

How Are Adults Involved in Young Children's Social and Cognitive Play in a Naturalized Playground

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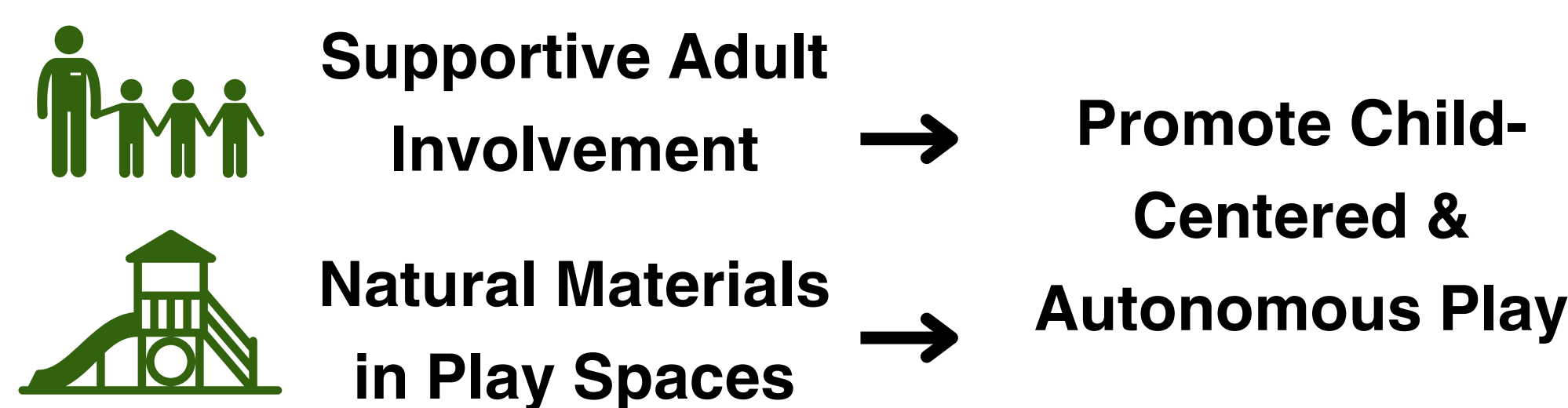
Learn How To Code Play

INTRODUCTION

Play is Learning and Development:



Modern Approaches to Support Play:



Our Study:

- 1 Observational Study:** Unclear how adults directly support play in natural or naturalized spaces.
- 2 Toddler & Preschooler Comparison:** Little known about how adults support play across different children age groups.

METHODOLOGY

Data Collection Sites and Sample:



