

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH REVIEW



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HUMAN DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH REVIEW: AIMS AND SCOPE

HELP’s Human Development Research Review (*HELP Reads*) aims to expand awareness of topics in human development, including social and emotional learning, social and environmental determinants of health, child care, and more. *HELP Reads* connects health academics, advocates, and professionals with online and publicly available research, news, and information. This review focuses on listing articles relevant to human development research activities at HELP. This review is not official or peer reviewed. It does not cover all research, news, and information, and HELP is not responsible for the accuracy of the content from media or databases. Not all links are open access; some are abstract links where paid journal subscription is required. HELP Reads is posted monthly [here](#).

EDITOR PICKS

Changemaker – Dr. Mariana Brussoni. Special Feature – ‘Risky play’ policy path.

Mariana Brussoni, Director, Human Early Learning Partnership

Dr. Brussoni is transforming ‘risky play’ policy. Click to this [special section](#) for media and research linked to the new Position Statement by the Canadian Paediatric Society.



Healthy childhood development through outdoor risky play: Navigating the balance with injury prevention.

Canadian Paediatric Society

“This statement weighs the burden of play-related injuries alongside the evidence in favour of risky play, including its benefits, risks, and nuances, which can vary depending...”



Why ‘risky play’ is important for kids - Matt Galloway.

CBC News

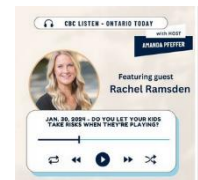
“The Canadian Paediatric Society says “risky play” is good for kids’ mental, physical and social health — even if it might result in injury. We hear what’s behind this new advice.”



Do you let your kids take risks when they’re playing? Amanda Pfeffer

CBC Ontario Today

“Interview with Dr. Suzanne Beno, paediatric emergency medicine physician at Sick Kids, and Rachel Ramsden, the research coordinator at the Play Outside Lab at UBC.”



Why Canadian pediatricians are encouraging ‘risky play’ for kids - Nathalie Neron, Louis-Philippe Beaudoin.

Global News, the Morning Show

“We have a conversation with behavioural psychologist Dr. Mariana Brussoni and pediatrician Dr. Dina Kulik about the new recommendations from the CPS...”



Let the kids play: Risky activities benefit children, Paediatric Society says - Nathaniel Dove with Dr. Mariana Brussoni.

Global News

“A Toronto city councillor is planning to put forward a motion to reverse a tobogganing ban on 45 hills in the city of Toronto. The city instated the ban earlier in January, due...”



EDITOR PICKS

Supervisory neglect: critical questions regarding child supervision and protection system responses.

Michelle O’Kane, PhD candidate, University of British Columbia, and co-authors

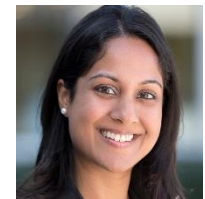
“This paper examines different perspectives on low-supervision, from parental-deficit to critical-ecological formulations, to address two questions that are central to assessing reports: why low-supervision is deemed to be harmful, and why low-supervision events occur...”



Positive childhood experiences serve as protective factors for mental health in pandemic-era youth with adverse childhood experiences.

Hasina Samji, Assistant Professor, Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University, and co-authors

“Positive childhood experiences may protect against depression among adolescents with adverse childhood experiences and promote mental health and well-being among all pandemic-era adolescents.”



There’s not a lot of places for them to go’: rural and remote family perspectives on children’s independent mobility.

Caroline Sanders, Associate Professor, School of Nursing, UNBC, and co-authors

“Parents reported the environment of rural communities, including neighbourhood cohesiveness and people looking out for each other, as being supportive of children’s independent mobility.”



Relationship between childhood disability or developmental delay and Covid-19 pandemic impacts on families across the Canadian maritime provinces.

De-Lawrence Lamptey, Holland Bloorview EMBARK Scientist, and co-authors

“The study findings inform the development of context-specific policies and programs to adequately support families of children with disabilities or developmental delays ...”



Reliable Change index.

Martin Guhn, Associate Professor, Human Early Learning Partnership, and co-authors

“The concept of Reliable Change Index (RCI) refers to a method that is used to test whether a change over time – that is, the difference score between two assessments of the same person at two points in time – may be considered “reliable”...”

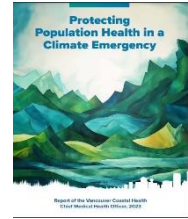


EDITOR PICKS

Protecting population health in a climate emergency.

Vancouver Coastal Health, Chief Medical Health Officer Report, 2023

“Young people are especially vulnerable to climate anxiety. National data and surveys of students across the Vancouver Coastal Health region indicate that concern about climate change is putting youth mental wellbeing at risk.”



Early years conference 2024 resources.

Human Early Learning Partnership

“This site provides a number of resources, including presentation slides, shared at the 2024 UBC Early Years Pre-Conference day.”



BC Adolescent Health Survey, 2023.

McCreary Centre Society

“The BC Adolescent Health Survey (BC AHS) is a province-wide survey administered to youth in Grade 7 to 12 since 1992. The survey gives an evidence base of youth health trends, emerging issues, and risk and protective factors for healthy development.”



