

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

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>

Play

Fair Play consultation

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) consultation on the national play strategy is now closed for adults. The consultation aimed at children is still open, and children are encouraged to give their views on play and design their own play space.

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/playspace/>

Creative play boat for children on the Grand Union Canal

Milton Keynes Play Association (MKPA) has been awarded almost £250,000 from the Big Lottery Fund's Playful Ideas project to fund the Creative Play Boat project. The play boat will be a narrow boat carrying play equipment to widen the play opportunities for children aged eight to thirteen in Milton Keynes, Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire.

http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/pr_240608_eng_pi_play_boat?regioncode=-uk

Survey finds that parents want their children to have more outdoor play

A survey of 2,000 parents by the first aid brand TCP found that on average children play outside for just five and a half hours a week, but spend almost ten hours a week watching TV or playing video games. Although 69 per cent of the parents surveyed nationally said they would like their children to play outside more, a third said they wouldn't be comfortable letting them play unaccompanied

http://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/cn_news_cambridge/DisplayArticle.asp?ID=328189

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More activities for young people this summer

Children in 18 disadvantaged areas across the country are to get access to sports, arts and drama via a £265 million cash fund. The cash injection comes as the Department for Children, Schools and Families released figures that show that half of all schools are already providing extended school services.

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2008_0139

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/7490024.stm>

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/schools/story/0,,2289643,00.html>

New book argues that outdoor play and risk are important for boys

Sue Palmer, former head teacher and author of *Toxic Childhood*, argues in her new book, *21st Century Boys* (due to be published early 2009) that if they are to develop properly, it is a biological necessity for boys to run around, take risks and compete with each other. Palmer believes children should start school later, at age seven or eight, and before that should be allowed to concentrate on playing outside and developing their social skills.

(Times 2, 8 Jul 2008, pp10-11)

http://women.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/women/families/article4288100.ece

Background television affects children's play

Having the television on in the background affects the quality and quantity of play in young children and may hinder their development, according to research published in the journal *Child Development*. The researchers studied 50 children aged one, two and three, and watched them playing in the same room as their parents for an hour. For half that time an adult game show was on the TV and the parents were asked to ignore the child unless she/he needed their attention. The researchers found that the children's play during the period that the TV was switched on was less focused, even though the child appeared to be paying no attention to the programme.

(Guardian, 15 Jul 2008, p13; Mail, 15 Jul 2008, p13)

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2008/jul/15/children.schools>

Child protection

Report claims that many adults are afraid to interact with children

A new report published by the independent think-tank Civitas argues that the growth of child protection policies, police vetting and Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks is poisoning the relationship between the generations and damaging the voluntary sector.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7474692.stm>

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

Play England update

Help transform children's play: work for Play England

Children's play has never been a higher priority. Can you help Play England ensure this opportunity isn't missed? The government's Children's Plan includes record investment of £235 million in children's play and the first national play strategy. Play England has been commissioned to support and challenge local authorities to ensure that this investment transforms public play space and play services, to make a lasting impact for all children.

Over 3 years, Play England will build on its excellent track record for delivering major strategic projects to influence local government and services to rethink and prioritise how they provide play opportunities for children in their area.

Play England is looking for nine excellent employees, including a new assistant director, to help make this unique opportunity a lasting reality for all children and young people.

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

http://www.ncb.org.uk/Page.asp?originx8973qe_28824120816137d40c4325166756

Play England response to Fair Play consultation

Play England has responded to the government consultation on the proposed national play strategy, *Fair Play*. Play England's response is based on regional and national consultation events, and submissions sent to Play England by individual members and stakeholders within the sector.

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

Get set for the biggest Playday ever!

Final plans are underway for this year's Playday celebrations on 6 August. Nearly 400 Playday events have been registered through the website so far, which has already exceeded last year's 300, and more exciting events are being submitted daily. It's not too late to get involved in this year's Playday, visit the Playday website for last minute ideas or to find out how Playday is being celebrated near you.

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

Playday is also pleased to announce that Persil will be supporting Playday 2008, as part of their *Every Child has the right* campaign to champion the benefits of play. This partnership will greatly benefit the Playday campaign, allowing additional support for event organisers, and help bring the campaign messages to a wider audience.

<http://www.persil.com>

Design for Play preview published

Play England has published a preview of its forthcoming guide, *Design for Play: A guide to creating successful play spaces*. The preview outlines the guide's 10 design principles, which are at the core of a fresh, design-led approach to commissioning play spaces and which are encapsulated in one 'golden rule'. Play England commissioned the Free Play Network to produce the guide, and will publish it with the Department for Children, Schools and Families once it receives confirmation of ministerial support.

