



Swings & Roundabouts



ISSUE ONE APRIL 2010

Play in Parks at Easter

Over 800 children came to George's Park, in Lozells during the Easter Holiday. This is the first time PiPs has been delivered outside of the summer holidays.



Here are just a couple of the many quotes taken from the children throughout the project:

Thank you...

We would like to thank all our members and supporters and all the children that joined Birmingham PlayCare Network to help launch of our new logo.



As an organisation passionate to promote children's play and the values and importance it holds we felt we needed a clean, fresh image to support us to push the message further and with more vigour than ever before.

The newsletter has been updated to reflect our new 'branded image' and we welcome comments and suggestions from you, our readers.

“You’ve got to come and sign up man, its wicked!”

“This is so much fun being here!”

Further details
inside...

News Headlines

Read All About It!

Play England loses lottery funding

The future of Play England has been thrown into doubt after the Big Lottery Fund confirmed it will not renew its funding for the organisation after March next year.

Play England was created to support local authorities to deliver more play opportunities. It was awarded £15m of lottery funding in 2006, as part of a £155m Children's Play initiative to increase the number of community play projects across the country.

Play England had been hopeful of securing further funding from the Big Lottery Fund beyond March 2011, when the current funding dries up. But at a meeting with the Play England council last week, director Adrian Voce told members no more money would be committed to the Children's Play initiative by the lottery fund.

Despite the news, Voce remained optimistic. "The Play England council has adopted an exciting new strategy and we are actively seeking funds from a variety of sources to support play from April 2011," he told CYP Now.

A Big Lottery Fund spokesman said: "While the fund recognises the invaluable contribution Play England has made to the sector, the fund has limited resources and has to make some tough decisions in terms of prioritising need."

Play England is also contracted by central government to help deliver its Play Strategy, supporting local authorities in refurbishing and developing 3,500 play areas by next March. Ute Navidi, chief executive of London Play, said the news was "devastating".

"Play England has gone beyond all expectations in putting play firmly on the national agenda," she said. "Its impact has been immeasurable and we will continue to support it in the years to come."

C&YP 4/5/10

Log on to... arts and crafts

There was widespread sadness at last year's death of the TV presenter Tony Hart. His programmes such as *Take Hart* inspired generations of young people to explore their creativity and along the way gave inspiration to youth workers and teachers.

Part of his legacy are programmes such as *Art Attack*, and the programme's website www.artattack.co.uk is jam-packed with well-illustrated creative ideas for young people. These range from specific tips in drawing and painting — such as rendering impressive clouds or drawing glasses on faces - to craft projects such as making a model garden. While some of these are most suited to the younger end of the youth work age range, many ideas could be used for brightening up your youth centre or to add to consultation projects such as "create your own ideal Myplace centre".

If you have young people who want to develop their drawing skills The Campaign for Drawing has a range of online materials that can be used as fun sessions that also help develop technique. Look at the resources section on www.campaignfordrawing.org For younger members the Drawing Games resource has five activities that can be carried out more or less anywhere, such as "What do you make of my squiggle" — encouraging use of the imagination. *Shy Drawing*, *Loud Drawing* is an all-age resource designed to take the pressure off the drawer to draw something specific or to stress about whether it's "any good". It encourages people to look at rendering emotion and produce work that is either "shy" or "loud".

New report welcomed

Play England welcomed new findings presented at the recent British Psychological Society's Annual Conference on 14 April 2010, which reported that play patterns established in childhood are linked to adult health and behaviour. In particular, adults who had engaged in more creative play as children were more likely to have a healthy diet and take regular exercise, compared to those reporting environmental restrictions on play (e.g having less time to play) who were more likely to be overweight and have less healthy lifestyles.

Catherine Prisk, Assistant Director of Play England said: 'Play is important to children's emotional health and wellbeing, and it is through play that children learn about who they are in the world and how the society they live in - their family and friends, their community, their peers and their country is socially constructed.

'Children simply don't get the opportunities that we did when we were children to play outside. Research - and common sense - tells us that play is vital for children's emotional and physical health, as well as helping them to develop both physical and social skills. However, to get the best out of their play children need space and opportunity. They need local play parks or spaces that feel playful. And they need people trained in developing good play opportunities so that their parents feel confident leaving them.

'There are many barriers to play today - traffic, commerce a public realm that takes little account of children, fear of predators and bullying, increased demands on their structured time and society's ambivalent attitude to young people. These all add to the modern phenomenon of the 'battery reared' child. Increasing anti-social behaviour and obesity may be just the tip of the iceberg in terms of the potential damage to our future generations.'

Play England is asking everyone to sign up to the Manifesto for Children's Play which asks all political parties to make three simple pledges for all children and young people to have the freedom and space to play enjoyed by previous generations:

1. To make all residential neighbourhoods child-friendly places where children can play outside

2. To give all children the time and opportunity to play throughout childhood

3. To give all children somewhere to play – in freedom and safety – after school and in the holidays

Several of these resources have been developed with Access Art, the charity that seeks to advance art education, especially for those whose learning style leans towards the visual rather than words and numbers.

