

## Welcome

Welcome to the June 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>

## Play

### Councils embrace risky play

Councils are ignoring the so called 'compensation culture' and investing in more adventurous play equipment as part of the governments £235m investment in England's play facilities. Latest research by the Local Government Association (LGA) has found that councils are keen that new playgrounds focus on fun and excitement rather than 'wrap children in cotton wool.' The government is looking to see 3,500 new or revamped facilities built by 2011 as part of the investment. Of these, 500 have opened and, according to the LGA, equipment already being bought includes giant climbing walls, tree houses and zip wires.

<http://www.cypnow.co.uk/bulletins/Daily-Bulletin/news/908385/?DCMP=EMC-DailyBulletin>

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pageId=1936403>

### Children being 'raised in captivity', warns psychologist

Children who are kept indoors are far more at risk than those allowed to go out to playgrounds and parks – because of the perils of the internet, a child expert claimed. Over-protective parents who refuse to let their children play outside are mistaken in believing that they will be safer, said Professor Tanya Byron. She said that attempts to keep children safe indoors could backfire because of the danger of their turning to the internet for something to do, which could involve other risks. 'We are raising a

## In this issue

Play in the news

Play England  
update

Policy

Conferences and  
events

Play resources

About us

Contact us

whole generation of children in captivity because parents are increasingly risk-averse,' said Professor Byron. She has been commissioned by Gordon Brown to investigate the harmful effects of video games and websites.

<http://www.express.co.uk/posts/view/106493/Let-children-play-outside-it-is-far-less-dangerous->

### **Learning and development: sand play**

Influenced by the principles of heuristic play, staff at Stepping Stones Childcare Centre have developed sand areas that give the under-threes choice and unrestricted access. Manager Jill Tomlinson said: 'Among our key objectives is the aim to provide children with a wide range of opportunities and resources to allow them to experience, explore and experiment in all areas of learning'. Staff believe that children should not be restricted in their access to sand, water and paint. These materials are presented appropriately, with due regard for health and safety issues.

<http://www.nurseryworld.co.uk/inDepth/911970/Learning---Development-Sand-Play---Floor-plans/>

### **Traditional playground games to become computer games**

The British Library has teamed up with Nintendo and three universities to turn traditional playground games, such as cat's cradle and hopscotch, into computer games similar to the Wii sports games. Children from two primary schools will also be helping with the work. Researchers will also an interactive website for families, educators and the general public.

<http://www.ioe.ac.uk/newsEvents/27010.html>

## **Playwork**

### **Playwork People survey**

If you work within the playwork sector, your views are valuable as they can help SkillsActive to shape the future of playwork training and education through the Playwork People survey. The survey is for everyone who works in playwork, and consists of two questionnaires; one for everyone employed in playwork, and a second questionnaire for employers. All respondents will be asked about their role and qualifications whilst employers will be asked further questions about recruitment difficulties and vacancies in their play provision.

To access the survey for everybody, visit

<http://www.skillsactive.com/survey/PP4/employee>

To access the survey for employers, visit

<http://www.skillsactive.com/survey/PP4/employer>

If you have any questions, or would like to order any hard copies, please telephone 020 7632 2000 or email

[jonathan.parsons@SkillsActive.com](mailto:jonathan.parsons@SkillsActive.com)

### **Introducing the new SkillsActive playwork tri-regions**

SkillsActive now has a new regional structure which consists of three super regions: Northern Region which covers: North West, North East and Yorkshire and the Humber; Midlands Region which covers: West Midlands, East Midlands and the South West; and Southern Region which covers: East, London and the South East.

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

### **Playwork Induction Standard**

With the introduction of the Early Years and Childcare Registers, requirements for playwork staff qualifications have changed. The Playwork Induction Standard is no longer accepted for temporary staff working on holiday playschemes. SkillsActive has produced guidelines on how to tackle the issue of training temporary staff for seasonal employment.

<http://www.skillsactive.com/playwork/early-years-foundation-stage>

SkillsActive is also gathering information on the impact of the new registers on recruitment to holiday playschemes, and has devised a brief questionnaire for employers so they can share their views. If you are an employer, help to make the case for the playwork award at level 2 to be accepted for holiday playschemes on the Childcare Register. For more information email [playwork@skillsactive.com](mailto:playwork@skillsactive.com)  
<http://www.skillsactive.com/survey/holidayplayschemes>

### **Pathways to Playwork**

SkillsActive is pleased to announce the launch of a new free online interactive toolkit for the play workforce. The toolkit, entitled 'Pathways to Playwork', is designed to assist individuals and employers to access up to date information such as approved playwork qualifications, endorsed playwork training courses and quality assured training provision.