Toddler Naturalized Site

$n = 215$ Toddler Play Events



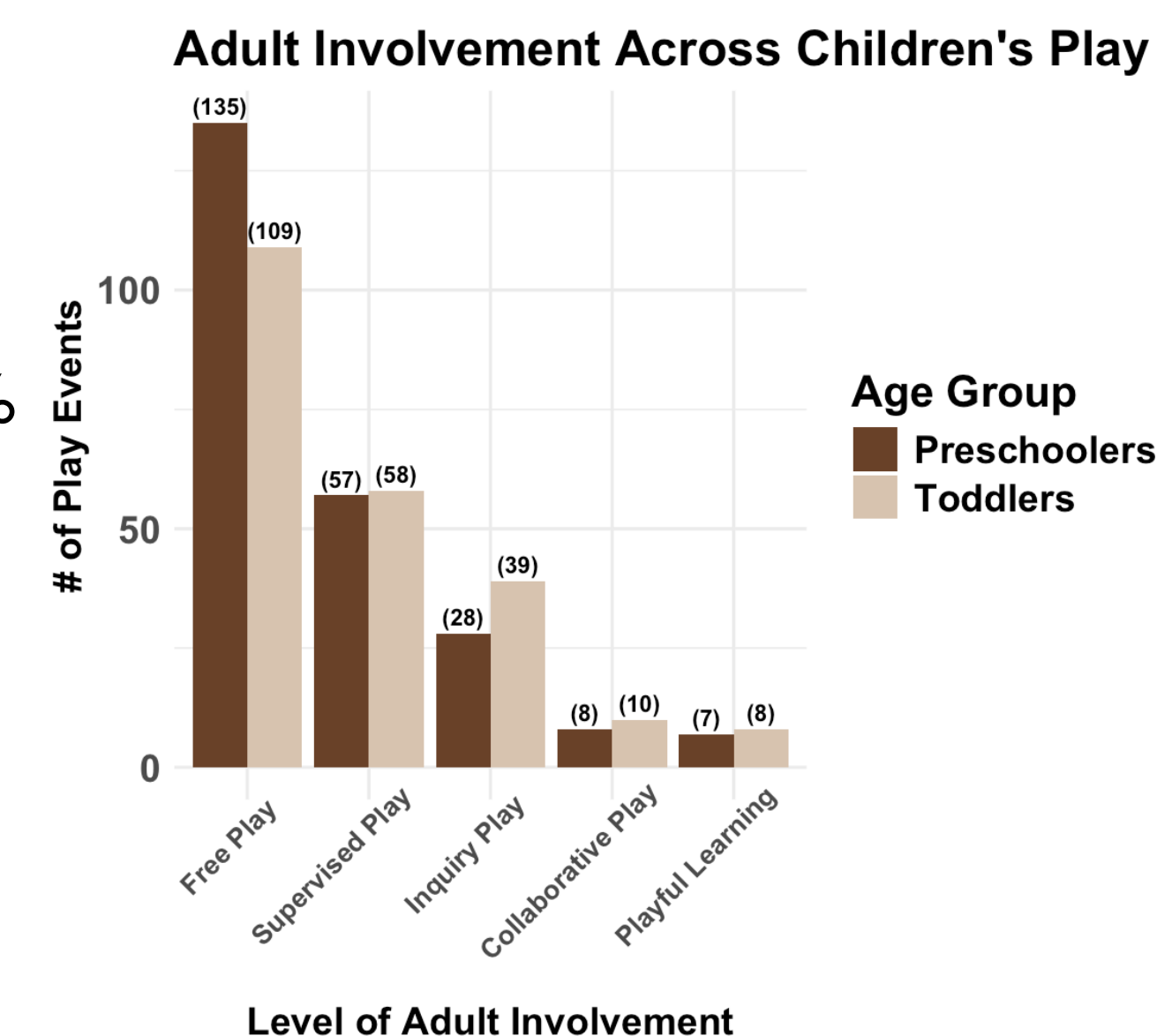
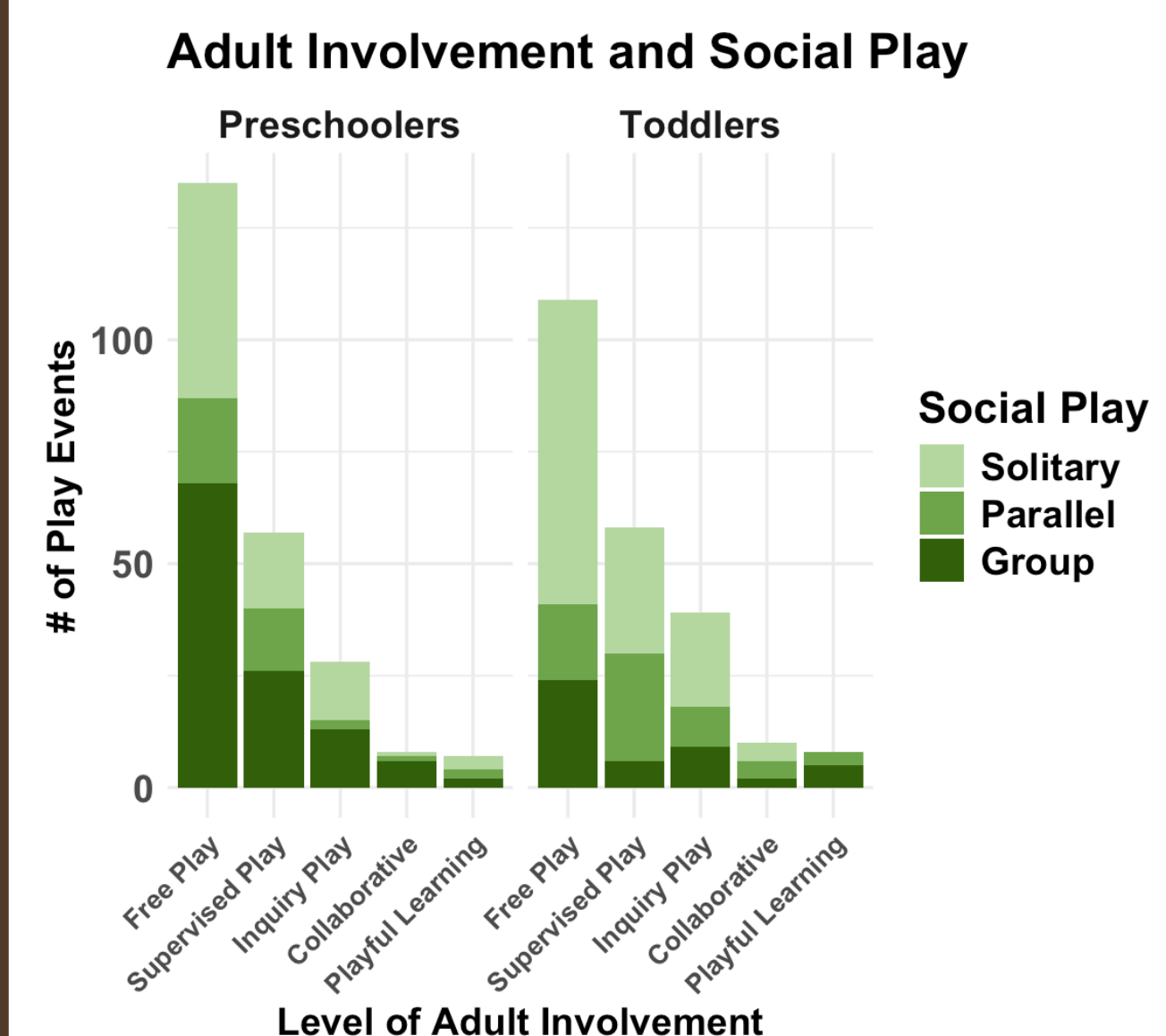
