

Key Sources of Information on Children's Play

This Factsheet lists the key organisations and sources of information on children's play.

Play – general

Children's Play Information Service

The national library and information service specialising in children's play.

NCB, 8 Wakley Street, London EC1V 7QE.

Tel: 020 7843 6303/6026.

www.ncb.org.uk/cpis

Fair Play for Children

Campaigns for better funding, status and support for children's play.

32 Longford Road, Bognor Regis, West Sussex, PO21 1AG.

Tel: 0845 330 7635.

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

4Children

National organisation promoting play and out of school care facilities for children.

City Reach, 5 Greenwich View Place, London E14 9NN.

Tel: 020 7512 2112; 020 7512 2100 (information line)

www.4children.org.uk

Free Play Network

Aims to promote greater public understanding of the need for better play opportunities for children, by promoting discussion, exchange of information, and guidance on best practice in development of children's play opportunities.

129 Lancaster Road, New Barnet, Hertfordshire EN4 8AJ.

Tel: 020 8440 9276.

www.freeplaynetwork.org.uk

National Playbus Association

Offers support, training and advice to mobile play and activity projects across the UK.

Brunswick Court, Brunswick Square, Bristol BS2 8PE.

Tel: 0117 916 6580.

www.playbus.org.uk

Play England

Play England, part of the National Children's Bureau, promotes strategies for free play and aims to create a lasting support structure for play providers in England. It is a key element of the Children's Play Initiative of the Big Lottery Fund.

www.playengland.org.uk

Play Scotland

The lead organisation advocating for children's play in Scotland.

Midlothian Innovation Centre,
Pentlandsfield, Roslin, Midlothian
EH25 9RE.

Tel: 0131 440 9070.

www.playscotland.org

Play Wales

The national organisation for children's play in Wales. Provides advice, support and guidance to anyone with an interest in children's play in Wales. Services include a library and information service.

Baltic House, Mount Stuart Square,
Cardiff CF10 5FH, Wales.

Tel: 029 2048 6050.

www.playwales.org.uk

Playboard

Lead agency for children's play in Northern Ireland.

59-65 York Street, Belfast, BT15
1AA, Northern Ireland.

Tel: 028 9080 3380.

www.playboard.org

Institute for Sports, Parks and Leisure (ISPAL)

The professional body of the leisure industry.

Abbey House, 1650 Arlington
Business Park, Theale, Reading,
Berkshire RG7 4SA.

Tel: 0844 418 0077.

www.ispal.org.uk

London Play

London Play supports and coordinates out of school play services across London and campaigns for children's right to play.

Units F6-F7, 89-93 Fonthill Road,
London N4 3JH.

Tel: 020 7272 2464.

www.londonplay.org.uk

National Association of Toy and Leisure Libraries

National body for toy and leisure libraries in the UK.

NATLL, 68 Churchway, London N1
1LT.

Tel: 020 7255 4600.

www.natll.org.uk

Fields in Trust (FIT)

Formerly the National Playing Fields Association, FIT is a national organisation with specific responsibility for acquiring, protecting and improving playing fields and playgrounds.

2d Woodstock Studios, 36
Woodstock Grove, London W12
8LE.

Tel: 020 8735 3380.

www.fieldsintrust.org

Playlink

Supports local authorities, organisations and groups that want to create the best possible play opportunities for children and young people, from policy development through to practice.

72 Albert Palace Mansions, Lurline
Gardens, London SW11 4QD.

Tel: 020 7720 2452.

www.playlink.org.uk

Pre-School Learning Alliance (PLA)

Aims to support the work of community pre-schools through training, quality assurance systems, publications, advice and advocacy.

The Fitzpatrick Building, 188 York
Way, London N7 9AD.

Tel: 020 7697 2500.

www.pre-school.org.uk

Inclusive play

Kids National Development Division

Formerly part of Kidsactive. Offers a wide range of training and aims to deliver a strategic programme to support the play sector to achieve the Every Child Matters objectives for disabled children. Runs the Playwork Inclusion Project (PIP).
KIDS National Office, 6 Aztec Row, Berners Road, London N1 0PW.
Tel: 020 7359 3073.
www.kids.org.uk

Play in schools

Learning Through Landscapes

A national charity which campaigns for children's right to good school grounds and helps schools to improve their school grounds.
3rd Floor, Southside Offices, The Law Courts, Winchester SO23 9DL.
Tel: 01962 846 258.
www.ltl.org.uk

Groundwork UK

A federation of local trusts working with partners to improve the quality of the local environment, including play space in the community and in schools.
Lockside, 5 Scotland Street, Birmingham B1 2RR.
Tel: 0121 236 8565.
www.groundwork.org.uk

Play safety

RoSPA Play Safety

The play safety site of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents website has downloadable information sheets on playground safety and legislation.
RoSPA Play Safety Ltd, The Old Barn, Wicklesham Lodge, Farringdon, Oxfordshire SN7 7PN.
Tel: 01367 244600.
www.rospa.com/playsafety

Playwork

UK Playworkers E-group

A discussion list for playworkers.
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Ukplayworkers>
Registration is required to join this group

SkillsActive

SkillsActive works across the UK leading the development of playwork education and training. Information sheets on playwork training and qualifications which can be downloaded from their website.
Castlewood House, 77-91 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1PX.
Tel: 020 7632 2000.
www.skillsactive.com/playwork

Regional Centres for Playwork Education and Training

There is a Centre for Playwork Education and Training in each region in England.