<http://www.playworkactivepassport.com>

## **Play England update**

### **Join the hundreds of events already underway for Playday 2009**

There is still time to get involved and make time for play on Wednesday 5 August. Hundreds of events have already been registered on the Playday website, but organising a Playday event isn't the only way to celebrate. Why not attend a local Playday event, or offer your time and skills on the day?

If you are organising a Playday event, remember to register your event online to receive extra support and a free registration pack. Visit the website to find out how you can get involved in Playday.

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

Don't forget to order your official Playday promotional items, which are available at a reduced group-buying rate. Orders must be placed on or before 26 June, so visit the Playday web shop now at <http://www.playdaywebshop.org.uk> to avoid disappointment.

### **Play England invited to America to share learning**

Adrian Voce, director at Play England, recently attended a conference in New York on the importance of play and play advocacy. Building on existing links with the playwork sector, he was invited by the Sarah Lawrence College in New York to speak to play advocates about the recent experiences of play policy in England. There is a movement growing in the USA, led by the Alliance for Childhood to both embed playwork principles within training models for early years, kindergarten and out of school professionals, and to lobby the Obama administration to take a national stance on the importance of play, especially for young children. The American movement is looking to successes in England and the rest of the UK to see what can be learned. Penny Wilson at Play Association Tower Hamlets has also been employed to deliver training for American playworkers.

### **Play in guidance on safeguarding against bullying**

Play England has contributed to the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) guidance on tackling bullying outside of schools. *Safe from Bullying* is a suite of six documents that set out how different local services can work together to prevent and respond to bullying. This includes *Safe from bullying in play and leisure provision*, which addresses play provision staff. It outlines the possible bullying that might occur in play and leisure and describes steps to prevent it and respond to it effectively.

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

### **Designing outdoor play environments**

July, August and September 2009 – Durham, Sheffield and Exeter

Play England is supporting these conferences, hosted by the University of Sheffield, which aim to develop knowledge, skills and experience of designing outdoor play environments. The two-day events will include a range of speakers who will provide information about current policy and practice for the design of outdoor play environments, including workshops facilitated by CAFE Space Enablers.

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

### **Play England membership – one year on**

A year since Play England launched its membership, there are now over 250 members. Members are vital to Play England's work and give vital information about new and emerging priorities in the sector. The next Play England Council meeting, on 25 June, will host a consultation that will shape the future strategic direction for Play England. Visit the website to find out more about member benefits and how you can join.

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

### **Play Shaper recruiting inspirational facilitators with a passion for play**

Playwork Partnerships is building a team of experienced facilitators with a passion for play. Play Shaper brings together professionals who build, design and manage local neighbourhoods to improve opportunities for children and young people's play. Playwork Partnerships is looking for inspirational, confident people with experience of successfully bringing together diverse groups of professionals, from a wide range of disciplines.

<http://www.playwork.co.uk/index.asp?page=playshaperjobs>

Play Shaper is a new £2.8 million cross-professional training programme which supports the aims of the government's national Play Strategy. Play Shaper is being delivered by a national partnership led by Play England with Playwork Partnerships and SkillsActive.

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

## **Job opportunities at Play England**

With recent record investment, children's play has never had such a high priority. Can you help Play England ensure this opportunity isn't missed? Play England is recruiting to a number of positions to promote play and develop the sector, as well as to build for Play England's future. Play England is currently seeking:

Corporate Development Manager

Research and Evaluation Manager

Play Shaper Programme Manager

Project Officer (local mapping and evaluation support)

Contracts and Grants Officer

Regional Development Officers (various locations).

Visit the website for more information and to download the job packs.

