

Adventure Playgrounds

(1) Adventure playgrounds to let older children find out about risk will open around the country. Children's Secretary¹⁾ Ed Balls promised to spend extra money for physically-challenging play areas aimed at turning 8- to 13-year-olds away from the computer screen. He is worried too many children no longer experience controlled risk which would teach them to take safe decisions in future. It is part of a major government plan to reverse the decline of childhood. This plan also aims at improving drugs and alcohol education in an attempt to tackle increasingly risky behaviour such as binge-drinking. The exposure of children to violent images via the internet or video games will also be tackled.



(2) While the plan will focus on improving children's lives outside school, it will also contain measures aimed at driving up exam performance. Mr Balls will announce a £250 million fund to provide more catch-up classes and one-to-one tuition with the aim of helping struggling pupils and stimulating the gifted. Secondary school pupils who have been expelled from school or are struggling with the curriculum will learn how to run a business at a new breed of 'studio schools' for 14- to 19-year-olds. They will be more like workplaces than schools and pupils will learn teamwork and leadership skills there.

noot 1 Children's Secretary = minister van Gezinszaken

- 1p 2 What is said about adventure playgrounds in paragraph 1?
- A They are designed to look like computer games.
 - B They are often too dangerous and need to become safer.
 - C They can help youngsters learn about making the right choices.
 - D They will become information centres to educate teenagers.
- 1p 3 Which educational change is part of Ed Balls' plan, according to paragraph 2?
- He wants schools to
- A find placements for pupils after their finals.
 - B pay more attention to the home situation of pupils.
 - C set apart unruly pupils in special classrooms.
 - D teach more pupils individually or in small groups.