Indigenous research principles: contributions to public health collaborations.

Institut national de santé publique

“Reviewing Indigenous research principles can deepen knowledge of Indigenous peoples’ cultural realities, strengthen dialogue, and support discussion of parameters for collaboration that respect Indigenous communities’ autonomy, to ultimately improve health and well-being.”



Salutogenesis and health promotion.

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario)

“This report will explore the concept of salutogenesis and its application to the health promotion field. This report would be beneficial to those who work in health promotion, community health, health education, and public health as a whole.”



HUMAN DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH REVIEW

HELP FACULTY and AFFILIATE (selected publications)

1. Dipnall JF, Lyons J, Lyons RA, Ameratunga S, Brussoni M, Lecky FE, et al. **Impact of an injury hospital admission on childhood academic performance: a Welsh population-based data linkage study.** *Inj Prev.* 2023;ip-2023-045027. Available from: <https://injuryprevention.bmj.com/content/injuryprev/early/2023/12/19/ip-2023-045027.full.pdf>.
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3. Janus M, Reid-Westoby C, Pottruff M, Schneeweiss M, Hu G, Brownell M. **Developmental health of Canadian kindergarten children with teacher-reported asthma between 2010 and 2015: A population-level cross-sectional study.** *Preventive Medicine Reports.* 2024;37:102525. Available from: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2211335523004163>.
4. Lamptey D-L, Mclsaac J-LD, MacQuarrie M, Cummings R, Rossiter MD, Janus M, Turner J. **Relationship between childhood disability or developmental delay and Covid-19 pandemic impacts on families across the Canadian maritime provinces.** *Journal of Child and Family Studies.* 2024. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10826-023-02779-7>.
5. Larouche R, Belanger M, Brussoni M, Faulkner G, Gunnell K, Tremblay MS. **Correlates of active school transportation during the COVID-19 pandemic among Canadian 7- to 12-year-olds: a national study.** *J Phys Act Health.* 2024:1-13. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/38171354>.
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7. O’Kane M, Brussoni M. **Supervisory neglect: critical questions regarding child supervision and protection system responses.** *Child Youth Serv Rev.* 2024:107473. Available from: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0190740924000458>.
8. Pelletier C, Cornish K, Sanders C. **‘There’s not a lot of places for them to go’: rural and remote family perspectives on children’s independent mobility.** *Children’s Geographies.* 2024:1-18. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1080/14733285.2024.2302108>.
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2. Buium K, Bluesky K. **Community partners / Data in action: introduction.** *Early Years Pre-Conference 2024.* Vancouver, BC: University of British Columbia, Faculty of Medicine, School of Population and Public Health, Human Early Learning Partnership; 2024 Feb 12. Available from: https://earlylearning.ubc.ca/app/uploads/2024/02/EYC-2024-Preconference-Data-in-Action-FINAL-for-sharing_V2.pdf.
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3. Wang H, Zhao J, Yu Z, Pan H, Wu S, Zhu Q, et al. **Types of On-Screen Content and Mental Health in Kindergarten Children**. *JAMA Pediatrics*. 2024;178(2):125-32. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapediatrics.2023.5220>.

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5. Ettinger T. **Enhancing cultural safety in forensic interviews during investigations of child abuse : Indigenous perspectives** [Text thesis]2024. Available from: <https://open.library.ubc.ca/collections/24/items/1.0439018>.
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7. Moore S. **Official Trailer for Dirt Relations: The Story of British Columbia's Indigenous Youth Mountain Bike Program.** 2024 [Jan 30]; Available from: <https://www.pinkbike.com/news/official-trailer-for-dirt-relations-the-story-of-british-columbias-indigenous-youth-mountain-bike-program.html>.
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SOCIOEMOTIONAL

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SPECIAL: Changemaker – Dr. Mariana Brussoni

'Risky Play' Policy Path: Transforming Child Health Policy; Helping all Children Thrive

[Pink Sherbet Photography](#)