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

## **Policy**

### **Consultations**

#### **Primary curriculum review**

The Government has announced plans for a new curriculum for primary school children and launched its consultation process. This follows the release of the final report of the independent review by education expert Sir Jim Rose. Recommendation 16 looks at what constitutes high-quality, play-based learning and how this benefits young children, especially those entering the early primary stage and suggests that this should be made explicit in QCA guidance. Play England will be submitting a response to this consultation. If you have any information to inform the response please contact Lisa Davis, email [ldavis@ncb.org.uk](mailto:ldavis@ncb.org.uk)

[http://www.qca.org.uk/qca\\_22403.aspx](http://www.qca.org.uk/qca_22403.aspx)

### **Funding**

#### **Myplace funding**

A further £31.6 million has been announced for the myplace programme, which is now open. In addition, a short film has been launched featuring young people talking about what myplace facilities will mean to them. Expressions of interest for round 2 are invited until 29 June 2009.

<http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/myplace>

### **Government**

#### **Community empowerment**

The Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) has published a progress report on the July 2008 White Paper *Communities in Control: Real people, real power*, which aims to pass power into the hands of local communities and generate vibrant local democracy.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/communitiesprogressreport>

## **Communities and Local Government (CLG)**

CLG has also produced a review of the evidence on empowering communities. The review includes examples of evidence around community empowerment and aims to make sense of variable and often competing or contrasting evidence in order to identify which mechanisms empower; in what ways, and in what contexts.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/localdecisionreview>

## **DCSF Children and Youth Board**

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has announced intentions to recruit 25 young people aged 8 to 18 years to form the Children and Youth Board 2009-2011. The Board will advise Ministers and policy staff on the development of policy and practice that affect children and young people in England. Applications are welcome from all English regions. The closing date for applications is 10am on Monday 29 June.

[http://www.ncb.org.uk/Page.asp?originx\\_6010dw\\_35805503412980164c\\_20095224124u](http://www.ncb.org.uk/Page.asp?originx_6010dw_35805503412980164c_20095224124u)

## **Government reshuffle**

A series of ministerial changes have taken place over the last week. Children and Young People's Minister Beverley Hughes has been replaced by Dawn Primarolo, former Minister of State for Public Health. In the Cabinet Office, Tessa Jowell has replaced Liam Byrne as Minister for the Cabinet Office and Angela Evans Smith replaces Kevin Brennan as Minister for the Office of the Third Sector.

[http://www.politics.co.uk/news/legal-and-constitutional/new-cabinet-in-full-\\$1301728.htm](http://www.politics.co.uk/news/legal-and-constitutional/new-cabinet-in-full-$1301728.htm)

## **Transport planning**

The National Youth Agency has published guidance commissioned by the Department for Schools, Children and Families (DCSF) and the Department of Transport (DfT) entitled *Transport Guidance: Supporting access to positive activities document*. The guidance is for Children's Trusts and transport planners to help them plan valid and reliable services and transport information for young people to secure access to positive activities.

<http://www.nya.org.uk/information/100582/141457/transport/>

## **Social exclusion**

The Social Exclusion Task Force has initiated a study on social exclusion in the economic downturn. The study will focus on preventing the recession from triggering long term social exclusion. It will also analyse the pathways through which job loss and financial insecurities caused by the recession can trigger more complex and enduring difficulties, including looking at the impacts of previous recessions.

[http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/social\\_exclusion\\_task\\_force/short\\_studies/downturn.aspx](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/social_exclusion_task_force/short_studies/downturn.aspx)

## **Health**

### **Child obesity**

The London Health Observatory (LHO) has analysed data from the national child measurement programme collected between 2006 and 2008, and found that 22 per cent of 10 and 11-year-olds and 11 per cent of 4 to 5-year-olds were at risk of

obesity. This is the highest prevalence of all English regions for both year groups. Out of 31 primary care trusts in London 21 had a prevalence of obesity, far higher than the national average.

<http://www.lho.org.uk/Download/Public/14781/1/Weighty%20Matters%20final.pdf>

## Non-government

### Infrastructure organisations

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), Triangle Consulting and the Third Sector Research Centre (TSRC) have jointly launched the Value of Infrastructure Programme. With funding from the Big Lottery Fund, this England-wide programme aims to help infrastructure organisations to have more of an impact and to better communicate that impact to others. A free open workshop will be held on 1 July 2009, in London, for infrastructure CEOs, deputies and their trustees to hear more about the programme and help shape plans.

<http://www.strategy-impact.org.uk/page.asp?id=1548>

## Public space

### Open space strategies - best practice guidance

Practical guidance to local authorities and their stakeholders on how to prepare, deliver, monitor and review an open space strategy. It reflects the latest thinking on the role of open space in tackling climate change and improving the quality of people's lives and includes best practice examples showing the value and practical benefits of a strategic approach to open space.

