

## Welcome

Welcome to the February issue of the Children's Play Update, a monthly round up of news, information and events for the play sector in England. It is produced by the Children's Play Information Service in coordination with Play England.

To subscribe, or unsubscribe, to the update please email [playupdate@ncb.org.uk](mailto:playupdate@ncb.org.uk)

## Play in the news

A snapshot of the month's news relating to children's play from play organisations and from *Children in the News*, a daily and weekly abstracting service published by NCB's Library and Information Service. *Children in the News* covers the key stories and events relating to children and young people, as reported in the national daily press.

<http://www.ncb.org.uk/library>

### Cases of rickets rising because children spend too much time indoors

Cases of rickets in children are rising because children are spending more time playing indoors rather than outside with their friends, according to a clinical review published in the British Medical Journal by Professor Simon Pearce and Dr Tim Cheetham of Newcastle University.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2010/jan/22/sharp-rise-vitamin-a-deficiency>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-1244988/Victorian-disease-rickets-rise-poor-diet-lack-exercise-doctors-warn.html>

### Boys need 'a more play-based approach' in the Foundation Stage

According to official figures, boys are falling further behind girls after just a year of primary school with girls outperforming boys in 11 of the 13 scales of the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile. Almost six in ten boys failed to achieve a good level of development in the basics at the age of five, compared with four in ten girls. Sue Palmer, author of *21st Century Boys: How modern life is driving them off the rails and how we can get them back on track*, said "Boys will be disadvantaged until we give them a more play-based approach. The sort of play they require needs to be more active physically, they need to run about, climb and scramble".

(Mail, 29 Jan 2010, p27; Telegraph, 29 Jan 2010, p12)

[http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000911/SFR03\\_2010v2.pdf](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000911/SFR03_2010v2.pdf)

## In this issue

Play in the news

What's new at CPIS?

Play England update

Policy

Conferences and events

Play resources

About us

Contact us

## **Children need to be exposed to risks**

According to the authors of a new book, children need to be exposed to risks to learn what is actually dangerous. In *Fifty Dangerous Things (you should let your children do)*, Gever Tulley and Julie Spiegler say that over-protection can leave a child unable to judge risk for themselves in later life. Peter Cornall of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents agreed that some accidents could benefit children. He said "Children are losing any sense of where real danger lies".

(Mail, 1 Feb 2010, p20; Telegraph, 1 Feb 2010, p10)

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1247547/Why-SHOULD-let-children-play-danger-despite-warnings-health-safety-brigade.html>

## **What's new at CPIS?**

### **Group visits for playwork students**

CPIS welcomes visits by groups of playwork students (maximum 10) and their tutors. This is a great opportunity to learn about how to keep informed as a play professional, and to use the resources of CPIS to complete projects and essays.

A typical group visit is usually 1-2 hours long, and consists of :

- A talk about CPIS and other sources of information on play
- A tour of the library and the various databases
- Help with finding information for projects and essays
- Independent time reading and researching

If you would like to book a group visit, and find out more, please contact

Anna Kassman-McKerrell, Information officer

Email: [cpis@ncb.org.uk](mailto:cpis@ncb.org.uk)

## **Play England Update**

### **Playable communities: Priorities for a new decade**

23 March 2010 - The British Museum, central London

After four years of unprecedented national investment in children's play, Play England's major conference will consider its impact, explore how to sustain the momentum for change, and ask 'what next for play provision, playwork and playable public space?' The conference is both for play professionals – exploring the role of playwork practice across a range of children's services – and for all those who want to improve children's well-being by addressing the full scope of their place in the public realm. Visit the website to find out more, including special offers and agenda updates.

<http://www.playengland.org.uk/events>

### **Playday 2010 promotional postcard**

The Playday 2010 promotional postcard is now available! You can use the 2010 postcard to promote Playday in your local area, give potential partners, supporters and sponsors more information, and to get everyone in your community involved in the Playday 2010: *Our place* campaign. Download the postcard and order printed copies on the Playday website.

<http://www.playday.org.uk>

## **Playday 2010 organiser seminars**

March – London, Manchester

Whether you're planning your first Playday event and need a little guidance, or you're a Playday pro looking for new ideas and inspiration, the Playday 2010 organiser seminars will get you on track! The seminars will provide advice and information on all aspects of organising a successful Playday event. Through practical workshops, talks and group work, delegates will cover areas including: Organising a Playday event, getting publicity, funding and resourcing, and meaningful participation.

