

## Welcome

Welcome to the July 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>

## Health and safety review to look at curbs on play

The government has launched a review into the so-called "compensation culture" following a series of high-profile health and safety decisions such as banning conkers from school playgrounds. Lord Young has been appointed to lead the review, which will report back to Downing Street by the summer.

<http://www.cypnow.co.uk/bulletins/InPractice/news/1009912/?DCMP=EMC-InPractice>

## Children's Commissioner work under review

The Education Secretary, Michael Gove, has ordered a review into the work of the Children's Commissioner. The review will look at the Commissioner's powers, relationship with other areas of government and value for money. John Dunford, general secretary of the Association of School and College Leaders, will carry out the review and report back by November.

<http://www.cypnow.co.uk/news/ByDiscipline/Education/1015563/ASCLs-John-Dunford-review-childrens-commissioner-role/>

(Telegraph, 13 Jul 2010, p4)

## Henley, J.; Let them climb trees.

Interview with Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods*, in which he coined the term "nature deficit disorder" to describe children who do not play outside in the natural world of open space, countryside or woodland. The widespread interest in his

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ideas about nature deficit disorder has led to the establishment of a foundation, the Children & Nature Network, that aims to collate and disseminate research in the field and building a movement to connect children and nature.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/2010/jun/05/nature-deficit-disorder-richard-louv>

<http://www.childrenandnature.org/>

### **Children crave more adventure**

A survey of children aged six to 12 found that 85% crave more adventure in their lives but many are not allowed to enjoy adventure sports or other activities because of parental fears for their safety. The research, by Elastoplast, found 55% of parents are anxious about their child's safety and admitted that their children lacked essential life skills. Dr Mandy Bryon, of Great Ormond Street Hospital, said "Risk helps children become resilient and gives them independence to think for themselves".

(Mirror, 28 Jun 2010, p29)

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/top-stories/2010/06/28/generation-are-cotton-wool-kids-115875-22366186/>

<http://www.elastoplast.co.uk/press.html>

### **Public attitudes to safeguarding children**

Research by The Children's Society on public attitudes to safeguarding children showed that more parents are worried about children who are left to play out late at night after 9pm (77%) compared with the smacking of primary school age children (29%).

(Mail, 8 Jul 2010, p11; Telegraph, 8 Jul 2010, p12)

[http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/resources/documents/Research/21368\\_full.pdf](http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/resources/documents/Research/21368_full.pdf)

[http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/whats\\_happening/media\\_office/latest\\_news/21360\\_pr.html](http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/whats_happening/media_office/latest_news/21360_pr.html)

## **Play England Update**

### **Play England reorganisation marks a new era for play**

Play England has announced a proposed reorganisation in the light of the imminent reduction in the value of its contracts with the Department for Education (DfE) for 2010-11, the removal of 'ring-fenced' funding for local play provision and the changing policy context for the play agenda under the coalition government. Play England is reshaping its work to focus more on supporting local communities to develop and run their own play spaces and services. Play England is in talks with DfE about a new contract to support this work, and is actively exploring several other opportunities to take forward a new strategy when its main Big Lottery Fund grant comes to an end next year.

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

### **Win £2000 support for your Playday celebrations**

Disney Interactive Studios has teamed up with Play England and partners to celebrate Playday on 4 August 2010 and the launch of Toy Story 3 The Video Game, by offering communities the chance to host a special Playday event.

On Playday, the national day for play, communities will be joining in the fun at hundreds of events across the UK. Disney Interactive Studios will not only fund £2000 towards your own Playday event – but will also help you arrange it. Three runners up will also win £500 towards their own Playday celebrations.

The competition is open to anyone including communities already planning a Playday event. Children aged under 18 need to get permission from a parent or guardian.

To enter, all you have to do visit <http://www.playday.org.uk/toystory> and tell us in no more than 500 why your community deserves a Playday event sponsored by Disney.

