

Abstract

This study investigated 1) the perception of children and parents on the first adventure play event in Hong Kong, 2) the representation of the event to characteristics of adventure playgrounds, and 3) children's play behaviors in the event. 340 children aged 6-14 and 341 parents replied to the onsite surveys and most of them (97.9% - 98.8%) preferred to hear the event again in the future. Most children indicated having engaged in physical play, creative play and constructive play activities. 74% of the parents considered the event desirable for and beneficial to their children, while a minority concerned cleanliness and messiness of the activities. The presence of adventure play characteristics in the event activities, the interaction between play leaders and children, and the children's play behaviors were assessed using pre-defined checklists. The results indicated that the event could not comprehensively express the characteristics of an adventure playground. Play leaders performed more like distributing agents than play facilitators. Children tended to play functionally due to the preference of close-ended play activities to open-ended ones. Recommendations are made on the nature of the play activities, the provision of play materials, the physical setting of the event and the roles and training of play leaders for a better provision of adventure play experience for children.