part of a tree, rock, boulder, rock face or remove soil, sand or wood;

F. Unless authorized by permit, place, throw, cast or otherwise deposit snow.
Moreover, our 21st century cities are still primarily designed and built around cars, in both suburban and urban communities, and fails to provide a sufficiently enriched or safe environment for play and independent mobility for children.

Only 21% of 5-19 year olds use active travel modes to and from school (eg. walk or bike) - 2018 ParticipACTION Report Card
We have a growing **urban play deficit** and this is an increasingly serious problem for our children who are experiencing more physical, social and mental health challenges than ever before.

This urban play deficit is also a serious and growing challenge for adults, particularly as the experience of 21\textsuperscript{st} century modern city living is becoming increasingly stressful, congested, polluted and isolating.
So weaving **PLAY** into the fabric of our 21\textsuperscript{st} century cities, including **MORE OUTDOOR PLAY** that re-connects modern living with nature, is critical to providing much needed opportunities for daily rejuvenation, respite, relaxation and inspiration, for both young and old, of all abilities.
BIG IDEAS: PLANT A LOT OF TREES... LIKE A COPSE FOR CLIMBING, PLAYING AND ‘SHINRIN-YOKU’

7 Benefits of Tree Climbing & Playing:

- Problem Solving & Creative Thinking
- Social Skills
- Physical Development
- Self-Esteem & Confidence
- Concentration & Patience
- Reducing Stress & Anxiety
- Scientific Discovery

Japanese forest bathing (shinrin-yoku) is a practice that involves spending time in nature, among trees.
BIG IDEAS: USE MORE REAL GRASS SO BABIES, KIDS & ADULTS CAN ENJOY REAL NATURE
BIG IDEAS: MAKE IT ‘FUN’ TO PLAY OUTSIDE AND EXPLORE THE OUTDOORS ALL YEAR AROUND
BIG IDEAS: MAKE IT ‘EASY’ FOR KIDS & FAMILIES TO ALWAYS BE ‘BEHAVING GREEN’
UNLESS someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.
We would love to hear your big ideas!

Jeanhy Shim
President & Founder
Housing Lab Toronto
416 738 0448
jshim@housinglabtoronto.com