

The background is a solid light purple color. Scattered across the page are several white, stylized flowers with five petals and a small brown dot in the center. The flowers are of varying sizes and orientations, creating a decorative pattern.

Age-(Play) Theory

Draven L. Alexander, M.Ed., CMHS

Positionality

- Neurodivergent
- Ph.D. Student CIIS Human Sexuality
- Trauma-Informed Sexuality Educator
- Consent Educator
- LGBTQ+ Liaison
- Age-player



Respect Agreements

Respect means to “look back at” and to “regard” something. These respect agreements are set up to allow us to look back at how we may feel or to have regard for something that arrives.



**Self-Care
equals Self-Respect:**
Have you had water?
Are you breathing?
Do you need to step
away or leave?

**Please be
intentionally vague:**
Take the lessons,
leave the stories

Get Curious:
Bodily sensations
Emotions
Thoughts

Course of Action:

- **What does it mean to play?**
- **Age and Innocence**
- **The Pathology of Age-Play**
- **Age-Play**
- **Play Theory**
- **Critical Consent Theory**
- **Play is**
- **Age-(Play) Theory**



What does it mean to play?

The Romanticism of Childhood Innocence

The
construction
of innocence

The
construction
of children and
childhood in an
adultist
society

Radical
innocence

The Sanism
/Adultism
Dichotomy



The perceived pathology of playing with age:



- DSM I-Immature personality
- DSM-V-TR: Paraphilic infantilism
 - Sensationalism
- DSM-V-TR: Pedophilia, Hebephilia, and Ephebophilia
- Criminal cases

What is Age-Play?

Age play is a role or state of being between two consenting biological adults, where one adult plays as an infant, child, or adolescent, and the other plays as the caregiver.



Age Play is...

01

TERMS

ADULT LITTLE:
A PERSON WHO
REGRESSES OR
PLAYS AS A
CHILD.

02

QUEER

GENDER PLAY:
BOI/GRRL

SEXUAL
ORIENTATION

03

POWER EXCHANGE

POWER IS THE
ABILITY TO
INFLUENCE, DO,
UNDERGO
SOMETHING, OR
CREATE
CHANGE.

04

BEING/DOING

BEING IS A
REGRESSION INTO
A CHILDLIKE
STATE OF MIND
DOING IS PLAYING
WITH THE IDEALS
OF CHILDHOOD.

05

AESTHETICS

STYLIZATION
TONE
MOVEMENT
PLAY

Archetypes of Age-Players

Autobiographical
/Recollected Child



Fantasy Role



Symbolic Culture of
the Child



Music Break



KiNG Mala-She Calls Me Daddy




KiNG MALA - "she calls me daddy" (Official Music Video)



Share

**SHE CALLS
ME DADDY**



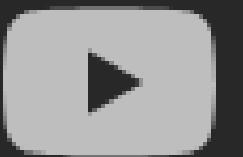
Watch on  YouTube

Cloudy June-Mommy Issues



Video unavailable

[Watch on YouTube](#)



Doja Cat-Freak



Doja Cat - Freak (Lyrics) | "freak like me, you want a goo..."



Share

FREAK
doja cat

Watch on  YouTube

Play Theory

"We play because we are human, and we need to understand what makes us human, not in an evolutionary or cognitive way but in a humanistic way. Play is the force that pulls us together. It is a way of explaining the world, others, and ourselves. Play is expressing ourselves—who we want to be, or who we don't want to be. Play is what we do when we are human"

(Sicart, 2014, p. 6).

Critical Consent Theory

Autonomy/Interdependence
Capacity
Information
Agreements/Boundaries
Power Differentials
Exuberant Intimacy



BDSM Tenets

Safe, Sane, and Consensual (SSC)

Risk-Aware Consensual Kink
(RACK)

Care, Compassion, Consent, and
Caution (4 C's)

Play is...

Contextual:

- Environmental
- Temporal
- People involved
- Rules
 - Creation
 - Shared understanding
 - Potential play
 - Negotiated, flexible, and interpretative

Carnavalesque:

- The absurdity of life
- Satire
- Games

Play is...

Appropriative:

- Props
- Objects
- Toys

Disruptive:

- Passing pleasures
- Beyond playful
- Dark play
- Mental balance

Play is...

Autotelic:

- It is its own purpose
- Negotiated

Creative:

- Tactics
- Creative interpretation


Personal:

- Individual
- Connections
- Expression



Age-(Play) is...

Contextual
Carnavalesque
Appropriative
Disruptive
Autotelic
Creative
Personal



AGE (PLAY) THEORY

References

- American Psychiatric Association (1952). *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (5th ed.)*. Washington, DC: Author.
- American Psychiatric Association (1968). *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (5th ed.)*. Washington, DC: Author.
- American Psychiatric Association. (2013). *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (5th ed.)*. Washington, DC: Author.
- Bauer, R. (2023). Perverting innocence in age play? Using little space to explore vulnerability, innocence, and discipline in adultist society. In B. Simula, R. Bauer, & L. Wignall (Eds.), **The Power of BDSM: Play, Communities, and Consent in the 21st Century** (pp. 94-114). Oxford University Press. DOI 10.1093/oso/9780197658598.003.0006
- Bauer, R. (2018). Bois and grrrls meet their daddies and mommies on gender playgrounds: Gendered age play in the les-bi-trans-queer BDSM communities. *Sexualities, 21* (1-2). 139-155.

References

- Bauer, R. (2014). *Queer BDSM Intimacies: Critical Consent and Pushing Boundaries*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Paasonen, S. (2018). *Many Splendored Things*. Goldsmiths.
- Schori, A., Jackowski, C., & Schon, C. (2021). How safe is BDSM? A literature review on fatal outcomes in BDSM play. *International Journal of Legal Medicine*.
- Sicart, M. (2014). *Play Matters*. MIT Press. Cambridge, MA.
- Tiidenberg, K. & Paasonen, S. (2018). Littles: Affects and aesthetics in sexual age-play. *Sexuality & Culture*, 23. 375-393.
- Williams, DJ, Thomas, J., Prior, E., & Christensen, M. (2014). From "SSC" and "RACK" to the "4Cs": Introducing a new framework for negotiating BDSM participation. *Electronic Journal of Human Sexuality*, 17. 1-13.
- Wright, S. (2018). De-Pathologicalization of Consensual BDSM. *The Journal of Sexual Medicine*. 15, 622-624.

Thank you for playing with me!

Please contact me if you have any questions!

Draven L. Alexander, M.Ed., CMHS

Email: dynamicsofcounseling@gmail.com

Website: www.dynamiceducationcounseling.com