<http://www.playday.org.uk>

## **Response to Children's Trust guidance consultation**

Play England has responded to the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) consultation on the New Statutory Children's Trust Guidance and New Children and Young People's Plan Regulations. Following consultation with its members, Play England recommendations included ensuring the guidance makes the trust's role and responsibilities for delivering play in conjunction with play partnerships explicit, particularly with planning, commissioning and training; and promotes playwork as a valued part of the integrated children's workforce.

<http://www.playengland.org.uk/consultations>

## **Play pathfinder and playbuilder progress**

Local authorities have been working hard to ensure that the play pathfinder and playbuilder capital programmes, funded through the government's Play Strategy programme, are on target for delivering at least 1500 new and refurbished play sites across England by 31 March. This year will see the 20 Wave 1 play pathfinders open their new adventure play sites. Work is proceeding quickly, despite the unprecedented weather conditions in December and January.

<http://www.playengland.org.uk/pathfinder>

<http://www.playengland.org.uk/playbuilder>

## **Quality assessments underway around the country**

A number of local authorities have already reported using Play England's quality indicator assessment tools, launched in November 2009. Local authorities are using the tools to run comprehensive assessment of all the play spaces in their area and some have begun building the tools into their contractual play management and maintenance arrangements. The tools can support long-term refurbishment programmes, as well as being ideal evaluation tools for measuring success with the playbuilder and pathfinder programmes.

Play England has developed *Tools for evaluating play provision: The local play indicators* to drive improvement in the standards of children's play space provision, focusing on participation, access, quality and satisfaction of local spaces and facilities.

<http://www.playengland.org.uk/localplayindicators>

## **Policy**

### **Child care**

#### **Local child care website**

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has launched a website, the Family Information Directory, that parents across the country will be able to use to search for childcare providers in their region. The website will provide parents with

information on nurseries, childminders, after-school clubs and children's centres available in their area.

<http://familyservices.direct.gov.uk/>

## Consultations

### **Preventing obesity: a whole-system approach: consultation on the draft scope**

NICE is developing public health programme guidance on preventing obesity using a 'whole-system' approach at local and community level. For the purpose of this guidance, a 'whole-system', sustainable approach to obesity involves a broad set of integrated policies combined with population-wide and targeted measures. This includes action by central and local government, industry, communities, families and society as a whole. Closing date is 12 February 2010.

<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=folder&o=47042>

## Disability

### **I have a right to play out too! Celebrating outdoor play for disabled children**

The Playwork Inclusion Project (PIP) has published a new briefing that focuses on practical examples and case studies of disabled children and young people accessing outdoor play drawn from the PIP seminars and National Inclusive Play Network members.

<http://www.kids.org.uk/information/100428/100623/100836/briefings/>

## Government

### **The Children's Plan two years on: a progress report**

This document charts the progress that has been made so far, and outlines the next steps. The Children's Plan Expert Groups were asked to review the progress that has been made and advise on the challenges ahead, both for Government, and for all those working with children and young people.

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-01162-2009>

### **New government data website**

A new website has been launched that gives free access to a wide range of government data together in one place. It contains more than 2500 sets of data on topics such as crime, education and health. The data can also be used to create applications, and already has a number available, including the 'School Finder' to help parents locate their nearest schools.

<http://data.gov.uk>

## Health and wellbeing

### **Promoting the emotional health of children and young people: Guidance for Children's Trusts partnerships, including how to deliver NI 50**

The Government has published non-statutory guidance for Children's Trusts to help leaders and commissioners across children's services to plan and develop services to promote the emotional health of children and young people. It considers emotional health across the age range, and how it can be supported in a number of environments. The core support and services that might be provided by a Children's Trust partnership taking a comprehensive, strategic approach to promoting and supporting emotional health includes, "Children and young people have opportunities

to play and interact together in high quality spaces, both structured and unstructured" .

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/resources-and-practice/IG00639/>

### **Understanding Children's Well-Being**

The Children's Society has published findings from a two-year research study on children's wellbeing. Just under 7,000 children aged 10 to 15 were asked to rate how happy they were on a scale from one to ten with many aspects of their lives.