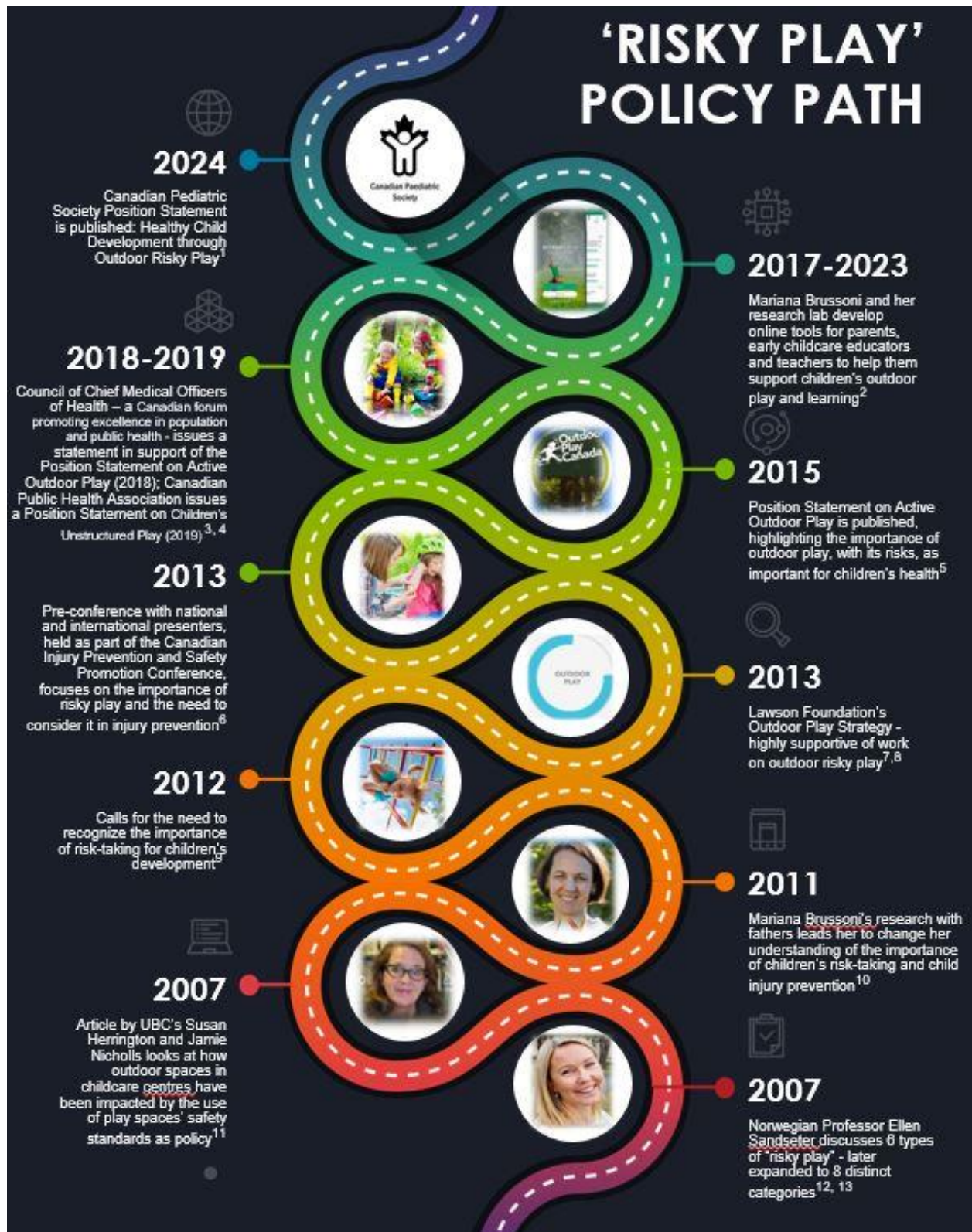
In January 2024, the Canadian Paediatric Society released a position statement, [Healthy childhood development through outdoor risky play: Navigating the balance with injury prevention](#). In it they emphasize the importance of outdoor unstructured risky play for children's development, calling for a shift to a more balanced approach to children's supervision from "as safe as possible" to "as safe as necessary." While play is seen as essential, children's opportunities to play, especially to do so freely, without adult supervision, have decreased over time. The position statement on the importance of outdoor risky play is based on decades of research that has shown outdoor unstructured play – especially the risks that come with it – to be essential to children's development.

One of Canada's foremost contributors to the work, including expert review of the position statement, is Dr. Mariana Brussoni, Director of the Human Early Learning Partnership and Professor in the Department of Pediatrics and the School of Population and Public Health at the University of British Columbia. With a background in developmental psychology and children's injury prevention, Mariana's research has focused on understanding the role that risk-taking can play in children's lives, as well as addressing the factors that can influence children's unstructured, unsupervised outdoor play, including parent and caregiver perceptions of risk, design of outdoor play-friendly environments, and equitable access to outdoor play. After years examining child injury statistics and researching injury prevention, Mariana became interested in the intersection between injury prevention, risk taking and outdoor play, concerned that well-meaning attempts to keep children safe were putting excessive limitations on children's play despite the fact that serious injuries are rare.

In her work, Mariana engages with parents, as well as practitioners and policy makers in early childhood education, schooling, municipal planning and recreation provision, with the aim of creating environments where all children thrive in healthy societies. Her work has been published extensively and has been widely featured in national and international media.

Mariana's research, as well as the research and work of her colleagues, have over time influenced and shaped the understanding of injury prevention and the 'risky play' policy path. Highlights of the policy path for risky play are featured below, with supporting references (Appendix 1) and selected media highlights (Appendix 2). Additional timeline context can be found on the [Outdoor Play website](#).

'Risky Play' Policy Path – Journey highlights



APPENDIX 1: 'Risky Play' Policy Path - Supporting References

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APPENDIX 2: 'Risky Play' Policy Path – Selected Media Highlights from page 2

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The Human Early Learning Partnership is situated within the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the x^wməθk^wəy’əm (Musqueam) People.

For more information visit
www.earlylearning.ubc.ca/library/citations

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