



play matters for all kids





active
BODIES

active
TOGETHER

active
MINDS

All children need balanced and active play every day to thrive



















CONVENIENT
MAKE IT EASY FOR KIDS & FAMILIES TO "PLAY ALONG THE WAY"



INVITING

PERMISSION TO PLAY IS OBVIOUS & INTUITIVE - GIVING KIDS AND FAMILIES THE SENSE OF COMFORT THEY NEED TO PLAY FREELY.



UNIFYING

BRING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER THROUGH PLAY BY DESIGNING SPACES THAT REFLECT THE WHOLE COMMUNITY & DRAW VISITORS FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE



WONDROUS

CREATE A SPACE THAT FEELS NEW EVERY TIME, ENABLES EXPLORATION & DISCOVERY, AND ALLOWS KIDS TO USE THEIR IMAGINATION



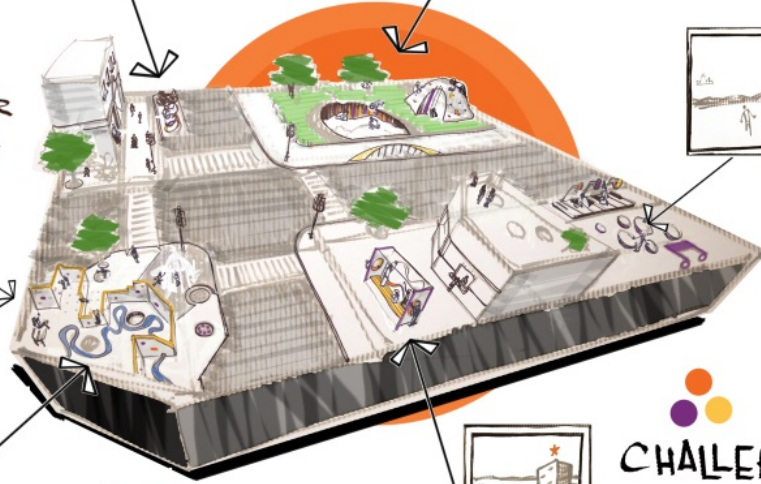
SHARED

TURN PLAY INSTALLATIONS INTO SOCIAL SPACES, WHERE KIDS, FAMILIES, CAREGIVERS, & THE BROADER COMMUNITY CAN COMFORTABLY COME ENJOY PLAY TOGETHER



CHALLENGING

INCORPORATE A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS TO STRETCH THEIR MINDS & BODIES.





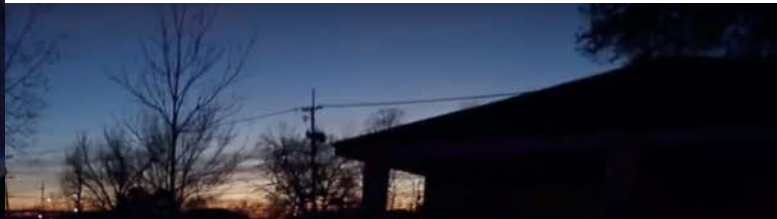
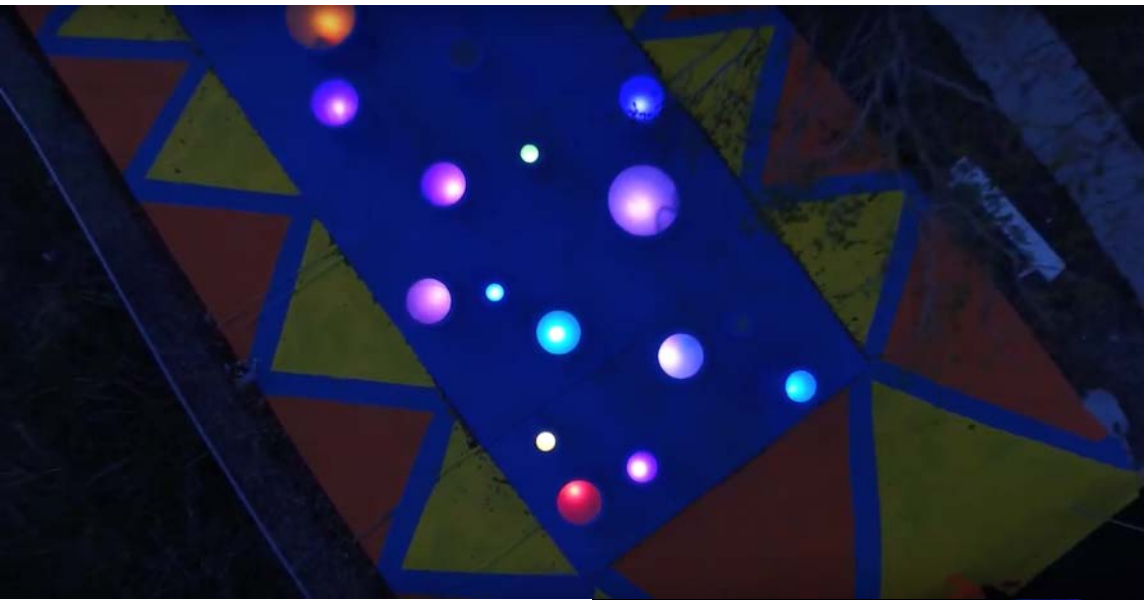
