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

Call for teachers' views on play in schools

If you are a teacher, Play England and the Teacher Support Network would like to hear your thoughts and experiences about provision of play in schools and would be very grateful if you could spare five minutes or less to complete this short survey. All answers are completely confidential and will remain anonymous.

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

Play England reaches 200 membership applications

In the first three months since the membership launch, Play England has received 200 applications for membership. Full information on membership and its benefits, can be found on the Play England website.

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

Policy

Consultations

Delivering the Children's Plan - Strengthening Children's Trusts: Legislative options

This discussion document proposes a number of changes to the current framework for Children's Trusts. This includes requiring all areas to have a Children and Young People's Plan, with extended ownership of the plan to all statutory partners and extending the 'duty to cooperate' to other key partners. The closing date for responses is 25 September 2008.

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/conDetails.cfm?consultationId=1568>

A Focus on Improvement: Proposals for maintained school inspections from September 2009

Ofsted has reviewed its arrangements for the inspection of schools. The changes proposed should ensure that inspection does more to drive improvement where it is most needed; takes greater account of the needs of those being inspected; targets resources where they will have the greatest impact on outcomes for learners; and uses resources as efficiently as possible. Closing date for responses is 11 August 2008.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/portal/site/Internet/menuitem.455968b0530071c4828a0d8308c08a0c/?vgnextoid=ceb8eb8381fa6110VgnVCM1000003507640aRCRD>

Schools' Role in Promoting Well-being: Draft guidance for consultation

The 2006 Education and Inspections Act laid a duty on the governing bodies of maintained schools, primary, secondary, special and Pupil Referral Units, in discharging their functions relating to the conduct of the school, to promote the well-being of pupils at the school. This consultation offers guidance on schools' role in promoting well-being and on the support they can expect from their local authority and other partners in the Children's Trust. Closing date for comments is 25 September 2008.

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/conDetails.cfm?consultationId=1564>

Early Years

Early Years Foundation Stage: It's child play

This leaflet is aimed at early years practitioners. It includes case studies on a Montessori nursery and a child minder, plus a scrapbook of photos demonstrating the early years foundation stage in action.

http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/EYFS%20Supp_July08.pdf

Extended Schools

Extended Schools: Testing the delivery of the core offer around extended schools

The overall aim of this research was to better understand the provision, usage and implementation of extended services within English schools. The study found that schools adopt a wide variety of approaches to monitoring the provision and take-up of the services they deliver.

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RW037.pdf>

Funding

Futurebuilders

Futurebuilders England has launched a new £1m tender fund intended to help third sector providers win contracts where prohibitive tendering costs would otherwise make it difficult for them to bid. It will provide interest-free three-year loans of between £3,000 and £50,000.

http://www.futurebuilders-england.org.uk/content/News/Pressreleasesnew/newstest12/article_37_1472.aspx

Health

Health inequalities

The Department of Health and Association of Public Health Observatories have published new research mapping the nation's health in local areas. This year's data also includes new information on child health inequalities.

<http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/item.aspx?RID=52791>

Local government

Creating Strong and Prosperous Communities: Statutory guidance

The Department for Communities and Local Government provides statutory guidance to local authorities and their partners on creating strong, safe and prosperous communities. It covers local strategic partnerships, sustainable community strategies and local area agreements and replaces previous guidance on Local Strategic Partnerships and Sustainable Community Strategies.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/885397.pdf>

Communities in Control: Real people, real power

This Department for Communities and Local Government White Paper sets out how the government plans to give citizens and communities more rights and more power through: more information and greater influence over the local decisions that affect them; new means of holding politicians and councils to account; and, where they choose, more opportunity to get directly involved in managing and shaping how local services are delivered.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/886045.pdf>

Local Area Agreements

Local priorities are about creating the sort of place you want to live in. The priorities local areas will focus on have been captured in the local area agreement (LAA). This sets out what will be tackled on an area-by-area basis across England over the next three years. The Local Priorities website aims to show you what the priorities are in your area.

<http://www.localpriorities.communities.gov.uk/>

Participation

Local involvement leads to happier communities

A new report from the Local Wellbeing Project shows how neighbourhood and community empowerment can improve wellbeing. It examines how active citizenship can contribute to wellbeing by providing greater opportunities for residents to influence decisions affecting their neighbourhoods, facilitating regular contact between neighbours, and helping residents gain the confidence to exercise control.