<http://www.cabe.org.uk/publications/open-space-strategies>

## Training

### Free training for leaders and managers of playworkers

An exciting new Level 6 training programme is available for leaders and managers of playworkers. Best Practice Network, having just successfully delivered the pilot phase of this ground-breaking programme, is now recruiting for Autumn 2009. The first 20 places are fully funded by the Children's Workforce Development Council.

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

## Transport

### Change Your World

Sustrans' Change Your World week, during which people swap one of their usual car trips to walk, cycle, take public transport or car-share instead, is on 29 June-4 July 2009. The campaign message is if we all drove just one less car trip a week, together we would reduce car traffic by ten per cent, giving us healthier journeys, cleaner air and safer streets. Last year over 8,000 joined in the campaign and gave their car a rest.

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

## 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)

23-24 June 2009, Stoneleigh Park, Coventry

### **PlayFair 2009**

Organised by the Association of Play Industries (API), this second PlayFair will feature exhibits from many play equipment companies, the PlayFair Playscape, and free seminars by API and Play England.

<http://www.playfairuk.com>

25 June 2009, London

### **Play England Council Meeting**

Play England members are invited to attend this meeting, which will focus on Play England's new strategic plan.

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

7-9 July 2009, Canterbury

### **LSA 2009: Leisure experiences: participating, planning, providing**

The themes for the Leisure Studies Association conference are performing, learning, locating and risk, and papers on play are welcomed.

<http://www.leisure-studies-association.info/LSAWEB/2009/Main.html>

10 July 2009, London

### **What's New in Play Design? Play study tour**

A unique opportunity to visit newly designed play spaces in Camden, Hackney and Tower Hamlets, three play pathfinder local authorities. Includes meeting and discussion with those involved in design of the new play spaces and authors of the *Design for Play* guidance.

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

20-22 July 2009, Durham

### **Designing Outdoor Play Environments**

Aimed at those involved in the Pathfinder and Play Builder programme, this is one of a series of conferences that aim to provide an opportunity to develop knowledge, skills and experience of designing outdoor play environments. A range of speakers and workshops facilitated by CABI Space Enablers, where participants will be able to work on one of their own sites. The conference is hosted by University of Sheffield and supported by Play England.

<http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/landscape/newsfeed/play09.html>

25 July – 2 August 2009, nationwide

### **Love Parks Week**

Love Parks Week is an annual campaign organised by GreenSpace, with hundreds of events taking place across the country.

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

3-5 August 2009, Sheffield

### **Designing Outdoor Play Environments**

<http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/landscape/newsfeed/play09.html>

3-13 August 2009, London

**London Play Photo Exhibition**

London Play is holding a photographic exhibition on play at City Hall to coincide with national Playday 5 August. The exhibition aims to raise awareness of the play rights and needs of the capital's children.

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

5 August 2009, nationwide

**Playday 2009: Make Time!**

The Playday 2009 campaign theme will be: *Make time!* From parents, carers and teachers, to policy makers and planners – everyone can make time to support children's right to play.

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

4-6 September 2009, Stone, Staffordshire

**The Beauty of Play: The Wildness of play**

The original 'conference under canvas'. Playful activities, discussions and magic in the open air.

Contact: Perry Else

Email: [info.ludemos@virgin.net](mailto:info.ludemos@virgin.net)

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

7-9 September 2009, Sheffield

**Designing Outdoor Play Environments**

<http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/landscape/newsfeed/play09.html>

14-16 September 2009, Exeter

**Designing Outdoor Play Environments**

<http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/landscape/newsfeed/play09.html>

7 October 2009, Stirling

**Children, Risk and Responsibility: Encouraging confidence in a risk-averse society**

Organised by Play Scotland and Children in Scotland, the conference will consider the implications of such constraints when helping children and young people, parents and carers, develop their understanding of risk and responsibility. Speakers include Tom Hodgkinson, Helene Guldborg, and Tim Gill.

<http://play.rg-cs.co.uk/events-training-calendar/>

21-22 October 2009, Armagh

**Time for Play: PlayBoard's Annual Conference**

This two-day residential conference will investigate the key requirements for developing play strategies and provide insight into developing and understanding an outcomes framework through play and playwork methodology.

