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# National Play Resource Centre Newsletter



## The National Play Resource Centre

### Launch of the National Play Resource Centre

The launch of the National Play Resource Centre, by the Minister for Children Brian Lenihan TD takes place on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2006. Merrion Square in Dublin City under canvass is the venue. We will be joined on the day by Miriam O' Callaghan, young people, and representatives of Government, local authorities and voluntary groups.

The National Play Resource Centre run by the IPPA and Súgradh has been set up to provide advice and support to all those with a concern and interest in children's play in Ireland. In the first instance the work of the Centre is targeted at Local Authorities who have been given the major responsibilities for developing play opportunities under the National Play Policy.

The work of the National Play Resource Centre includes

building a collection of resources, books, documents etc on all aspects of children's play. They can be consulted at our office or if you have specific query we can be contacted by email or telephone. Information can then be sent to you.

A website, [www.playinireland.ie](http://www.playinireland.ie) has been set up. This site contains details of the work of the Centre and information on children's play. If you want to attend a conference or go to an event details from Ireland, the UK and Europe details can be found on the website.



Phot R Webb

## New Logo and website for the Play Resource Centre

A new logo has been designed for the Resource Centre. You'll start to see it on all our publications .



A new and upgraded website has now been completed and will go live at the end of June.

It contains

- ◆ Information on playgrounds in Ireland
- ◆ Details and resources for the National Playday 06
- ◆ Information about conferences and events
- ◆ Links to other sites

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### National Play Resource Centre

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#### Special points of interest:

- © Launch of the National Play Resource Centre at Merrion Square 28th June 2006
- © National Playday July 16th 2006
- © Website is up graded view at [www.playinireland.ie](http://www.playinireland.ie)

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# National Audit of Playgrounds 2006

When Ready Steady Play! The National Play Policy was launched in 2004 it contained details of the number of playgrounds in Ireland owned and/or managed by local authorities at that time. From January this year the National Play Resource Centre repeated this survey to explore if progress has been made in increasing the number of playgrounds. It is one of the key objectives of the Play Policy that more playgrounds should be created.

A questionnaire was sent to all local authorities in January asking for details of the number of playgrounds in their areas and the number of playgrounds that they are planning to construct in the near future.

In addition the questionnaire asked for information on progress towards the adoption of a local play policy and the designation of a play officer by the local authority.

## Results

There has been a significant increase in the number of playgrounds. There are now nearly 400 playgrounds in the country provided by local authorities. The number has more than doubled since the launch of the National Play Policy.

Dublin City and Cork County lead the way with the actual number of playgrounds. However when the ratio of population to number of playgrounds is calculated Monaghan leads the ways closely followed by Galway City and Leitrim. Some counties have made very large improvements in the population to

playground ratio most notable Kildare, Louth and Monaghan.

Nearly half of local authorities have prepared a local play policy and nearly 60% have a designated play officer.

## Summary

There has been a significant increase in the number of playgrounds with the actual number more than doubling since the launch of the National Play Policy.

There has been a decrease in the ratio of population to playgrounds in all counties with some very large decreases in some counties most notable Kildare, Louth and Monaghan.

Progress has been made towards each local authority having a local play policy and a designated play officer however there is still some way to go.

Full report can be downloaded and the location of playgrounds in the country can be found at [www.playinireland.ie](http://www.playinireland.ie)

*There are now nearly 400 playgrounds in Ireland provided by local authorities. Some counties have made significant improvements.*

## Send us your photos and Information



Roscommon Town Park. Photo R Webb

We are collecting photos and information of playgrounds in Ireland many of which will be displayed on our website. The information will be incorporated into the data base of playgrounds compiled as part of the National Audit of playgrounds

Send your photos to  
Steve Goode  
NPRC  
[nprc@ippa.ie](mailto:nprc@ippa.ie)

## Join a Web Based Discussion Group - Play In Ireland

Over the past four years over 200 playgrounds have been built or refurbished by local authorities. The playgrounds come in all shapes and sizes, locations, funding sources etc. This represents a massive pool of knowledge on the development of play opportunities for children in Ireland. However many officers in local authorities work in isolation having to solve problems on their own, with little support from within their local authority and little contact with officers in similar position in other authorities.

One of the initial roles of the National Play Resource Centre is to facilitate contact between officers in local authorities who have responsibility for children's play the National Play Resource Centre has set up a Web based discussion group to allow for the sharing of knowledge and experience.