At the Stoddert Terrace housing complex in Southeast Washington, where there are no slides or swings, a boy swings on a clothesline pole.

No Place to Play

At Stoddert Terrace, Deaths of 2 Children Are Seen as Painful Proof of a City's Neglect

By Lonnie O'Neal Parker
Washington Post Staff Writer

The 200 block of 37th Street SE, where 4-year-old Iesha Elmore and her 2-year-old brother, Cleidon, suffocated in a red Pontiac Fiero last week, ends in a cul-de-sac. Residents say it dead ends. On this block, perhaps the only things more painful to imagine than the deaths of the two children are the everyday lives of hundreds of others.

There are no swings, no slides, no playgroups at the Stoddert Terrace housing complex. Some children cool themselves in plastic containers next to streets where cars can

desert laws that haven't known grass in years. Still others take turns pushing one another in brown blue and green glass aquariums decorated, like the floor of a fish tank, with neon. Danger lies in just the way there's no doubt that neglect killed the Elmore children, but it wasn't Neighbors will tell you there's an indifference toward the Elmore children, an indifference toward the city, which wait for tragedies to occur before they promise to help.

They say it is years of neglect by the federal government to occur before they promise to help. They say it is years of neglect by the federal government to occur before they promise to help for tragedies to occur before they promise to help.

That's how what Ron Elmore, the children's

mother, was doing. They said. Police have not determined whether the deaths were accidental or the result of foul play. Meanwhile, Elmore's other children are staying with their paternal grandparents until a court decides whether they can live at home. Iesha and Cleidon will be buried today.

"Don't judge her; you can't judge that girl with your kids," said Deenen Williams, a mother who lives on a step outside her apartment while two other children spashed next to her in a blue plastic pool. "Look at this," she said, gesturing past vacant apartments and crumbling brick walls. "What is there to do around here? Where is there to play?" Behind the Elmore apartment, in the parking

Looking at the torn pavement, Ron Walker added, "Yeah, the federal government was supposed to be giving all that. I want to see if they come around here. We'll just see."

Karen Settle, president of the Stoddert Terrace residents council, took shade on a crumbling concrete porch one end of the row. The Elmore apartment, which she had been and out of all day, anchored the other end. She was frustrated.

"You can't walk your babies 24 hours a day," seven [just a week] Settle said, "and if there is a mother who can, I haven't met her."

Neighbors Cite Government, Media in Children's Deaths

STODDERT, From A1

hot where the children died, balloons site to them are beginning to drop. The first of a green train of messages ("We miss you, we love you and thank you," "We miss you, we love you and thank you," "We miss you, we love you and thank you"). The stench of hot garbage fills the air.

Albert Elmore, the children's grandfather, stood in the field behind the train line, where chest-high grass had been mowed only two days before. He was planning to fix up the Fiero when the children died in it, and now he was almost thinking about it, and now

if they just extended the parking telegram pole over a little, he said. Then you could walk your kids play. With the grass so high, any [child] under two feet, you're not going to see them."