<http://www.youngfoundation.org.uk/node/782>

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

6 August 2008, nationwide

Give us a go! Playday 2008

The Playday Give us a go! campaign will promote the benefits of allowing children to manage their own risks whilst playing, and aims to counter the risk-averse 'cotton wool' culture that is increasingly prevalent. For information on events in your area visit the Playday website.

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

5-7 September 2008, Staffordshire

The Beauty of Play – Conference under canvas

Organised by Ludemos, the conference will feature playful activities, discussions, music and storytelling in the open air or indoors. The theme for this year is 'Rhythms in Play'.

Email: info.ludemos@virgin.net

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

9, 10, 11 September 2008, London

Promotion of Physical Activity, Play and Sport in Children and Pre-school children – NICE Workshop

The National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is producing recommendations on how to promote physical activity, play and sport that will support public policies on the commissioning and conduct of schemes and programmes. NICE is inviting those interested to half-day workshops to help to review and develop these recommendations.

Contact: Alicia Tobierre

Tel: 020 7874 1771

Email: Alicia.tobierre@greenstreet.co.uk

9 September 2008, Liverpool

Promotion of Physical Activity, Play and Sport in Children and Pre-school children – NICE Workshop

Contact: Alicia Tobierre

Tel: 020 7874 1771

Email: Alicia.tobierre@greenstreet.co.uk

11 September 2008, Newcastle

Promotion of Physical Activity, Play and Sport in Children and Pre-school children – NICE Workshop

Contact: Alicia Tobierre

Tel: 020 7874 1771

Email: Alicia.tobierre@greenstreet.co.uk

11 September 2008, London

Haringey Play Network Meeting

A 'new branded, fun, innovative, informative and fun' Play Network meeting with an opportunity to come and play in the adventure playground and a listen to a 'mysterious guest speaker'.

Contact: Alex Sharp, Haringey Play Association

Email: alex@haringey-play.org.uk

15 September 2008, Birmingham

Promotion of Physical Activity, Play and Sport in Children and Pre-school children – NICE Workshop

Contact: Alicia Tobierre

Tel: 020 7874 1771

Email: Alicia.tobierre@greenstreet.co.uk

16-17 September, 2008, Sheffield

Natural Play Environments: Aspirational and hands-on conference with design workshops

Organised by the Department of Landscape, University of Sheffield, and sponsored by CABA Space, the event will provide information on designing play spaces in a more natural way. There will be a limited number of speakers and an opportunity to develop a site design.

<http://www.shef.ac.uk/landscape/events>

18 September 2008, London

Inclusion into Practice

Organised by KIDS, this national conference will focus on current thinking on good practice in inclusion and will provide opportunities for both statutory and voluntary sectors to develop their practice towards inclusive play, childcare and leisure. Includes workshops and presentations.

Contact: Carly Brown, YP-in Co-ordinator, KIDS

Email: info@yp-in.biz

23 September 2008, Reading

Reaching Out

Organised by Green Space, the conference will focus on managing parks for greater engagement with black and minority ethnic groups.

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

26 September 2008, Ayr

Play Ranges: Play Scotland Annual Conference

Play Scotland's 10th anniversary will be celebrated at this conference, which will cover a range of topics, including play types, play rangers, and fire play. Keynote speaker is Bob Hughes.

Contact: Play Scotland

Email@ sharonforrester@playscotland.org

13-17 October 2008, Paris

11th International Toy Library Conference

Call for papers. The conference will focus on three themes: toys and games in toy libraries, the toy library as a cultural institution, and objects and playwork practice in the contemporary world.

Contact: Association des Ludotheques Francaises

Email: congres@alf-ludotheques.org

<http://www.alf-ludotheques.org>

3-5 November 2008, Rotterdam

Child in the City

Organised by the European Network for Child Friendly Cities and the Child in the City Foundation, the conference will focus on child friendly communities and the points of reference for child friendly cities.

<http://www.childinthecity.com>

19 November 2008, Nottingham

The British Heart Foundation National Centre for Physical Activity and Health (BHFNC) 8th Annual Conference

The conference, *Opening doors to an active life: How to engage inactive communities*, aims to provide practical examples, solutions and guidance on how to engage inactive communities in physical activity.

Email: bhnc@equitycommunications.co.uk

<http://www.bhfactive.org.uk/downloads/BHFNC8thAnnualConferenceFlyer.pdf>

20 November 2008, London

Playing Out: outdoor places = playable spaces?

London Play's annual conference and AGM. Speakers and workshops will present views and discuss the shrinking outdoors, park play, school grounds, and more.

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

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:

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4Children (2007)

Free range childhoods: creating good neighbourhoods for children to grow up in

London: 4Children.

