



National Play Resource Centre Newsletter

The National Play Resource Centre Update

The Resource Centre is now up and running. I am starting to build up a collection of resources on play, playgrounds, play policy.

For example I have many of the main documents that were used in the writing of the play policy and most of the major publication from play organisations in the UK.

I'm still searching for further resources and waiting to purchase others. If you have any ideas as to the information we should have and would be useful to you please let me know. A list of some of the documents is shown on page 4.

Contact me if there is any thing you want a lot of the information is in an electronic format and can be sent very easily.

The website is up and running (www.playinireland.ie) and I am starting to put information on the site. Before

Christmas I posted a list of upcoming conferences and events.

The website will be designed to make it attractive and easy to use, early in the New Year. Once again I would be pleased to hear from you as to the information that you would find useful so that it can be included on the site.



Training and Development Day 20th February 2006

We are planning a training and development day for people in local authorities who have responsibility for play and the development and management of playgrounds. The day is being supported by the National Children's Office. The day will take place on the 20th February in Dublin Castle. There will be no charge for the day. Unfortunately we are unable to offer any support towards the costs of travel and accommodation. The day will include information and discus-

sion on key issues in the development of play and play opportunities in Ireland.

There will also be the opportunity to share information and discuss what is happening in your area and what supports would help you in your work as play officer.

Further information and an application form will be sent to you in January

National Play Resource Centre

Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2006

Special points of interest:

- ☺ Plan to attend the Training and Development day in Dublin 20th Feb. 2006
- ☺ Can you organise a play day in your area for the summer of 2006
- ☺ Look at www.playinireland.ie

Inside this issue:

Play day 2006	2
Conferences and events	3
Resources	4

Playday 2006

In July 2005 Dublin City Council held a successful 'Playday' in Merrion Square. They put on a range of creative, physical and messy activities for children and their parents.

It was the initiative of the Play Development Staff of Dublin City Council.

What made Play Day different from other children's events was the concentration on active outdoor play rather than passive entertainment.

Anne O'Brien Play Development Officer said,

"Dublin City Council are concerned that many children are spending so much time indoors involved in passive activities and increasingly expect to be entertained. We wanted to draw attention to the traditional and newer games and activities that children can play outside that cost little or nothing, can take place anywhere and can be organised by themselves. Children need to be near nature, with other children and in situations that stimulate the mind, body and spirit."

Play Day was a two-pronged event one being the afternoon session in Merrion Square where children and parents could take part in traditional and newer games that they can easily replicate on their own streets at any time. Between 800 and 1000 children with their parents came, played and went home happy armed with lots of ideas for things to try out in their own garden or street.

The other part of the event was a public media campaign to encourage discussion about how important play is and how children's play opportunities have become more limited. Dublin City Council's website carried the Play Day details but more importantly it included lots of ideas

of games and activities to motivate local play events on the day itself and indeed into the future.

Activities on the day included;

Street games,	Creative corner,
Messy corner,	Pillow fight,
Arts and crafts,	Silly obstacle course,
Team games,	Parachute,
Penalty shoot out,	Nature treasure hunt
Drama games.	

Dublin City are planning to repeat the day in 2006. So far 10 other local authorities have also expressed an interest on putting on an event in their area. It is not too late for others to join in. Sponsorship is being sought at the moment to pay the costs of advertising and development so that a fully National event can be staged. It will be a good opportunity to raise the profile of children's play in Ireland.

The National Play Resource Centre supports the day and will have a role in coordinating the day and encouraging other local authorities and communities in become involved.

Between 800 and 1000 children with their parents came, played and went home happy armed with lots of ideas for things to try out in their own garden or street.



Contact the National Play Resource Centre

Steve Goode
Play Executive Officer
NPRC
C/o IPPA, Broomhill Rd
Dublin 24
01 463 0028
www.playinireland.ie
nprc@ippa.ie

Conference and Events

BTHA Toy Fair 2006

25-28 January 2006

Organised by the British Toy and Hobby Association.

Details: www.toyfair.co.uk/

6th Birmingham Playwork Conference

31 January & 1 February 2006

The conference aim is to inspire so that you go back to your work settings, enthused to improve the quality of the playwork being delivered.

Details: www.playworkconferences.org/6thconference/index.htm

Play 2006 - Policy, Playwork and Play Services

8-9 February 2006

ILAM's annual play conference.

Details: www.ilam.co.uk/events.asp

Conversations in Playwork No 6

8th February 2006

Venue London

Further details karen@playlink.org.uk; phone: 07946 527264.

PlayinIreland

20th February 2006

Venue: Dublin Castle

Training and development day for workers from local authorities with responsibility for children's play.

Further Details nprc@ippa.ie

Spirit of Play

11 March 2006

Playwork South East annual conference with workshops, speakers and exhibitions.

Details: www.playworksoutheast.org.uk/

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 with the aim of providing information, support and advice on a range of issues effecting the development of children's play in Ireland.

The Centre will:

- ◆ Hold a range of publications concerned with play which can be consulted or borrowed
- ◆ Support the work of local authorities in developing play opportunities
- ◆ Provide information on all aspects of children's play

Resources

Documents held by the National Play Resource Centre include

Children's Play Information Service Fact Sheets

Getting Serious About Play, DCMS, UK

No Particular Place to Go, Ken Worpole

What Would You Do with this Space? Cabe Space

Guide to Preparing Play Strategies, London Play

Play as Culture, Children's Play Policy Forum UK

Developing Accessible Play Space. A Good Practice Guide

Playgrounds ~ Risks, Benefits and Choices Health & Safety Executive, UK

Making the Case for Play, Children's Play Council

Examples of Play Policies