### **Children get just one hour of play a day**

Figures released by The British Toy and Hobby Association (BTHA) and Play England show that parents feel their children are not getting enough time to play with the average child playing for just over one hour (70 minutes) each day. As part of the BTHA's summer media campaign, an advert will be broadcast during children's television programming and a Facebook page is asking parents to 'Make a pledge' to dedicate more of their children's time each day to simply play. BTHA has set a target encouraging the UK to collectively pledge 2 million extra minutes to get out and play over the summer months.

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

### **Playday drawing consultation: What's it like to play where you live?**

This year's Playday drawing consultation has now been launched as part of the Playday 2010 *Our place* campaign. Play England is asking children and young people, 'What's it like to play where you live?' A colourful consultation template is available to download via the Playday website and all submissions will be entered into a prize draw to win a digital camera.

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

### **Placemakers lead the way**

Play England is piloting a tailored Play Shaper seminar titled *Placemaking and Play*. The seminar helps senior officers from local authority placemaking departments and their key partners to create child-friendly communities by embedding play into local priorities. The seminars also help placemaking professionals, such as transport planners, highway engineers, landscape architects and regeneration officers integrate play into their day-to-day design and decision making processes.

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

### **Play England at Play Fair**

Play Fair 2010, the Association of Play Industries (API) annual event where playground suppliers and manufacturers showcase their latest products, took place last month. Play England was pleased to participate in the seminar programme, with its director Adrian Voce speaking at seminars on both days of the event at Stoneleigh Park near Coventry. Play England's South West team staffed a marquee and responded to numerous questions regarding the future prospects of play provision in light of recent changes to government. The Play Design Network also met, attended by delegates responsible for delivering play in a range of settings, as well as representatives from API's member companies.

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

### **Quality in Play update**

The first round of assessments using the new Quality in Play programme and manual were completed in May. For play providers working towards assessment, the next application deadline was 12 July 2010, and a further date will be set for September 2010. Quality in Play is also looking for new mentors and assessors to join the

programme. The next round of training sessions will take place in September 2010. More information regarding dates and venues will be soon be available on the website.

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

### **Playful Communities website supports local neighbourhood play provision**

Play England's Playful Communities website is becoming more integral following recent government policy announcements that place more emphasis on the role of community and voluntary organisations in planning and delivering local services. The website is an online toolkit for individuals or local community groups interested in developing play provision in their neighbourhood.

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

### **Community spirit - Bringing people together through play**

29 September 2010 - Sheffield

Play England and Yorkshire Play are hosting a joint event which will take place on Wednesday 29 September 2010 in Sheffield. The event will focus on the notion of community and the need to create a sense of pride, ownership and community spirit within our neighbourhoods to create safer, more child friendly environments for children to play. Through strategic and practical workshops this event will focus on community safety, engagement, inclusion, creating playful environments and funding advice for community groups.

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

## **Policy**

### **Government**

#### **Government launches childhood and families task force**

Chaired by the Prime Minister and including the Deputy Prime Minister and other senior Ministers from across government departments, this group will seek to develop the child and family related policies outlined in the Coalition Agreement. During his speech to launch the task force, Nick Clegg indicated that this will include looking at how to create a secure environment for children including 'spaces where they can play.' Play England anticipates that this will provide opportunities to make the case for the play sector. The task force will report its conclusion by the end of 2010.

[http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/newsroom/news\\_releases/2010/100617-children.aspx](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/newsroom/news_releases/2010/100617-children.aspx)

#### **The Big Society**

The government's first major post election policy announcement was the launch of the Big Society agenda. This will involve a significant reduction in the role of the state with an increased role for voluntary and community groups and more decision making power at local government level. This will include: reform of the planning system, volunteering and a Big Society Bank to fund not for profit organisations, enabling communities to bid to take over local facilities and encouraging people to take part in community action.