East

www.playworkeast.org.uk/

East Midlands

www.playworkeastmidlands.org.uk/

London

www.playworklondon.org.uk/

North East

www.playworknortheast.org.uk/

North West

www.playworknorthwest.org.uk/

South East

www.playworksoutheast.org.uk/

South West

www.playworksouthwest.org.uk/

West Midlands

www.playworkwestmidlands.org.uk/

Yorkshire and the Humber

www.playworkyorkshirehumber.org.uk/

Universities with playwork courses

Leeds Metropolitan University

Civic Quarter, Leeds LS1 3HE.

Tel: 0113 283 3113.

www.leedsmet.ac.uk

University of East

London/Thurrock and Basildon College

Woodview Campus, Grays, Essex RM16 2YR.

Tel: 0845 601 5746.

www.uel.ac.uk

University of Gloucestershire

Francis Close Hall, Swindon Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL50 4AZ.

Tel: 01242 536 297.

www.glos.ac.uk

University of Wales College, Newport

Caerleon Campus, PO Box 101, Newport, South Wales NP18 3YH.

Tel: 01633 432432.

www.newport.ac.uk

Playground equipment and toys

Association of Play Industries (API)

The lead trade body within the play sector, representing the interests of the manufacturers, installers, designers and distributors of both outdoor and indoor play equipment and safer surfacing.

Federation House, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire CV8 2RF

Tel: 024 76 414999 ext 208

www.api-play.org

British Toy and Hobby Association

Aims to promote and protect the interests of the British toy industry. Information on toys and play available on their website.

80 Camberwell Road, London SE5 0EG.

Tel: 020 7701 7271

www.btha.co.uk

Play therapy

British Association of Play Therapists (BAPT)

Professional association for play therapy in the UK.

1 Beacon Mews, South Road, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 9DZ.

Tel: 01932 828 638.

www.bapt.uk.com

Hospital play

Action for Sick Children

Campaigns and lobbies for the rights of children in hospital.

Office 3, Abbey Business Centre.
36 Jacksons Edge Road, Disley,
Stockport SK12 2JL.

Tel: 0800 0744519.

www.actionforsickchildren.org

National Association of Hospital Play Staff (NAHPS)

Aims to promote high professional standards for play staff, and to ensure the provision of play facilities in hospitals.

www.nahps.org.uk

Hospital Play Specialists

Internet discussion group for play workers who work in a hospital, hospice or health care setting as well as hospital play specialists/students.

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/hospitalplayspecialists/>

Yahoo mail address is required to join.

Play space/Public open space

Home Zone News

Information about creating and designing home zones, including details of home zone developments throughout the UK.

www.homezonenews.org.uk

CABE Space

Aims to be a national champion for urban parks and green spaces.

Most of their publications can be downloaded from their website.

1 Kemble Street, London WC2B 4AN.

Tel: 020 7070 6700.

www.cabespace.org.uk

GreenSpace

A charity which works to improve parks and green spaces by raising awareness, involving communities and creating skilled professionals.

Caversham Court, Church Road,
Reading RG4 7AD.

Tel: 0118 946 9060.

www.green-space.org.uk

Legislation and policy on children and play

Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)

www.culture.gov.uk

Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF)

www.dcsf.gov.uk

Department for Transport (DfT)

www.dft.gov.uk

Department of Health (DH)

www.dh.gov.uk

Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG)

www.communities.gov.uk

Ofsted

www.ofsted.gov.uk

info4local

One-stop information gateway for local public services. Provides access to information from central government departments, agencies and public bodies. Provides a free email alerting service.

www.info4local.gov.uk

Compiled by Anna Kassman-McKerrell, July 2006, revised February 2008.

The Children's Play Information Service produces factsheets and student reading lists on a variety of play topics, and can also provide customised reading lists in response to individual requests.

Children's Play Information Service
National Children's Bureau
8 Wakley Street
London EC1V 7QE
Tel: 020 7843 6303/6026
Fax: 020 7843 6007
Email: cpis@ncb.org.uk
<http://www.ncb.org.uk/cpis>

The Children's Play Information Service is funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and the Big Lottery Fund through Play England, and forms part of the National Children's Bureau Library and Information Service.

© National Children's Bureau 2007, 2008.