<http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/>

### **Funding to get children walking to school**

A scheme that encourages families to ditch the car and walk their children to school at least once a week is to receive an £800,000 boost from the Government. The 'Walk Once a Week' scheme run by Living Streets, rewards children who walk to school one day a week with a collectable metal badge for each month they take part. The funding will be used to expand the scheme to at least 900 more schools with a focus on the West Midlands, Greater Manchester, Merseyside, and Tyne and Wear, where there are higher numbers of overweight and obese children.

<http://www.livingstreets.org.uk/news/uk/press-release/-/minister-launches-wow-funding>

### **The State of Happiness – new report**

The Young Foundation and the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) have published a report that analyses in-depth pilot schemes - from teaching resilience to children in schools to promoting neighbourliness - with three councils in different areas of the country. Among other things the report recommends that schools should teach resilience - drawing on strong evidence that this improves academic performance and behaviour as well as the employability of pupils.

<http://www.youngfoundation.org/publications/reports/the-state-happiness-january-2010>

## **Playwork**

### **Playwork Learning and Skills Strategy 2011-2016**

SkillsActive has launched a consultation on its UK strategy for playwork education, training and qualifications and is urging the play sector to get involved. A series of regional consultation events will be held, and a questionnaire is available on the SkillsActive website until 9 April 2010.

<http://www.skillsactive.com/resources/consultations-have-your-say/playwork-strategy/>

## **Safeguarding**

### **'Drawing the line' – a report on the Government's vetting and barring scheme**

This report takes into account public concerns about the scheme and checks that the Government had drawn the line in the right place in relation to the requirement to register, particularly with regard to the frequency of contact with children which should trigger the obligation to register with the ISA. Views from a wide range of key individuals and organisations on the issues were considered.

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-01122-2009.pdf>

## Training and education

### Stepping Into Play - a programme for parents

Inspire has developed a participatory programme to raise parents and carers' awareness about the importance of play. The Stepping into Play can be delivered by family support staff after they have taken part in the two day training the trainers' course facilitated by Inspire.

<http://www.inspire.eu.com>

## Conferences and events

Below is a selection of forthcoming conferences. Please have a look at the CPIS website for the full listing, *Play Conferences & Events*, which is published at the beginning of each month: <http://www.ncb.org.uk/cpis>

If you would like to receive an email alert about this listing please email [cpis@ncb.org.uk](mailto:cpis@ncb.org.uk)

### 25 February 2010, London Knowledge Lab, 23-29 Emerald Street, London WC1N 3QS **Children's Playground Games and Songs in the New Media Age: Interim Conference**

This project began in April 2009, under the Arts and Humanities Research Council's Beyond Text programme. Its aims are to digitise the Opies' sound archive of playground games at the British Library, and develop a website; to study games and songs in playgrounds in London and Sheffield, adding material from this study to the BL website; and to adapt a suite of playground games for an interactive play tool such as the Nintendo Wii. This seminar will offer early presentations from the project.

Places are limited and booking is required. To RSVP, please email

[fcadmin9@ioe.ac.uk](mailto:fcadmin9@ioe.ac.uk) by 15 February 2010

26 February 2010, Bristol

### **Big Lottery Fund's Playful Ideas Conference**

A limited number of free places is available at this conference, which will showcase some of the Playful Ideas projects. Speakers include Tim Gill, Adrian Voce and Dawn Primarolo, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families.

Email: [playfulideasevent@biglotteryfund.org.uk](mailto:playfulideasevent@biglotteryfund.org.uk) **before noon Friday 12 February.**

2-3 March 2010, Eastbourne

### **8<sup>th</sup> National Playwork Conference**

The conference will feature 40 different sessions on various play topics, and 25 round table discussions. It will also host The Playwork Annual Awards Ceremony, presented by Baroness Delyth Morgan.

<http://www.playworkconferences.org.uk/1.html>

10 March 2010, Manchester

### **Playday Organiser Seminar**

The seminar will cover: organising a Playday event, getting publicity, funding and resources, and meaningful participation. The seminar is free to delegates from voluntary, community and statutory organisations.

<http://www.playday.org.uk>

10-13 March 2010, Atlanta, Georgia

### **Urban Play: IPA USA 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference and TASP 36<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference**

<http://www.ipausa.org>

13 March 2010, Chertsey, Surrey

### **Spirit of Play**

The SkillsActive Playwork Southern team will be hosting its annual regional play conference. Practical and theoretical workshops, exhibitors and speakers.

