# **Building Resilience Through Physical Play**



### I'm OK! Building Resilience through Physical Play

by Jarrod Green

Print length

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 4.8 out of 5
Language : English
File size : 3940 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled



: 152 pages

Physical play is an essential part of child development. It helps children develop their physical skills, learn to interact with others, and explore their environment. However, physical play can also be an important tool for building resilience in children.

Resilience is the ability to bounce back from challenges and adversity. It is a key skill for children to learn, as it helps them to cope with the stresses of everyday life and to develop the skills they need to succeed in school and beyond.

There are many ways to build resilience in children, and physical play is one of the most effective. When children engage in physical play, they are learning to cope with challenges, manage stress, and develop social skills. These are all important skills for building resilience.

#### **How Physical Play Builds Resilience**

There are many ways that physical play can help to build resilience in children. Here are a few of the most important:

- Physical play helps children to develop physical skills. When children engage in physical play, they are developing their strength, coordination, and balance. These skills are important for children's physical health and well-being, and they can also help children to develop a sense of confidence and competence.
- Physical play helps children to learn to cope with challenges.
  When children engage in physical play, they often have to overcome challenges, such as climbing over obstacles or running faster than their friends. Overcoming these challenges helps children to develop a sense of perseverance and resilience. They learn that they can overcome obstacles and that they can achieve their goals, even when things are difficult.
- Physical play helps children to manage stress. When children engage in physical play, they can release pent-up energy and emotions. This can help children to reduce stress and to feel more relaxed and calm. Exercise has also been shown to release endorphins, which have mood-boosting effects.
- Physical play helps children to develop social skills. When children engage in physical play, they are often interacting with other children. This interaction can help children to develop social skills, such as cooperation, communication, and conflict resolution. These are all important skills for children to learn, as they help them to build positive relationships with others.

## **How to Encourage Physical Play**

There are many ways to encourage physical play in children. Here are a few ideas:

• Make physical play a part of your family's daily routine. You can do this by going for walks together, playing in the park, or signing your children up for sports or dance classes.



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