

Play in the South East

June 2010



Join Play England and support free, local, inclusive play for all children and young people. Go to: www.playengland.org.uk/members

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

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confident explored the forest on the family cycle trail. Younger people were treated to a very special Gruffalo hunt.

At the Bedgebury Pinetum children of all ages joined in the fun. This included activities such as den building, guided nature trails and cycling.

The Wendover Woods weekend included activities such as camouflage games, scavenger hunts, mask making, den building, and clay puppets.

Play England news

Outdoor play week

Play England – South East together with Active Start – Active Families, which includes the Forestry Commission, and Natural England, held the region's very first Outdoor Play Week, funded by the Department of Health.

Feedback from the events will contribute to a consultation, which we hope will be used to influence how public space is used by local families.

Our partners the Forestry Commission, held events at three of their sites across the South East.

At Alice Holt Forest, activities included games, minibeast hunting, bushcraft skills, den building, special sessions for under fives and family orienteering. Cycle hire was free for children. New cyclists got started on the new beginners' cycle track and the more



Families queue to make their bookings for events at Alice Holt Forest

Conferences

IPA conference

The International Play Association (IPA) World Conference, Playing into the Future - surviving and thriving, is being held from 4 - 7 July 2011 in Cardiff, Wales. For registration information and to contribute abstracts and proposals, please visit:

www.ipa2011.org/

SkillsActive and Re:Play

SkillsActive

More People, Better Skilled, Better Qualified

SkillsActive, the sector skills council for the active leisure, learning and well-being sector, has finished consulting on the new Playwork Learning and Skills Strategy 2011-2016, and will be launching it in the autumn.

SkillsActive's annual event, *Spirit of Play* was a great success. Read all about it on the SkillsActive blog at:

www.skillsactive.com/blogs



Liz Elsom from Ofsted gives her keynote speech to delegates at this year's Spirit of Play

Put the date in your diary for Spirit of Play 2011, which will take place on Saturday 12 March, in Chertsey, Surrey.

Work has now been completed on the units for the new Level 2 playwork qualifications, which will be available on the Qualifications and Credit Framework by the summer as full qualifications. Work has started on the new Level 3 and 4 qualifications, and you can keep up with progress by going to the SkillsActive website, www.skillsactive.com.

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



the play association of the south east

Come out to play – building play networks in the South East region

The play association Re:Play ran their first network meeting in East Sussex in April.

The event, *Come out to play*, included presentations from Pam Perry from Re:Play, Lynette Robertson from Play England - South East and Julie Smith from East Sussex County Council.

Following the presentations, a series of questions were asked about what delegates wanted from the network. Suggestions included blogging, workshops and networking.

There were also lots of suggestions for recruiting other members to Re:Play, such as more network events, school groups and a playday party for adults. Delegates discussed the merits of a network, including being able to lobby government and local councils, meeting like minded people, hearing success stories, sharing good practice and providing members with the confidence to try new things and raise the profile of playwork as a career. When asked for ideas about what delegates could offer the network, feedback included being able to job swap, the facilitation of workshops, the opportunity for forest school offsite play and freelance artists.

It was felt that the main challenges facing the playwork profession included money, opposition from schools, sharing buildings, and 'people who don't want play in their back yard.'

The day ended with a workshop on the beach. The weather was lovely and after a picnic lunch, the group explored the rock pools.

There is a plan for the next network meeting to be held in Bracknell in early July. For further information, please visit their website at www.replayse.org.uk or contact Christine Andrews on 01372 464284.



Wednesday 4 August

The annual celebration
of children's right to play

Top tip

Register your Playday event online

Register your event via the Playday website to receive extra support and a free registration pack!

When you register, you can also choose to publish your event details online to increase publicity.

Visit the Playday website to register your event and for more information.

www.playday.org.uk

Email: playday@ncb.org.uk | Tel: 020 7843 6300



National news

Department for Education

Following the change of government, the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has reverted back to the Department for Education. The South East region is well represented in the department with Surrey Heath MP, Michael Gove as Secretary of State for Education. East Worthing and Shoreham MP, Tim Loughton is the Under Secretary of State for Children and Families. The department's new website is: www.education.gov.uk

Resources

Sensory Play Resource Book – Making a short break a positive experience

This new book published by KIDS is aimed primarily at short break workers but will be useful to anyone who is working with disabled children and young people across early years, play, childcare and youth settings.

Focusing on the five senses, this book provides a range of activities and resources on sensory play. It is rich in imaginative ideas which will help playworkers to enter a sensory world together with a disabled child, providing exciting, creative and stimulating opportunities to play and learn together whilst enjoying their short breaks.

The book costs £15 for statutory and commercial organisations and £10 for the voluntary sector and individuals. You can purchase this by calling 020 7359 3073, or emailing publications@kids.org.uk.

Funding

Reaching Communities

The Big Lottery Fund has announced a new funding programme that will allow voluntary organisations to apply for grants of up to £40,000 a year until 2015.


It is designed to support charities that are looking for shorter-term, smaller-scale grants than those available through the existing Reaching Communities scheme.


www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

Contact

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

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

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