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/407789/building-big-society.pdf>

## Review of Early Years Foundation Stage

Children's Minister Sarah Teather has asked Dame Clare Tickell, Chief Executive of Action for Children, to carry out a review of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The review will cover four main areas: scope of regulation; learning and development; assessment; and welfare.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/news/news/eyfs-review>

## Consultations

### Consultation on the National Lottery Shares

Following a Conservative Party manifesto commitment, the government has proposed to change the proportion of lottery funds going to arts, sport, heritage and charities. This means that the Big Lottery Fund (BIG) share of funds for the voluntary and community sector will fall from 50 per cent to 40 per cent by April 2012.

<http://www.culture.gov.uk/consultations/7070.aspx>

## 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)

24 July – 1 August, 2010, nationwide

### Love Parks Week

Annual campaign organised by GreenSpace.

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

4 August 2010, nationwide

### Playday 2010: Our Place

The Playday 2010 campaign is *Our place*. *Our place* puts children at the heart of our communities, and asks everyone, young and old, to help create better places for all of us to live and play.

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

3 September 2010, London

### Spirit of Play London

The SkillsActive Playwork Southern Tri-Region Team is holding its first playwork conference in London on Friday 3 September at Somerford Adventure Playground in Tottenham, London

[http://www.skillsactive.com/events/28\\_spirit\\_of\\_play\\_london](http://www.skillsactive.com/events/28_spirit_of_play_london)

10-12 September 2010, Stone, Staffordshire

### The Everydayness of Play: Beauty of Play Conference 2010

The annual 'conference under canvas' organised by Ludemos will feature a playful mix of workshops and outdoor activities.

<http://www.ludemos.co.uk>

29 September 2010, Sheffield

### Community spirit - Bringing people together through play

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community and the need to create a sense of pride, ownership and community spirit within our neighbourhoods to create safer, more child friendly environments for children to play. Through strategic and practical workshops this event will focus on community safety, engagement, inclusion, creating playful environments and funding advice for community groups.

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

29 September –1 October 2010, Karlstad, Sweden

**Create Inspiring Playgrounds: IPA Sweden and IPA World Conference**

<http://www.ipakarlstad.se>

30 September 2010, Edinburgh

**Places and Spaces: Creating Child-Friendly Communities: Play Scotland Annual Conference**

Speakers include Professor Frank Furedi and Matthew King, Child friendly Communities, UNICEF.

<http://www.playscotland.org>

13 October 2010, University of Greenwich, London

**Design for Play in 1930s Britain**

Organised by Greenwich Network for the Study of Play and Recreation, this seminar will be led by Alan Powers, Professor of Architecture and Cultural History, who has written extensively on children's play spaces and toys.

Contact: Dr Mary Clare Martin

Email: [m.c.h.martin@gre.ac.uk](mailto:m.c.h.martin@gre.ac.uk)

14 October 2010, Birmingham

**Developing mentoring practice in early years and playwork**

Discover the theory, practice and skills necessary to mentor successfully at this one day course. The training aims to raise the quality of mentoring in the early years and play sector as mentoring skills become a key tool for managers and local authority officers.

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

10 February 2011, Manchester

**Developing mentoring practice in early years and playwork**

Discover the theory, practice and skills necessary to mentor successfully at this one day course. The training aims to raise the quality of mentoring in the early years and play sector as mentoring skills become a key tool for managers and local authority officers.

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

24 February 2011

**Everybody's Business: Annual Playwork Inclusion Project (PIP) Conference**

Whilst final arrangements are being made about what to expect, you can email:

[pip@kids.org.uk](mailto:pip@kids.org.uk) for a booking form to secure your place. If you wish to promote your organisation, please email [pip@kids.org.uk](mailto:pip@kids.org.uk) to express an interest and get a ratecard.

1-2 March 2011, Eastbourne

**National Playwork Conference**

Details to be provided nearer the time.