Further websites to explore:

www.craftexpert.co.uk

Instructions for creative projects such as dyeing T-shirts and candlemaking

www.campaignfordrawing.org

Online workshop to help develop drawing techniques

www.youthartsonline.org

A database of organisations and individuals who can be brought in to run activities

www.bakerross.co.uk

An online shop selling arts and craft supplies

Youth Work Now 1/5/10

News Update



Birmingham

PlayCare

Network

Hi to all our readers and members!

Spring is definitely here in the BPCN office, with our first job of the new financial year to launch our new logo which we did during our Easter Play in Parks project. The children, families and community of George's Park enjoyed a fantastic BPCN party and as you can imagine we all had great fun.

As I write this to you today, the election result is being announced and we need to ensure that play is on the agenda not only locally but also from a political stance. At a recent conference we attended Ed Balls supported play but as we stand next to education, health and other essential services we must ensure our voice is not only heard, but recognised as meeting many of the outcomes that others are trying to achieve. Upcoming Workshops - You will be receiving details of our play based workshop programme for 2010/11 over the next few weeks so please get in contact with us to register your places which this year will be delivered in your local PCT areas.

Easter saw us deliver Play in Parks for the first time in a school holiday other than summer. It was a fantastic week with children from the surrounding community coming along to play and have fun. This Easter project was particularly special to BPCN as it gave us the chance to launch our new company logo and celebrate our 15 supporting the play agenda.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank the playworkers for their continued commitment to the project and for all their hard work. I wish to thank Helen Baines, a previous PiPs playworker for her encouraging letter sent to Becky and all the staff here at BPCN.

Emma Payne Business Development Manager

Play in Parks at Easter:



Georges Park, Lozells

The project attracted 800 children over the 6-day period. The children made fires, climbed trees, played team games and engaged in messy play. Children have been given the chance to revisit gaps in their playful childhoods and have an opportunity to create their own play environments. Many families, fathers and grandparents visited the park regularly to engage with their children's play, resulting in some fabulous community engagement.

BPCN would like to extend a big **THANK YOU** to all out of school providers in the area who supported the project.



The Play in Parks project will be delivered in the following areas over summer 2010:

- **Georges Park**, Wills Street, Lozells
- **Burford Road Recreation Ground**, Perry Barr
- **Kingsdown Avenue Recreation Ground**, Hamstead, Perry Barr
- **Sandwell Recreation Ground**, Island Road, Handsworth

Further dates and details will be included in our next Swings and Roundabouts Edition. In the meantime, if you require any further information please contact: **Elaine Evans** on **0121 236 2917**

Goodbye from PiPs playworker Helen Baines

Dear Becky, I'm so sorry that I can't work for you in the summer. It's by far the best job I've ever done. Your passion for play and kids and getting the best in life is so contagious, and I've learnt so much from you guys.

I really hope that PiPs goes from strength to strength and that your campaign to get playwork more established and recognised is successful. Thank you for inspiring me.

Yours faithfully,

Helen Baines



Birmingham Playcare Network would like to thank Helen for supporting the Play in Parks project over the last few years and wish her every success for the future!



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Email & large print version

We are happy to email Swings & Roundabouts or provide a Large Print Version. For further details, or if you wish to be added to our mailing list, contact our offices.

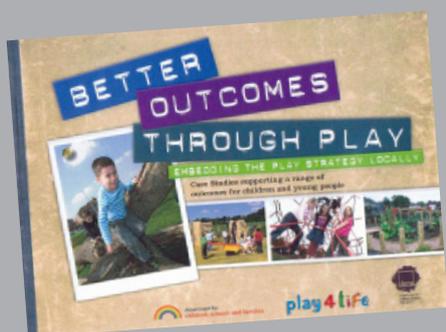
BPCN welcomes contributions to Swings & Roundabouts. If you have an interesting article you would like to submit for inclusion please contact us. BPCN reserves the right to edit all copy received in order to fit the space available. Opinions expressed in Swings & Roundabouts are not necessarily those of BPCN or Birmingham Early Years & Childcare Team.

www.bpcn.org.uk

Caring About Play

Special Issue Resource Pack Coming Soon...

The recently launched publication 'Better Outcomes Through Play' – Embedding the Play Strategy Locally' will be one of BPCN's first resource packs. Published by the Department for Children, Schools and Families, the publication 'contains some great examples of how the investment in children's play is being put to use'. BPCN members should be receiving their copies within the next 4 weeks.



If you are not yet a member or your membership has expired, please contact **Fatima** at BPCN on **0121 236 2917**, for details of how to join.

Go Play Programme

The 'Go Play Programme', developed by BPCN, aims to support and raise the quality of play within out of school provision. The setting is referred to us by a Development Worker and a QDM (Quality Development Mentor) is allocated to visit the setting during club times for 8-10 sessions to raise the quality of play and offer intensive play support.

If you feel your setting needs some support around play, fresh ideas for the staff and children, or and want to put play back into the service you provide, then keep a look out for full details being sent out in the next couple of weeks. More details available from **Ruby** on **0121 236 2917**, or alternatively your Development Worker.

Cache level 3 in playwork

The Transitional Modules to Playwork Level 3 will take place on June 16th 2010. Playworkers must have a Level 3 in Early Years to access this course.

For further information contact **Martin Hawthorne** at the Training Team on **0121 464 3175**