Presents proposals for a package of measures designed to create a network of universal and joined up opportunities and services for all children, young people and families. Measures focus

on prevention and early intervention, tackling poverty, creating good local neighbourhoods, supporting older children, and providing access to good public space, parks and places to play.
<http://www.4children.org.uk/uploads/information/FreeRangeChildhoods.pdf>

4Children (2008)

Getting started: developing childcare in and around schools. A resource for schools and partners

London: 4Children.

A guide for all those developing childcare in and around schools to help them to provide flexible, responsive services to meet community needs. Provides guidance on consultation, developing the childcare offer, business planning, finance and sustainability, workforce, policies and procedures, and monitoring and evaluation.

Davis, L (2008)

Free play: improving children's physical health (Play England play sector briefing, 5)

London: Play England.

Highlights the recommendations made in guidance issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) on obesity, which relates to free play, leisure opportunities and access to open space.

<http://www.playengland.org.uk/play/free-play-improving-physical-health-nov2007.pdf>

Duncan, J and Lockwood, M (2008)

Learning through play: a work-based approach for the early years professional

London: Continuum International Publishing Group.

A handbook for early years practitioners on how to develop their understanding and practical applications of play in their settings. Examines how children learn, discusses play and its role in pre-school education, and looks at the key principles for developing and supporting play. Also considers the management, evaluation and development of quality pre-school provision. Includes professional development activities.

Harrop, J (2008)

A world where children can regain their childhood

Article in *London Play News*, no.40 (Summer). pp4-5.

Outlines how the Children's Plan and the forthcoming national play strategy will impact on children living in London.

Hunter Blair, M and McIntyre, S (2008)

Raising the bar: findings of the Scottish Play Commission

Edinburgh: Play Scotland.

Presents the findings of the Scottish Play Commission, which was set up to examine the state of play in Scotland. Covers outdoor play, environments for play, play at home, play in schools, physical literacy, risk aversion, workforce development, equality, and health and play. Includes a number of recommendations to the Scottish government, including the development of a national play strategy and national play indicators.

<http://www.playscotland.org/pdfs/FindingsoftheSPCReport.pdf>

Learning Through Landscapes (2008)

Planning for change

Groundnotes.

Winchester: Learning Through Landscapes.

Explains in four stages how schools can design, use and manage their school grounds.

Learning Through Landscapes (2008)

Where do we want to be?

Profiles.

Winchester: Learning Through Landscapes.

Looks at how schools can involve children in the school grounds design process.

Michael Tombs Childcare Services (2008)

The ultimate playscheme pack

Doncaster: MTCS.

A loose-leaf resource for playscheme staff. Includes games, parachute games, arts and crafts, a summary of the play types, and potential sources of funding.

Newstead, S (2008)

The buskers guide to risk

Eastleigh: Common Threads Publications.

Discusses the need and right of children to play in a way that involves physical, social and emotional risk, and encourages playworkers and other adults to balance the need to protect children with the benefits of challenging play.

Payne, L, Renton, Z and McNeish, D (2008)

Play and informal recreation in Children and Young People's Plans

London: National Children's Bureau for Play England.

Based on an analysis of 31 Children and Young People's Plans (CYPPs), the report assesses the extent to which they address children and young people's need for play and informal recreational activity. Findings showed that many CYPPs explicitly acknowledge the importance of play, however, local authorities seemed less clear about the actions they will take to implement and increase play opportunities.

<http://www.playengland.org.uk/resources/play-informal-recreation-cypp.pdf>

Powell, S and Wellard, I (2008)

Policies and play: the impact of national policies on children's opportunities for play

London: National Children's Bureau for Play England.

Commissioned by Play England, this report presents the findings of a study that assessed the impact of national policies and legislation on children and young people's opportunities to play.

The study examined a sample of policy documents from different government departments, and interviewed individuals representing local authority play services and organisations with an interest in play. Includes a number of recommendations.

<http://www.playengland.org.uk/resources/policies-and-play.pdf>

Roberts, M (2008)

Playtrail in Derry

Article in *Schools Etc*, no.9 (Jun). pp22-23.

Describes the Playtrail, an inclusive adventure one-kilometer woodland trail that includes an educational play space, an outdoor adventure area, a sensory play area, orienteering course, gardens and a visitors centre.

About us

Children's Play Information Service (CPIS)

<http://www.ncb.org.uk/cpis> ▪ 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 National Children's Bureau 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 ▪ 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 a project of the Children's Play Council, part of the National Children's Bureau, 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

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