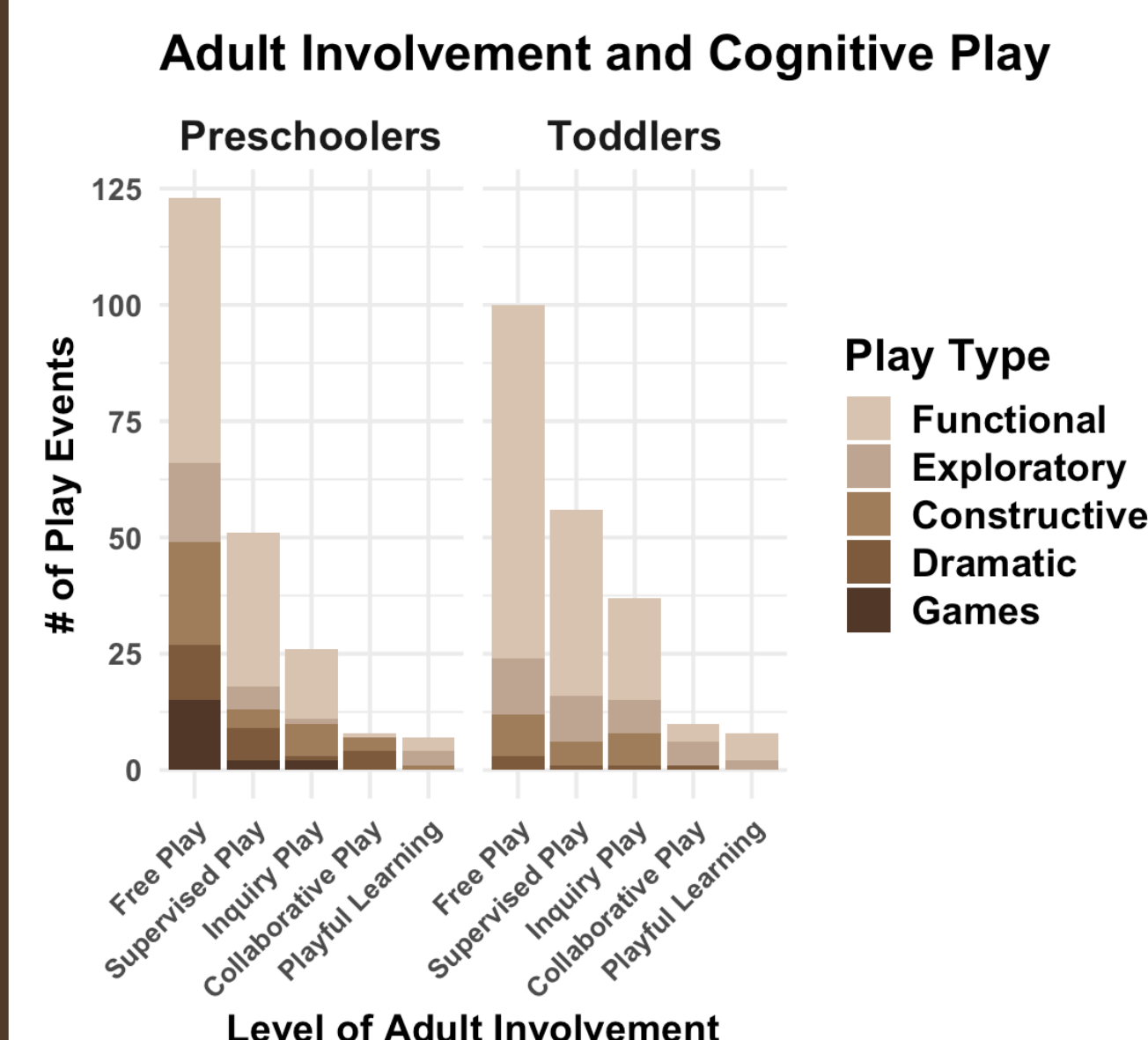
Preschool Naturalized Site

