

Play in the South East

February 2010

'Don't be distracted from the importance of play'
Play England director, Adrian Voce writes for the [Guardian Online](#)

In this edition of Play in the South East you will find:

- Play England news
- Forthcoming events
- SkillsActive
- Resources

Play England news

A happy new year to one and all. The year arrived in a flurry of snow here in the South East. Living so close to the office, Tracy managed to plough her way through the snow and keep the office open. John, Judith and Lynette were snowed in and forced to work from home. We hope that you all kept safe and warm and are raring to face all the challenges that 2010 brings.



View from the window of the
Play England – South East office

New staff member for Play England – South East

We are very pleased to welcome Adrian Calvo-Valderrama to our team. Adrian joins us as a Regional Development Officer, and will also be working with the London regional office.

Adrian has previously worked for the United Nations in areas such as Rwanda and Paris. His specialisms were mediation and conflict resolution, which should be very useful in the wonderful world of play!



Play ranger network meeting, 25 January, Dorking

It was another full house of play rangers at the Dorking Halls for our network meeting.

Topics covered at this event included winter play and Playday 2010. Alex Mills from KIDS took the play rangers through a selection of inclusive games like Chinese whispers and ball games, from KIDS *Pick and Mix* book. Details can be found on the KIDS website: www.kids.org.uk.

If you have play rangers or mobile/detached playworkers who are not yet part of our network, please contact Tracy Woodward at: play-se@ncb.org.uk.

Playing with challenge and risk

Play England - South East and Play England - South West hosted a joint conference in Swindon on 10 December 2009.

The conference brought together those responsible for managing and designing play provision and explored how to use the risk-benefit assessment process detailed in *Managing Risk in Play Provision*.

Presentations from the day are available from www.playengland.org.uk/southeast

Forthcoming events

PIP National Conference 2010

17 February, Central London

Themes include:

- celebrating the successes of the Play Strategy
- where now for Aiming High for Disabled Children?
- the future from here - in times of economic uncertainty and change
- how can we ensure disabled children and young people are prioritised at a local and national level.

Further details are available from KIDS:

www.kids.org.uk

Playday 2010 organiser seminars

10 March 2010, Manchester

15 March 2010, London

Play England is coordinating two national seminars to support Playday event organisers to celebrate Playday 2010 and get involved in this year's *Our place* campaign.

Whether you're planning your first Playday event and need a little guidance, or you're a Playday pro looking for new ideas and inspiration, the Playday 2010 organiser seminars will get you on track!

For more information and to book your place, visit the Playday website:

www.playday.org.uk

Spring into life with Outdoor Play Week

13 - 21 March, various locations

Play is being celebrated across the South East during March 2010 .



Outdoor play week takes place between March 13 and 21 with activities running at three Forestry Commission sites.

Led by the Active Start, Active Families sub group of the South East Physical Activity Coordinating Team (SEPACT) and funded by the Department of Health, the programme is being organised jointly by Play England, the Forestry Commission, Natural England and the Department of Health South East.

Organisations working with children will be invited to hold their own celebration and join in the *Happy Tree* consultation.

For further details please contact Tracy Woodward: play-se@ncb.org.uk

2010 Play England national conference – Playable communities: Priorities for a new decade

23 March 2010 - Central London

After four years of unprecedented national investment in children's play, this major conference will consider its impact, explore how to sustain the momentum for change, and ask 'what next for play provision, playwork and playable public space?'

The conference will celebrate the achievements of both the government's Play Strategy and the Big Lottery Fund's Children's Play initiative. It will share learning for the future, the impact that investing in play can have on children and families, and discuss how working in partnerships can embed planning for play within local decision-making and put play at the heart of child-friendly communities.

The day will include high-profile speakers addressing key themes for the future of all aspects of playable communities.

For further information, please visit:

www.playengland.org.uk/events

SkillsActive

More People, Better Skilled, Better Qualified

Playwork Learning and Skills Strategy, 2011 – 2016

SkillsActive would like to invite everyone in the play sector to contribute to the draft *Playwork Learning and Skills Strategy 2011-2016*, which will replace *Quality Training, Quality Play* – the sector's first ever UK strategy for playwork.