<http://www.skillsactive.com/arounduk/southeast/playwork>

19 March 2010, Nottingham

### **Creating Child friendly Communities: A regional conference**

Delegates from all over the East Midlands will gain a better understanding of children and young people's play and informal recreation and how they can work together to support more child friendly communities. Keynote speeches from Adrian Voce, Director of Play England and Wendy Russell, Senior Lecturer in Playwork, Gloucester University.

<http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/play>

23 March 2010, London

### **Playable Communities: Priorities for a new decade**

Play England is holding a major national conference that will consider the impact of the past four years national investment in play, explore how to sustain the momentum for change, and ask 'what next for play provision, playwork and playable public space?' The conference will celebrate the achievements to date and share learning for the future, including the impact that investing in play can have on a range of outcomes for children and families.

<http://www.playengland.org.uk>

20 April 2010, Bristol

### **Parks for Youth: A conference focusing on successfully engaging young people in parks and green spaces**

Organised by GreenSpace, the conference will feature presentations, workshops and site visits. Topics will include how to successfully consult with young people, methods of establishing strong and effective partnerships with other organisations that provide youth services, and how to enable young people to feel proud and take ownership of their local environment.

<http://www.green-space.org.uk/events/GS/parksforyouth.php>

5-6 May 2010, Cardiff

### **Spirit of Adventure Play**

The 10<sup>th</sup> annual conference organised by Play Wales will feature workshops and speakers, including George Broeseliske, Stuart Lester, Perry Else, and Jess Milne.

<http://www.playwales.org.uk>

13-24 May 2010

### **20<sup>th</sup> International Play Therapy World Congress**

The theme of the conference is 'Making a difference – innovations in the use of creative arts and play therapies'. Speakers from all over the world and a number of workshops.

<http://www.playtherapy.org.uk/WorldCongress/WorldCongress2010home.htm>

25-26 June 2010, Birmingham

### **British Association of Play Therapists Annual Conference**

The title of the conference is 'Integrating approaches to trauma in play therapy with children'. Key note speaker is Dr Eliana Gil, and the conference includes a number of workshops.

<http://www.bapt.uk.com>

## Play resources

Below is a selection of new books, reports and journal articles relating to children's play and added to the CPIS library in the past month. Please have a look at the CPIS website for the full listing, *Play Abstracts*, which is published at the beginning of each month: <http://www.ncb.org.uk/cpis>

If you would like to receive an email alert about this listing please email [cpis@ncb.org.uk](mailto:cpis@ncb.org.uk)

### **BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION (2009)**

#### ***Couch kids: the nation's future...***

London: British Heart Foundation.

Drawing on research evidence from across the UK, this report examines why physical activity is important for children, their physical activity levels, and what provision should be made available for them. It assesses levels of obesity among children and makes a number of recommendations, including "safe walking and cycling access for children to interesting places to play" and encouraging children to take part in physical activity during and around the school day.

[http://www.bhf.org.uk/publications/view\\_publication.aspx?ps=1001087](http://www.bhf.org.uk/publications/view_publication.aspx?ps=1001087)

### **COLE-HAMILTON, I., and others (2009)**

#### ***Better places to play through planning***

London: NCB for Play England.

Aimed at planning and transport authorities, this publication provides detailed guidance on setting local standards for access, quantity and quality of playable space, signposting benchmark standards for different types of local authority. It also shows how provision for better play opportunities can be promoted in planning policies and processes.

<http://www.playengland.org.uk/resources/better-places-to-play-through-planning.pdf>

### **DOLL, B., and BREM, K. (2010)**

#### ***Resilient playgrounds***

London: Routledge.

Provides tools and strategies for school professionals to evaluate and improve the recess (playtime) experience for children. Using a data-based problem solving strategy, the authors present methods for assessing playgrounds, identifying and modifying features that may have a negative impact on pupils' social interaction, and for monitoring outcomes. An accompanying CD contains additional resources.

### **FOLLETT, M., and PLOWDEN, L. (2010)**

#### ***Twenty years of the right to play***

Article in *Playtoday*, no.68 (Winter) pp14-16.

Describes the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular Article 31, which includes the right to play. The authors, who are both play practitioners, explain how the convention has had an impact on their work with children and young people.

### **GUMMER, A. (2010)**

#### ***The role of the modern playground in child development***

Article in *Ip-dip*, no.15 (Jan). pp24-26.

