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# Setting the scene for play in 2011

**“It’s lovely when they all play out, makes it feel like a nice place to live since we’ve had the new play equipment” – Petersfield resident**

**1 in 5 children regularly play within their neighbourhood today  
– David Cameron , 2009**



**One in 5 children are overweight or obese by the time they reach school age - (The Information Centre, 2010  
[www.ic.nhs.uk](http://www.ic.nhs.uk) )**



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[www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk)

# Places children play today

**Play parks**



**Open public green spaces**



**After school clubs and childcare provision**



**School playground**



## Walking to and from school



## Purpose built outdoor provision



## Social housing spaces



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# Issues identified by Hampshire partners

- Improve quality of access to safe and clean play provision for all children
- Develop partnerships to increase access to funding and resources
- Advocate for play in out of school provision and open spaces using effective consultation with children and young people.
- Create strategic links with planning in districts and boroughs
- Enable opportunity for exciting free and outdoor play settings using natural play

- Establish strategic play development groups
- Increase sports opportunities during and after school

## **New play equipment Manor Farm**



# How will the Play Strategy benefit Hampshire residents?

- Reduce obesity levels
- Reduction in Anti social behaviour
- Improved educational attainment, encourage positive behaviour, raise attendance
- Encourage community cohesion, safer communities and improved health and well being
- Allows for children and young people to be involved in decisions about services

Hollybank Park installation, Emsworth



**“My kids love this place, I played here too as a child!”  
Emsworth resident**



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# Enabling access through a Play Strategy

Rural Areas Play Project, East Hampshire District Council

- Disabled children
- Refugees and asylum seekers
- Black and minority ethnic groups
- Military families
- Young Carers
- Children and young people living in deprived communities
- Children living in statutory care

**“The children living in a care home in my road aren’t allowed to play out with us, my friend lives there so I only get to play with her at school”**



**“Inspiring You” activity**



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# Strategic benefits

- Play as a prevention to anti social behaviour
- Makes communities aspirational places to live and work
- Addresses poor attainment at school
- Learning and development helps create a resourceful play sector
- Strategic purchasing of play equipment using Hampshire County Council procurement framework

**“Our children will come to school more often if we give them a great space to play” – Head teacher**

**Crabtree open space, Basingstoke**



**Rival Moore Road estate, East Hampshire**



# Hampshire children and adults are telling us.....

- “We love the park next door, but sometimes people get in and stare at us” – Jordan, Parkside Mencap After School Club
- “It’s a brilliant place to come, it’s clean and tidy but sometimes there are big dogs here which puts us off” – Rushmoor Parent

**“Gruffalo Hunt”, South East Outdoor Play Week, 2011**



## Families in the woods, Alice Holt Forest



## Staff training, Outdoor Play Week 2011



- “ Our school listens to the children, they designed their play ground and we will give them whatever we can afford. Playtime is really important to us here” – Head Teacher
- I’ve never been outdoors on a Saturday before, I usually watch TV or play the computer all day. I’m having a brilliant day today” – 14 year old girl, Basingstoke
- “We like to choose what we do in our free time, it’s important for our staff to go on training so that they understand us and help us” – Kaz, Parkside, Mencap after school club

## Summary

- The Play Strategy will affect policy and guidance to support the issues highlighted by partners.
- Identification of three major themes – planning for play, advocating for play and developing sustainable partnerships.
- Themes will support the milestones identified in the action plan.
- Action plan is flexible enough to be used to exemplify best practice and enable strategic planning to support under developed areas of practice.
- The Play Strategy will enable access to improved health and well being of Hampshire children and young people.
- Recognition of play as part of a service to Hampshire children and young people.

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## Helpful references

**Definition of Play** – “ Freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated behaviour that engages the child”.  
National Playing Fields, Association 2000

**United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 12.1** States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.

**Article 31.1** - States Parties recognize the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.