



Playday Seminar 1st June 2010

Appendix

Topic- 1 Staffed Play Provision - Widening opportunities for children and communities

Loss of Childcare Partnership network to pull partners together

PTA

Gala Days

Local specialists- judo, portable TA assault course

EL Play for Today conference for adults

Role of Play Scotland to encourage Local authorities to support a Playday to bring people together

Choose a central location

Funding helps to pull together different partners- (4 different events in North Lanarkshire)

Tie the application into the national agenda

Parents are anxious where children play-

Traffic/suitable areas- "strangers"

"Bad parents"- if children are left outside unsupervised

"Pop out to Play" – facilitators in local areas- 2x2 hour sessions

Staffed play in parks can encourage use

Country parks free rather than branded play

Play rangers/ Play leaders

Children are not used to "Playing out"

Teaching children how to play safe outdoors

Educating parents helps

Work with schools and parents in schools

Young/older parents- different experiences

Supervise fire play- ask parents first

Materials for natural free play- storage and availability

Forms and permission can cause barriers

Out of School Care, play areas etc

Health projects and other agencies

Care commission and registration issues might change?

Need joined up working

Communication

Council strategies, i.e. School Estates Strategy

Lets/ASC activities

Accessible indoor and outdoor facilities

Marketing opportunities

Creative funding applications

Attitudes of staff- seeing the value of play- staff in settings attitudes, members of community- their attitudes

Territorialism- no ball games- rules for the sake of it

Assumptions about children

Need to create spaces for children to play

Give and take- where adults make decisions

Bringing members of the community in as partners- older people as partners- gardening, oral history, crafts

Partner agencies such as Bookstart

Topic 2- Improving outcomes across children`s services through Play

Play reduces stress, benefits families

Communicate successes helps improve outcomes

Understanding partners outcomes ie. Play @ Home

Opportunities to network, share practice and link in with other agencies

Get the message out- play is important

Reminding adults “how to play”

Managing risk and promoting risk benefits helps improve outcomes

Getting everyone on board that children have the right to be on the streets

Topic 3 – Safer streets and spaces for children`s play

Cars are currently prioritised over children- displacing kids- creating blind spots

Eerily quiet streets- no kids playing

No ball games signs in community settings- loads of barriers, fences, boxing and demarcating play space

Loss of community cohesion- context- e.g. in Armed Service Families- where parents support each other and other families

Care of environment- lacking- rubbish and glass

Too much street furniture, e.g. bins etc

Poor new build provision for play in new build housing developments- they don't foster a sense of community with nice communal spaces and traffic calmed

WE need to educate children on road safety and educate drivers on road safety

Positive signs are children playing

We should have pedestrian only days on areas

Using more open spaces for other amenities

More free space for children to play

Community working together

Local Authority Lets- stopping kids using other facilities

Community Involvement

Changing parent's attitudes

Children outside playing on the streets

Looking at the photos of 40 years ago- and photos of today- then there were no cars, now there are lots of cars

Adults are afraid of the dangers for their children

Outside play is now more structured

Less time for play- more of a shift towards parents working

Children always had boundaries but now they are closer to home

Technology now is main alternative to "free play"

Loss of community spirit

Fewer broken limbs through A and E

Removing risky equipment from play parks

Involve parents in play activities

Are playworkers over cautious?

Should activities be described as safe?

Generation of younger parents now from the generation who did not play outside themselves as kids

Kids always want to get outside to play

Children have to come to deal with their own fears

Topic 4 – Play Types

Dramatic play- theatre groups, local drama groups, LA theatre workshops. Dressing up play, materials and resources used for this

Exploratory play- natural art- pictures, introduce to urban children who don't have the opportunity to sand in cities

Locomotor play- sports teams, inflatables

Imaginative play- Role play equipment- inflatables

Communication play-

Rough and tumble play- parents struggle with it, tie in risk assessments

Have fun whatever you do!

Are we offering all play types to children in our provision?

Playday does- gives an opportunity- Zones at Playday (East Ayrshire Council) helped cover all areas so far and makes you see what areas you are missing if any

Important to consult with children

Explore unfixed outcomes, e.g. hay bales, crates

Think of the importance of indoor and out

Sumo suit- accepted as it is a suit

Symbolic play- more for younger children- transferred skills

14-15 year olds never too old to have fun too!

Older children may take a more theoretical approach- using activities to make something – good idea

Danger/risky play- more to be considered – must tie in- challenges- fire bowls- legal issues- challenge fear culture- do fire activities teach children safe play or encourage them to light fires?

Yes- activities have to have the risk of danger- but better informed as to danger /risk

Getting the message across to parents- manage the risk and challenge your fears

Parents can feel assured that staff know they are safe and enjoying the experience

Times have moved on- children have mobiles from age 5

Simple ideas should be explored

Resourcefulness and research resources

Successful partnership working

Shared practice

Topic 5 – Elemental Play

Can have a really good playday with natural elements, whether in hard street or parks

Back to basics- den building, teepees, sand and water

Who is it for/ How many? Who is running it?

Community friendly- depends on the level of tolerance- community perceptions- more tolerant of younger ages

Community perceptions of risk a factor= barrier

Involvement depends on the relationship with the community

Depends on well established communities of families

Rich full play experience bringing different elements to extend the play space- e.g. sand, water, ropes- parents could help each other to bring these in

Art activities on large scale using natural materials

Topic 6 - Campaigning

Playwork is changing from structured to free play training of playworkers

Children being allowed to play in school grounds

Campaign needed to say to adults "it's ok to play with children"

Follow up to Play @ Home Campaign

Planners from local council departments consult with playworkers and local action groups for well designed play areas

A play area is more than a swing and a frame

Attitudes- changing- need to: Promote play, raise awareness of play, involve community, educate community, play in the community, ensure enough green space,

Through community council encourage community services to play in community

Making sure there is a health environment- Living streets policy

Bad press of current generations

Tolerance of Play

Children aren't visible- parks etc not seen as safe places- bullying, who uses that space, youth culture "hoodies" , what age groups use the space, do age groups mix?

Streets are not made for play- community planners, North Lanarkshire Council- consultations good examples