Contact: Lisa O'Connor

Email: [lisa.oconnor@playboard.co.uk](mailto:lisa.oconnor@playboard.co.uk)

<http://www.playboard.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)

### **4Children (2009)**

#### ***Access for all: pupil referral units and extended services***

London: 4Children.

Reports on a project in which three local authorities worked with 4Children to explore how pupil referral units (PRUs) can develop ways of ensuring that pupils who attend PRUs are able to benefit from extended services in and around schools.

### **Brown, S and Vaughan, C (2009)**

#### ***Play: how it shapes the brain, opens the imagination and invigorates the soul***

New York: Avery.

Drawing on his own clinical research and observations of animals at play, as well as advances in neuroscience, biology, psychology and social sciences, the author highlights the role of play as nature's most advanced process for promoting brain development and social integration across species.

### **England Marketing and Natural England (2009)**

#### ***Childhood and nature: a survey on changing relationships with nature across generations: report to Natural England***

Sheffield: Natural England.

Reports on a survey commissioned by Natural England to explore the difference in contact with nature between today's generation of children compared with the contact children from their parents' generation had. Findings showed that children spend less time playing in natural places than they did in previous generations. The most popular place for children to play is in their home; for adults it was outdoors in local streets.

[http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/Childhood%20and%20Nature%20Survey\\_tcm6-10515.pdf](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/Childhood%20and%20Nature%20Survey_tcm6-10515.pdf)

### **Gray, P (2009)**

#### ***Play as a foundation for hunter-gatherer social existence***

Article in *American Journal of Play*, vol.1, no.4 (Spring) pp476-522.

The author presents the thesis that hunter-gatherers promoted, through cultural means, the playful side of their human nature and this made possible their egalitarian, cooperative way of living. Children were free to play and explore, which means that they acquired the skills, knowledge and values of their culture.

### **Kids and Play England (2009)**

#### ***Making the links: playful short breaks for disabled children***

London: Kids.

This briefing explores the links between the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme and the funding from the national play strategy, and highlights the work undertaken by authorities who have linked their short breaks and play pathfinder funding.

<http://www.kids.org.uk/files/102777/FileName/MakingLinks.pdf>

**Learning Through Landscapes (2009)**

***Getting children active! (Playnotes)***

Winchester: LTL.

Considers the importance of physically active play and gives ideas for activities and resources for this type of play in early years settings.

**Learning Through Landscapes (2009)**

***Play out: your essential guide to developing your early years outdoors***

Crediton: Southgate Publishers. 1 resource pack.

Aimed at those involved in the use, design and management of outdoor spaces in early years settings, this pack includes: step-by-step guidance on planning the outdoor space; activities to involve children and adults; a CD of tools and resources, a DVD aimed at staff and parents; case study cards; and a poster to motivate and inspire better use of outdoors.

**Mayor of London and Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (2009)**

***Open space strategies: best practice guidance***

London: CABE Space and Greater London Authority.

This document gives practical guidance to local authorities in England and their stakeholders on how to prepare an open space strategy, and forms the best practice guidance of the London Plan.

<http://www.cabe.org.uk/files/open-space-strategies.pdf>

**Nuttall, E (2009)**

***Last summer***

Article in *Ip-dip*, no. 8 (Jun) (Insert)

An adventure playworkers reflects on his new role as a 'free range' playworker on park schemes.

**Parrish, A.M and others (2009)**

***What factors influence children's activity?***

Article in *British Journal of School Nursing*, vol.4, no.1 (Feb). pp6-10.

This Australian study aimed to explore variables which may contribute to increased activity levels in the school playground.

**Play England (2009)**

***Managing risk in play provision: a briefing for risk managers***

(Play England policy briefing, 6).

London: NCB for Play England.

Aimed at risk managers in agencies that manage play provision, this briefing argues for a balanced approach to play safety to ensure that overall goals and objectives are not compromised by excessive risk aversion.

<http://www.playengland.org.uk/resources/managing-risk-for-risk-managers.pdf>

**SkillsActive (2009)**

***The playwork induction standard and qualifications for holiday playschemes***

London: SkillsActive.

Explains the changes to requirement for staff qualifications following the introduction of the Early Years register and Childcare Register, and how these affect holiday playschemes.

## 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)

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