Quality Training, Quality Play was founded on the principle of Article 31 of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child, recognising play as a right and being fundamental to children's quality of life. SkillsActive's next strategy aims to:

- Position playwork and the playwork approach as a distinct but integral part of the children and young people's workforce.
- Develop a suite of qualifications that are valued by employers and the workforce
- Encourage high quality, accessible training opportunities.

To take part in this important consultation, which will strategically focus the work of SkillsActive through to 2016, please go to www.skillsactive.com/resources.

The consultation ends on 9 April 2010.

NVQ level 3 in playwork

If you haven't yet signed up for a fully funded NVQ level 3 in playwork, or the level 3 award in playwork for early years and childcare workers, download an application form from the SkillsActive website.

Send it to SkillsActive and they will match you with a Code of Practice playwork training provider. Funding is only available until 31 March 2010, so act quickly!
www.skillsactive.com/playwork.

Spirit of Play 2010

13 March, Chertsey, Surrey

Spirit of Play is sponsored by Surrey County Council and Play England - South East.

This event will feature a keynote address from Ofsted, a varied programme of workshops, and lots of opportunities to network with other play people from across the region.

Free places are available from your local authority.

Full details and a booking form can be found at: www.skillsactive.com/arounduk/southeast/playwork or contact kiran.sahota@skillsactive.com

New national occupational standards for playwork

Consultation January / February 2010

SkillsActive is consulting on 4 national occupational standards (NOS) that have been newly drafted for inclusion in the play and playwork suite. The NOS have been drafted as a result of work with a number of key stakeholders as part of a review of the current play and playwork standards.

To view the new draft standards for playwork, and to access the consultation questionnaire visit the website at:

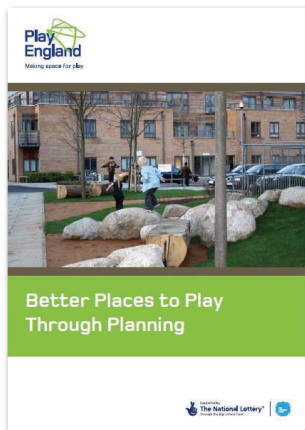
www.skillsactive.com/resources/consultations-have-your-say/playwork-NOS/

To find out more about the work of SkillsActive and how they can support you, contact Claire Mitchell on 07841 929308, email claire.mitchell@skillsactive.com, or visit www.skillsactive.com/playwork/

Resources

Better Places to Play Through Planning

Play England has developed this guide to support planning and transport authorities to develop and implement planning policy that ensures children and young people have access to high quality playable spaces close to where they live and spend their time.



The publication, funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), gives detailed guidance on setting local standards for access, quantity and quality of playable space, signposting benchmark standards for different types of local authority.

It also shows how provision for better play opportunities can be promoted in planning policies and processes. It also details how local development frameworks and planning control can be utilised in favour of child-friendly communities.

The guide is only available as a free PDF file which can be downloaded at:
www.playengland.org.uk/resources

Playbuilders and play pathfinders

The Play England website has resources for playbuilders and play pathfinders, which includes:

- sharing practice examples.
- frequently asked questions on adventure playgrounds.
- web links to playbuilder and pathfinder local authority websites.

www.playengland.org.uk/playbuilder and
www.playengland.org.uk/pathfinder

PlayToday, issue 68

The latest edition of PlayToday includes news on the Big Lottery Fund exploring further support for play beyond the Children's Play programme, changes to the government's vetting and barring scheme, and CABE's new Spaceshaper toolkit for children aged 9 to 14 years old.




This issue also includes features from Penny Wilson on the photographic exhibition A String of Beads, and Michael Follett and Luke Plowden on the 20th anniversary of the UNCRC.


To download your free copy, please visit the Play England website.
www.playengland.org.uk/resources

Contact

To share your play-related news and events, or to publicise your play staff vacancies and resources, please get in touch.

 play-se@ncb.org.uk

 01730 234537

 Play England
Antrobus House
18 College Street
Petersfield
Hampshire GU31 4AD

 www.playengland.org.uk/southeast

To be removed from or added to our mailing list, please email us.

Please note the deadline for submissions for our next edition is 17 February 2010.



Play England is part of NCB and is supported by the Big Lottery Fund. Published for Play England by NCB.



Supported by
The National Lottery[®]
through the Big Lottery Fund