Discusses the reasons behind parents' reluctance of letting their children play outside, and considers the benefits of playgrounds for children's physical health, cognitive and social development, and for their opportunities for freedom and creative play.

**KILVINGTON, J., and WOOD, A. (2010)**

***Reflective playwork for all who work with children***

London: Continuum International.

Aimed at playworkers and others working with children and young people who are looking to adopt the values and principles of playwork. Topics covered include: playwork principles, reflective practice, play definitions and theories, childhood, child development, playwork practice, regulations, quality, playwork provision and relationship with parents and the community, and education and training.

**KING, P., and HOWARD, J. (2010)**

***How much freedom do children have in their free play?***

Article in *Ip-dip*, no.15 (Jan). 7page insert.

Reports on an exploratory investigation into children's perception of their free play. Using a self-administered questionnaire, The Play Detective Diary, 12 children, aged 6 to 11 years, from an after school club in South West Wales, recorded their play, who they played with, and their views on who was in control of their play.

**LEARNING THROUGH LANDSCAPES (2010)**

***Adventure in the school grounds***

(Groundnotes, Jan 2010)

Winchester: Learning Through Landscapes.

Looks at how schools can develop their playgrounds to support adventurous free play and adventurous activities.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS (2010)**

***Tackling ASB through play***

Article in *Local Government News*, vol 32, no.1 (Jan) pp50.

In recent years, it has been identified that the number of crimes committed by girls in England and Wales has increased. Highlights the work of Proludic, a play equipment company, that has been working with teenage girls to identify how to engage with them through outdoor fitness activities and enable them to play a more positive role within their community.

**NEWSON, R. (2010)**

***A community at play***

Article in *Local Government News*, vol 32, no.1 (Jan) pp48-49.

Argues that children's play is an essential element for building better, healthier and more child-friendly communities. Gives examples of child-friendly communities, and looks at the role of the Playshaper programme.

**THE PLAYING FIELD (2010)**

***A new playground from start to finish: a template to follow?***

Article in *The Playing Field*, (Winter) pp16-18.

Describes the development of a community playground in Watlington, including a detailed breakdown of the processes involved in planning, designing, funding and managing the facility.

**WARD, H. (2010)**

***Give them a break***

Article in *TES Magazine*, (22 Jan) pp28-31.

Reports on two schools that have transformed their school playgrounds to promote free and adventurous play. Looks at the importance of playtime for children, and how to manage risk.

## About us

### Children's Play Information Service (CPIS)

<http://www.ncb.org.uk/cpis> ▪ [cpis@ncb.org.uk](mailto:cpis@ncb.org.uk) ▪ Tel. 020 7843 6303/6026

The Children's Play Information Service (CPIS) is the national information service on children's play based at the NCB library. CPIS holds information on all aspects of children's play, including play theory, research and practical guidance.

Services include:

- enquiry service
- reference library
- free factsheets and student reading lists
- contact details of play consultants and play organisations
- details of play conferences and events

CPIS is funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and the Big Lottery Fund through Play England.

### Play England

<http://www.playengland.org.uk> ▪ [playengland@ncb.org.uk](mailto:playengland@ncb.org.uk) ▪ Tel. 020 7843 6300

Play England promotes excellent free play opportunities for all children and young people. Play England provides advice and support to promote good practice, and works to ensure that the importance of play is recognised by policy makers, planners and the public.

Services include:

- resources and information
- training, conferences and seminars
- networking and referrals
- advocacy and campaigning support

Play England is part of NCB, and is supported by the Big Lottery Fund.

## Contact us

If you have any news about your organisation, including conferences, that you would like to be included in the next *Children's Play Update*, email us at [playupdate@ncb.org.uk](mailto:playupdate@ncb.org.uk)

**Copy deadline Friday 5 March 2010, publication date Thursday 11 March 2010**

### **Children's Play Information Service (CPIS)**

Tel: +44 (0)20 7843 6303/6026

Email: [cpis@ncb.org.uk](mailto:cpis@ncb.org.uk)

### **Play England**

Tel: +44 (0)20 7843 6300

Email: [playengland@ncb.org.uk](mailto:playengland@ncb.org.uk)

### **NCB Library & Information Service**

Tel: +44 (0)20 7843 6008

Email: [library@ncb.org.uk](mailto:library@ncb.org.uk)

### **NCB Membership**

Tel: +44 (0)20 7843 6080

Email: [membership@ncb.org.uk](mailto:membership@ncb.org.uk)