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

12-13 April 2011, University of Gloucestershire

**Philosophy at Play Conference: First Call for Papers**

An interdisciplinary conference focusing on philosophical aspects of play. The deadline for submission of a 300-500 word abstract is 11 October 2010. Please email abstracts to:

[philosophyatplay@glos.ac.uk](mailto:philosophyatplay@glos.ac.uk)

For further information please email:

[eryall@glos.ac.uk](mailto:eryall@glos.ac.uk)

4 – 7 July 2011, Cardiff

**Playing into the Future – Surviving and Thriving: The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary World Conference of the International Play Association (IPA)**

Call for abstracts on the following themes: play – individual and social; play – environment and space; and play – society and culture. Deadline for abstract submission 10 November 2010.

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

<http://www.ipa2011.org/>

## 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)

### **BENEKER, T., and others (2010)**

#### ***Picturing the city: young people's representations of urban environments***

Article in *Children's Geographies*, vol.8, no.2 (May). pp.123-140.

Urban environments form the setting of everyday life for most young people in the Western world. This paper analysed students' drawings of cities focusing on physical characteristics, activities and issues. Findings showed many commonalities between drawings from the four countries.

### **CRAWLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE (1955)**

#### ***Crawley adventure playground***

Crawley: Crawley Community Association

Describes the development of Crawley Adventure Playground, including a shortened version of the diary kept in the first season in 1954.

<http://www.crawley.gov.uk/stellent/groups/public/documents/otherdocs/int178848.pdf>

### **FRANCIS, B. (2010)**

#### ***Gender, toys and learning***

Article in *Oxford Review of Education*, vol.36, no.3 (Jun). pp325-344.

There has been little discussion in recent years of the argument developed in the 1970s that children's choice of toys is dependent on gender and that this has an influence on later curriculum subject preference. This article describes a small-scale empirical study that asked parents of 3-5 year old children to identify their child's favourite toys and viewing materials, and analysed responses according to gender.

### **FREEMAN, C. (2010)**

#### ***Children's neighbourhoods, social centres to 'terra incognita'***

Article in *Children's Geographies*, vol.8, no.2 (May) pp.157-176.

Reporting on a study of 92 children aged 9 - 11 years in Dunedin, New Zealand, this paper explores the way children interact with their neighbourhoods to see whether they are socially connected to their neighbourhoods or leading more spatially dispersed social lives.

### **IP-DIP (2010)**

#### ***A potted history of reflective practice***

Article in *Ip-dip*, no.19 (May). pp4.

A brief chronological overview of the development of reflective practice in playwork.

**KIDS (2010)**

***Playing outdoors? Disabled children's views of play pathfinder and playbuilder play spaces: an overview of KIDS research***

London: KIDS.

This study aimed to examine disabled children and their parents' and carers' views of new play spaces developed by play pathfinder and playbuilder local authorities. Sixty-six children participated in the research.

**NWOKAH, E. (ed). (2010)**

***Play as engagement and communication (Play and culture studies, 10)***

Lanham: University Press of America.

Provides a multidisciplinary and varied perspective on play. Topics covered include: hospital play; play with animals; pretend play; cheating and game play; rough and tumble play in early childhood settings; sociodramatic play in early childhood classrooms; and assertive play.

**PERCY-SMITH, B. (2010)**

***Councils, consultations and community: rethinking the spaces for children and young people's participation***

Article in *Children's Geographies*, vol.8, no.2 (May) pp.107-122.

Critically examines prevailing models of children's participation in formal structures and argues for the need to rethink children's participation as a more diverse set of social processes rooted in everyday environments and interactions.

**TAWIL, B. (2010)**

***Reflective practice***

Article in *Ip-dip*, no.19 (May). Insert).

Discusses two dimensions of reflective practice in playwork: knowledge and action and tools and skills.

**TOMANOVIC, S., and PETROVIC, M. (2010)**

***Children's and parents' perspectives on risks and safety in three Belgrade neighbourhoods***

Article in *Children's Geographies*, vol.8, no.2 (May) pp.141-156.

Investigates children's and parents' perspectives on risks and safety in three Belgrade neighbourhoods, in the context of Serbian society undergoing rapid transformation.

## 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 Education, 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)

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