### How will it work?

Initial invites to join the group will be sent to officers in local authorities and others who have an interest in Children's play. Anyone with an interest in prompting and developing Children's Play in Ireland is welcome to join.

If you are interested contact Steve Goode at the National Play Resource Centre and he will arrange for you to receive an invitation to join the discussion group.

Once a member you will be able to post messages both to request advice and support and to reply in answer to other queries. You will also be able to express your views on children's play in Ireland. You can arrange to receive regular emails of postings to the group or the group can be accessed on the web.

**Link to** <http://groups.google.ie/group/playinireland>

## Conference and Events June 2006

Here is a selection of conferences on play and playwork. Further details of conferences and events are listed on our website [www.playinireland.ie](http://www.playinireland.ie)

29 June – July 1 Dublin

### **Froebel: From Play To Work – Taking Froebel Forward**

Hosted by the Froebel College of Education, Sion Hill, Blackrock, Dublin, Ireland.

5 July Dublin

### **Responding to Consultations**

Making sure your voice gets heard.

More information [shannon@stratagem-ni.com](mailto:shannon@stratagem-ni.com)

5 July, 2006, Newcastle on Tyne

### **Risks and Challenges in Play:**

A chance to update your theory, engage in debate and explore practical possibilities for playwork,

Contact: NE Centre for Playwork Education and

Email: [info@playworknortheast.org.uk](mailto:info@playworknortheast.org.uk)

5-7 July, 2006, Bristol

### **First International Conference: Planning and Designing Healthy Public Outdoor Spaces for Young People in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

The conference will explore public outdoor spaces in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, outdoor play and the role of inclusive design of outdoor spaces as a way of promoting play. For further information see <http://environment.uwe.ac.uk/publicspaces/conference/>

11 July, 2006, Birmingham

### **Time to Play**

A national conference on play opportunities as part of the integrated offer of children's centres and extended schools. Contact: 4Children

Tel: 020 7522 6970

Email: [events@4children.org.uk](mailto:events@4children.org.uk)

21-23 July, 2006, Gloucestershire

### **Wild and Away Conference**

Environmental playwork in the UK. Includes hands-on workshops and informal discussion groups.

Email: [etaylorallee@glos.ac.uk](mailto:etaylorallee@glos.ac.uk)

<http://www.playwork.co.uk/wildaboutplay/index.htm>

7 Sept 2006 Dublin

**Consultation Before and After**. A chance to look at pre-consultation processes and analysis and feedback following the consultation

More info: [shannon@stratagem-ni.com](mailto:shannon@stratagem-ni.com)

# National Play Resource Centre

Co IPPA  
Broomhill Business Complex  
Broomhill Rd  
Tallaght  
Dublin 24

Phone: 01 4630028  
Fax: 01 463 0045  
Email: nprc@ippa.ie  
www.playinireland.ie



The National Play Resource Centre has been set up to provide information, support, and advice of a range of issues affecting the development of children's play in Ireland.

The Centre will

- ❖ Hold a range of publications concerned with children's play that can be consulted;
- ❖ Support the work of Local Authorities in developing play opportunities;
- ❖ Provide information on all aspects of children's play.

The National Play Resource Centre believes that:-


- ❖ All children have the right to play;
- ❖ Play is essential for a child's physical, social, intellectual, and emotional development;
- ❖ Quality, stimulating, and exciting environments should be created for children's play
- ❖ Adults and society in general have a duty and responsibility to create places for children to play.

## Your views of playgrounds in Ireland

### Comment Card



People's Park Waterford City

 <b>The National Play Resource Centre</b> c/o IPPA, The Early Childhood Organisation Unit 4, Broomhill Business Complex Broomhill Rd Dublin 24	<input type="text"/>
<b>Your Comments</b>	
Where is your nearest playground? _____	
Do you have to travel far to get there? _____	
Do you go there with a parent/carer/other adult? _____	
What do you like about the playground? _____	
What do you dislike about the playground? _____	
Have you any general comments about playgrounds or other play facilities? _____	
_____	

We are asking for views on your local playground or another playground that you have visited on your travels around Ireland. Fill out the card and send it back to the National Play Resource Centre. The cards will be distributed around the country. If you have difficulty in getting one contact the Play Resource Centre and we will send one to you.