

## 9.00 am Does Playwork Work?

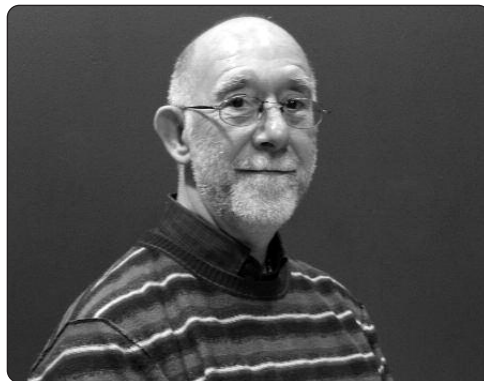
### Bob's presentation explores the role of playwork in providing opportunities for children's play in artificial settings like Adventure Playgrounds and asks 'Does playwork work?'

Analysing his personal understanding of the definition and function of playwork, Bob will look at the impact of 'good' playwork on children's behaviour, mood and activity and explain his thinking behind terms like Environmental Modification, Loose Parts, Intervention and a Neophilic Play Environment.

Using video clips, Bob will explore whether 'good' playwork environments can compensate children for their loss of wildness, and ensure that play's benefits in the wild, are also available to today's play environment children.

## Biography Bob Hughes

Bob has been a theorist, researcher and practicing playworker for over 40 years, working in numerous play settings, acting as Director of PlayEducation, the UK's oldest independent playwork agency, and as Managing Editor of the International Play Journal.



After a childhood in which every spare moment was spent playing in the rural Suffolk countryside, Bob left school aged 14 and studied chemistry at what is now Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge, the University where he was awarded a prize winning MA in Playwork Development Studies in 2001.

After working as a chemist, youth worker and teacher, Bob was appointed to Puddlebrook Adventure Playground in 1970, at what was to be the start of a lifetime in playwork.

He has been writing and presenting playwork material at conferences worldwide including Argentina, Japan, the USA and Hong Kong for many years. His research interests include playtypes, the impact of environmental modification, and playwork in a bio-evolutionary context.

His many publications include *A Playworker's Taxonomy of PlayTypes* (PlayEducation), *Play Environments: A Question of Quality* (PlayEducation), *The First Claim... a framework for playwork quality assessment* and *The First Claim – desirable processes* (Play Wales), and *PlayTypes: Speculations and Possibilities* (London Centre for Playwork Education and Training).

Bob still works with children at every available opportunity.

[www.playeducation.com](http://www.playeducation.com)

