



# Playworks

Put your yard to work!

Paul Knox  
@Pauldechnoic

# Playworks

Rules

Yard Layout and organisation

Imaginative and Independent playing

Conflict Management

Positive Atmosphere

Structure and routine

Curricular support

Organised Games

Consequences and rewards

# Playworks is.....

- A semi-structured approach to organising yard time
- An American programme adapted to fit an Irish school
- Developed by a social entrepreneur
- Championed in Ireland by changex

Actually its just kids having fun



# Playworks



## It a nutshell

*“It is about changing the environment and enhancing the features in order to modify or encourage behavioural change”*

# Positivity



# Positive Atmosphere

- Chants and claps
- High Fives
- Warm up and cool downs



# Which contributes to....

- Promoting an attitude of gratitude
- Supporting teachers giving quick and immediate praise
- Offering children lively ways to support their friends
- Keeping positivity at the centre of yard

# Organised Games

- Short and snappy games
- All age ranges included (Junior / Senior split)
- Little to no equipment needed
- Lots of children can play over break (in / out system of games)
- Older children as coaches on a rota 'give back' to school by organising games

# Organised Games



# Which helps....

- Support increasing activity levels
- Support SEN and EAL children with access to structured and organised games
- Encourage generalisation of how to initiate, organise and manage a game
- Promote inclusion, competition, fair play and sports-ship

# Conflict Resolution

- Rock / Paper / Scissors!!!
- Used for play based arguments
- Moves play along and keeps games moving
- Encourages children to not 'sweat the small stuff'

# Conflict Resolution

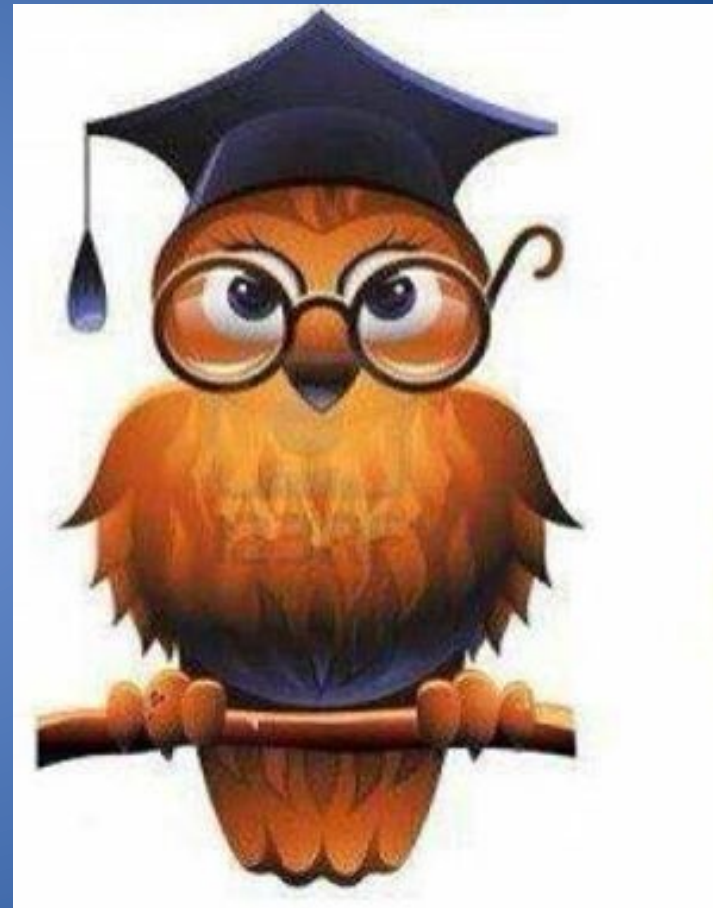


Ro / Sham / Bo !!!

# Which contributes to...

- Supporting resilience – children begin to just get on with it and ‘pick their battles’
- Reducing tales
- Reducing arguments
- Increasing time spent playing
- Allowing teachers to concentrate on more serious issues