$n = 235$ Preschooler Play Events

RESULTS

Finding 1: Similar Adult Involvement Across Children

- Free Play: 48.7% of Toddler & 57.4% of Preschoolers play
- No difference in distribution of adult involvement $\chi^2(4) = 4.61, p = .33$



Finding 2: Adult Involvement and Cognitive Play

- Preschooler complex cognitive play primarily in free play (60.6%)
- Toddler complex cognitive play often involve adults (61.9%)

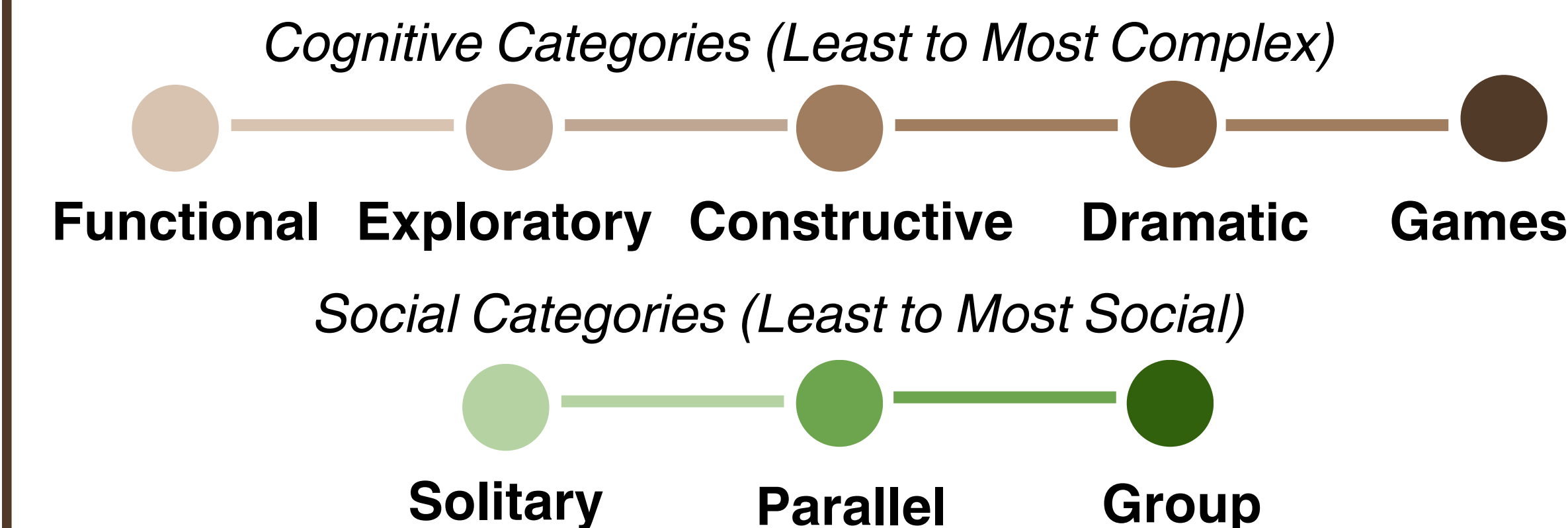
Finding 3: Adult Involvement and Social Play

- Preschoolers primarily engage in social play during free play (28.9%)
- Toddlers engage in solitary free play (30.4%) and adult support is not associated with more social play.

METHODOLOGY (CONTINUED)

Data Collection Tools:

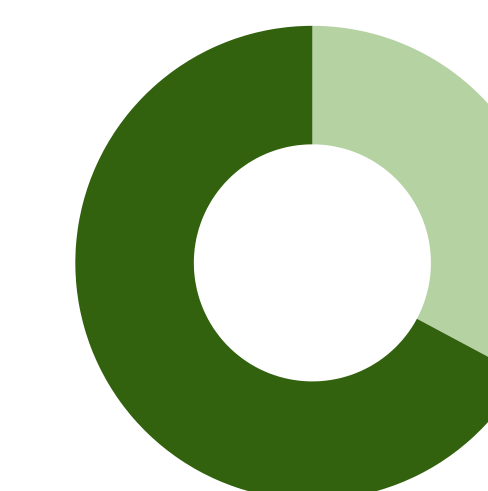
1 Play Observation Scale (Social & Cognitive Play)



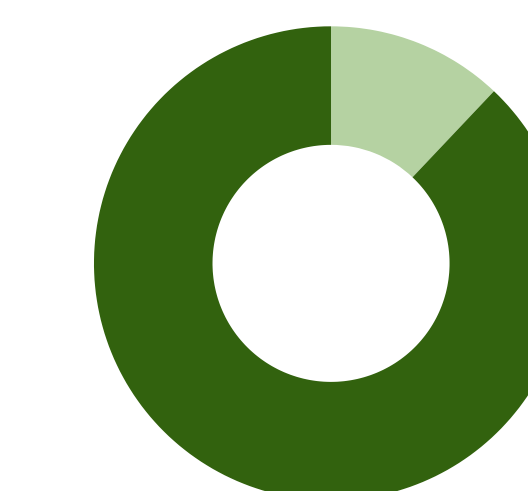
2 Continuum of Play (Level of Adult Involvement)

- Child-Directed:** Free Play, Supervised Play, Inquiry Play
- Shared:** Collaborative Play
- Adult-Directed:** Playful Learning

Key Observation Details:



Total of 450 x 15s Play Events
(190 excluded for non play)



87.5% Inter-rater Reliability
(Across 2 Raters)

CONCLUSION

- 1 Supporting Toddler Play:** Adults are associated with supporting toddler cognitive (but not social) play.
- 2 Advances Research:** Study informs how adults are involved in play in natural play spaces.