Overlooking the parking lot, Ron Eddies Sherrard and Tracy Hines, 274 in the lot entry with a plastic fall way young," Hille said.

Stoddert Terrace is a day-care. Now they and cars be flyin' out."

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pen," she said. "We need outreach; we need literacy; we need a playgroup; we need to be one place, and our teenagers agree somewhere else."

Off to her left, a white Good Hope truck idled, turned onto 37th Street. On its side, a faded picture of a young boy was barely visible. It had been a fire alarm. He ran to greet the truck, which circled the cul-de-sac and left, silent again.

After the late afternoon brings some relief from the heat, Stoddert Terrace residents often sit in front of the corner where the 37th Street meets 37th Place. Mallette, Ratiff and Nicole Settles, Karen's daughter, sit on white plastic chairs.

"This is nothing new," Ratiff said of the neglect that plagues the complex. "It's just a different death. It took a different type of death to open people's eyes and see that we need help."

Settles agreed that we need help. "We've been calling about the cars. By where made's seat is all that high grass. . . . Just like it took Leticia," Settles said, referring to the 1993 killing of a 4-year-old Leticia Smith nearby. "I always takes a tragedy to get any attention, and then it's too late."

The women agreed that the recreation center, four finger-than-averages a block away on Ridge Road, provides a place for some children to play. "But it's too far to send my kids," Ratiff said. Besides, she added, "they've found bodies in the woods behind that place."

Will Jones, a recreation aide at the indoor basketball court where a dozen communal rooms, youngsters played Soccer. Outside, the tennis courts and the football field were empty.

"It's a good center, we do some good things," Jones said, acknowledging that the center is underused. "It's a good center, we do some good things," Jones said, acknowledging that the center is underused. "It's a good center, we do some good things," Jones said, acknowledging that the center is underused.

Near the Elmore apartment, a bus stop on D Street SE. The woods are littered with the remains of plastic garbage bags. Broken glass from 40-ounce bottles of St. Louis Mail Li-Quor doesn't quite hide the front of a discarded automobile.

Ronald Williams, George Mason and called old drinks and broken premises. "There's always talk and promises after a tragedy," Sims said. "But come back in a month. It's be the

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A newspaper clipping attached to a waste container, above, honors Iesha Elmore, 4, and her brother Cleidon, 2, who suffocated in a Stoddert Terrace housing complex. Below, Iesha Elmore stands outside her home, where she has a waiting pool for her grandchildren.





my dream playground

POULÉ C

ccsum.org





KaBOOM! playground, Washington, DC



KaBOOM! playground, Detroit, MI



KaBOOM! playground, St. Louis, MO



KaBOOM! playground, New Orleans, LA

**“Kids begin to understand
we care about you, we value
you, we believe in you.”**

**– Harold Fitrer, President and CEO, Communities
in Schools of Richmond, VA**



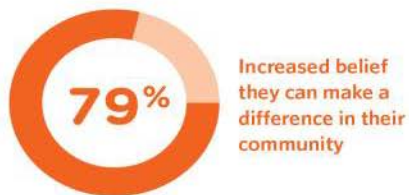
**“The playground is *the*
safe space.”**

**- Zach Darrah, Executive Director,
Fresno Interdenominational Refugee
Ministries, Fresno, CA**



Communities will be stronger

Two weeks after their KaBOOM! playground project, planning committee members had:



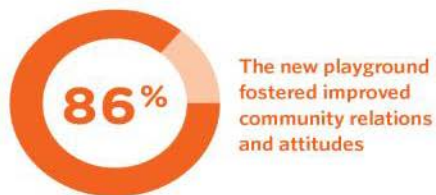
Increased belief in a shared sense of commitment to address community issues



Increased belief that their community members support one another

Source: 2016 KaBOOM! survey

Six to eight months after their KaBOOM! playground project, community leaders felt:



Number of kids playing increased



The new playground provided a safe haven for kids and families

Source: 2014 KaBOOM! survey





“Playgrounds remind us that we’re infinitely more alike than different.”

– Chet Cantrell, Executive Director, Christian Activity Center, East St. Louis, IL



play matters for all kids