# The Playworks transformation





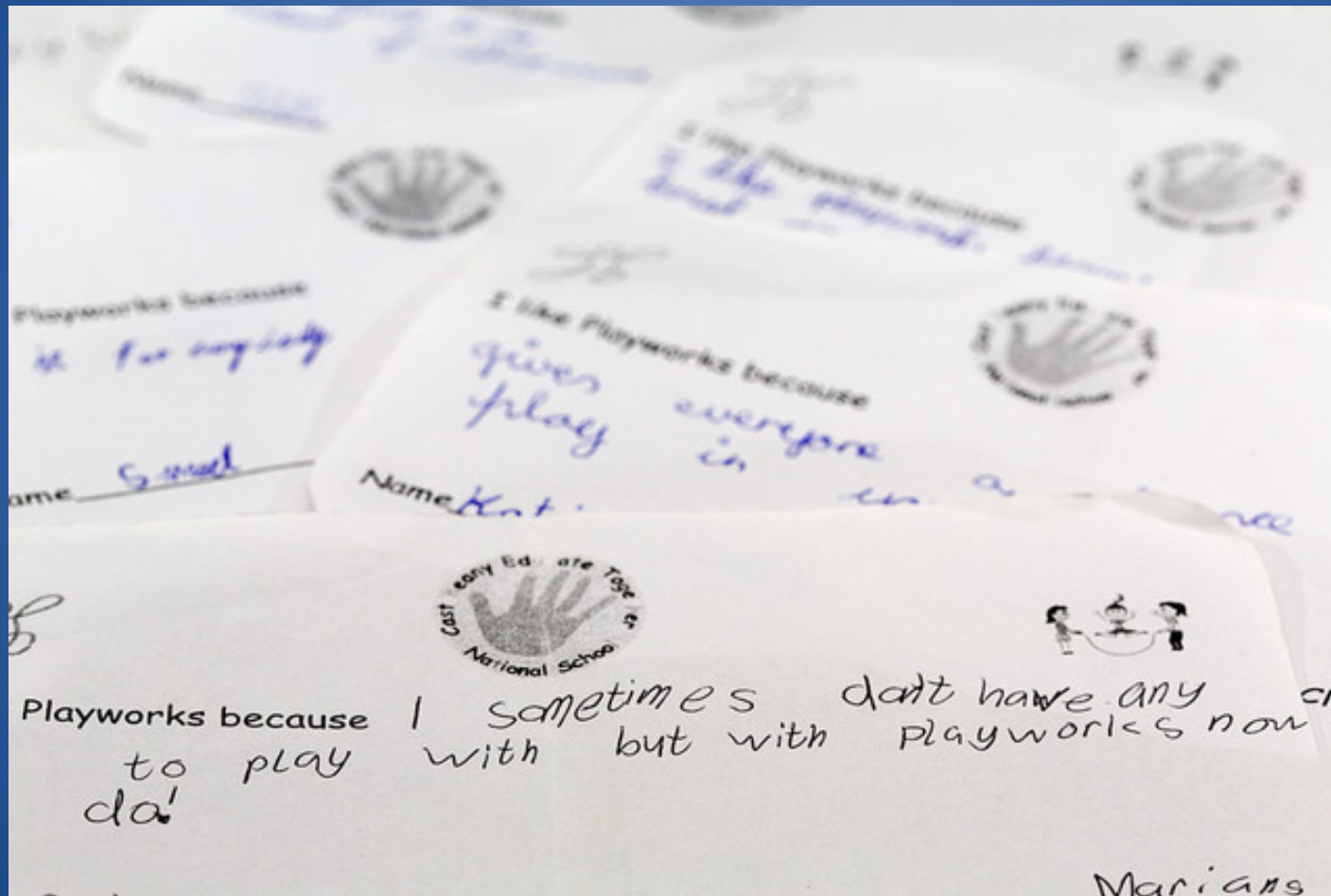
# Playworks

- Puts children at the centre of yard time
- Is a preventative strategy for bullying
- A cohesive and planned approach to yard
- Contributes to the general health and wellbeing of the children (and teachers alike)
- Contributes to teaching and learning with less tales and more energy burnt on yard – kids are ready to work!

# Playworks needs....

- Whole school commitment
- On-going support, input, monitoring and reflection
- Teachers to move from supervisors to facilitators of play
- You need to be okay with yard being busy!

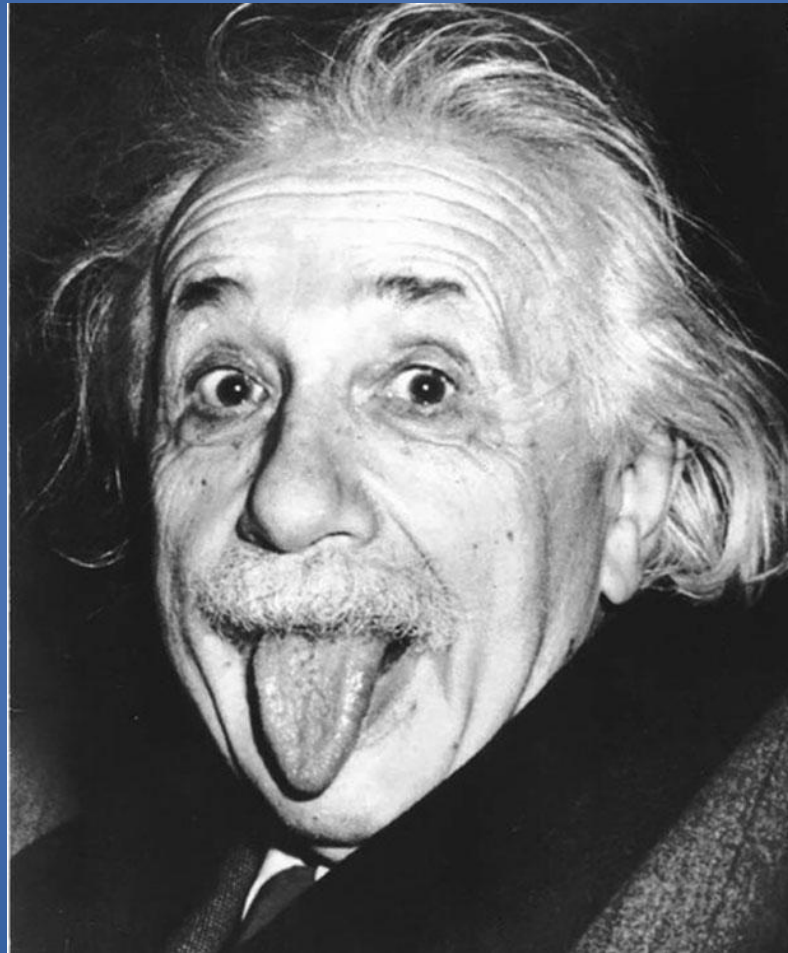
# What the kids say!



# Playworks

- Its not an exact Science
  - Yard is still busy and full of issues
  - Workshop in my school if your interested!
- [Pknox.cetns@gmail.com](mailto:Pknox.cetns@gmail.com)

# Albert Einstein



“Play is the highest form of research”