

Making your Playday inclusive for everybody!



A simple checklist for Playday event organisers and activity providers



Playday is the national day for play in the UK, traditionally held on the first Wednesday in August. On Playday thousands of children and their families get out to play at hundreds of community events across the UK.

Playday is co-ordinated by PlayBoard NI, Play Scotland, Play Wales and Play England.



www.playboard.org



www.playscotland.org



www.playwales.org.uk



www.playengland.org.uk

A child's right to play is recognised in article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.



Playday provides a great opportunity every year for communities to meet and celebrate the value of play.

KIDS works with disabled children and young people by supporting them to realise their aspirations and their right to an inclusive community which supports them and their families.

KIDS recognises that disabled children and young people are often left out of Playday by the attitudes, actions and omissions of society in failing to include them in their local communities.

We believe that if you get Playday right for disabled children it means you are getting it right for everyone.

"Inclusive play provision is open and accessible to all and takes positive action in removing disabling barriers so that disabled and non-disabled children and young people can participate"

Alison John for KIDS and Better Play (2004)

“it is better to risk a broken leg than a broken spirit. A leg can always mend. A spirit may not.”

Lady Allen of Hurtwood (1965)

We would like more disabled children and young people to have the opportunity to join in the fun on Playday.

To assist those of you organising a Playday event, KIDS has produced a simple checklist to help you plan a more accessible and inclusive Playday for all.

If you are prepared to take a few extra easy steps to promote equality of opportunity, you will also be supporting your local community to encourage:

- more disabled children and young people to have the opportunity to choose to join in the fun and play together with their non-disabled peers
- disabled adults to join in and attend as playworkers, carers, parents
- the identification and development of good practice for all
- working towards meeting the requirements of the Equality Duty
- the creation of an organisation-wide approach to tackling disability related discrimination



“All children and young people (disabled and non-disabled) have the right to play and need to play: free to choose what they do - lively or relaxed, noisy or quiet - with the chance to stretch and challenge themselves, take risks and enjoy freedom”

Charter for Children’s Play,
Play England (2009)



“the aspiration of those providing play facilities must be to create challenges for all and barriers for none”

Developing Accessible Play Space in the UK: A Social Model Approach.
Karen Dunn and Michele Moore (2005)

Use the checklist overleaf to make sure your Playday is a much more inclusive event for **all** local children and their families:

Things to think about	Actions	Do you already do this? If so, how?	What else do you need to do?	Who will take action? By when?
Checking your policies and practices are supporting inclusion	Adapt your policies and practices to be flexible enough to support disabled adults and children to attend and for children's individual needs to be met, so they can have fun in their own way, e.g. queuing may be difficult for some children.			
Who takes part in the planning of Playday?	Consult with local children, including disabled children and young people, and the organisations and people who work with them, to help with the planning, delivery and evaluation of your Playday.			
Who is responsible? "Inclusion is everybody's business"	Support everyone who is involved in planning and delivering your Playday (from paid staff to volunteers) to feel confident and have a 'can-do' approach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • offer Disability Equality Training • discuss as a team how you are making your event more inclusive • understand how will make the range of activities offered more flexible and more inclusive • discuss how you will actively support disabled and non-disabled children to have fun together and understand each other better 			
How are you promoting Playday? Publicity materials and dissemination	Make sure you are letting disabled children and their families know they are welcome and expected to attend by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • using positive images or photos of disabled and non-disabled children playing together • using language which states that all children are welcome • using (or offering) information in a range of formats e.g. symbols, braille, large text, key local languages • ensuring information is available for disabled children, young people and their families/carers in places where they are most likely to receive it • giving as much information as possible about the location, timings, range of activities and the venue's facilities to help everyone plan their visit in a way which suits them • providing the organisers contact details encouraging people to get more information or ask questions about how their needs can be met 			

Things to think about	Actions	Do you already do this? If so, how?	What else do you need to do?	Who will take action? By when?
Provide a warm welcome and helpful information both on arrival and during the event	<p>All staff and volunteers should aim to support everyone to enjoy their day by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • welcoming each individual • proactively asking children what they might need to take part • communicating with each child in a way which is most appropriate for them <p>Everyone should be informed appropriately about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who to ask for help • Where to find help • What activities are available • Where everything is • What the timetable is, if there is one 			
The location of your Playday event	<p>Plan your event at a venue which offers as much accessibility as possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is it easy to get to by car and public transport with plenty of parking nearby • is it suitable for those with mobility impairments • are there accessible toilets and accessible changing places for adults and children • is there plenty of space for buggies, support frames and wheelchairs to be stored • is there plenty of seating available and spaces for wheelchair users • is there some shelter from rain and sun 			
Offering a range of play opportunities	<p>Provide a wide range of activities which allow all children to have the opportunity to play, choosing whether or not to take part and join in, in their own way, by offering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a broad range of activities available at any one time • different ways of engaging with each activity • a range of places/spaces to play including inside/ outside, quiet/noisy, at tables/on the ground • variety including clean/messy, stationary/active and sensory activities • activities which provide challenge and/or risk for children to try something new 			

We hope you all have a fantastic Playday!

If you would like to know more about how KIDS can help you develop inclusive play provision for disabled children or to receive briefings on how you can make your play provision more inclusive, please contact: ndd@kids.org.uk

Other useful organisations and resources to support your Playday:

Playday: www.playday.org.uk

Playday Facebook: <http://bit.ly/playday14>

Playing Out: <http://playingout.net>

The Wild Network: <http://projectwildthing.com/thewildnetwork>

Love Outdoor Play: <http://loveoutdoorplay.net>

London Play: www.londonplay.org.uk

Mencap. Playday, your guide to holding an inclusive event:

www.playday.org.uk/media/2544/playday___your_guide_to_holding_an_inclusive_event.pdf

Barnardo's. Let's play together: Play and Inclusion: www.barnardos.org.uk/lets_play_together_report.pdf

I want to play too: developing inclusive play strategies for disabled children and young people:

www.barnardos.org.uk/i_want_to_play.pdf

Contact a Family. Everybody Here? Play and Leisure for Disabled Children and Young People

www.cafamily.org.uk/media/497460/everybody_here_leisure_2002.pdf

Children's Play Information Service, factsheet no.8 Inclusive Play:

www.ncb.org.uk/media/124854/no.8_inclusive_play.pdf

Fields in Trust: Can Play – Will Play: Disabled Children and Access to Outdoor Playgrounds (2004):

www.fieldsintrust.org/Upload/Documents/Products/can_play_will_play_1004006374.pdf

Children Youth and Environments Journal. Developing Accessible Play Space in the UK: A Social Model Approach.

Karen Dunn and Michele Moore (2005) www.colorado.edu/journals/cye/15_1/f9_Accessible_Play_Space.pdf

Planning for Play, Lady Allen of Hurtwood (1968):

www.play-scapes.com/play-history/planning-for-play-by-lady-allen-hurtwood-now-available-through-playscapes



“Enabling all children to play, and to play together, is about a benefit to the whole community. It is not about overcoming legal hurdles or making expensive provision for a small section of the community. If any child is prevented from playing then it diminishes the play experience of all.”

Can Play – Will Play: Disabled Children and Access to Outdoor Playgrounds, Alison John and Rob Wheway (2004)



For KIDS Publications to support your inclusive practice, go to:

www.kids.org.uk/publications

Everybody's Business!

Offers all play, leisure and childcare providers practical advice, activities, and ideas on how best to include disabled children in a range of play settings.

Inclusion by Design

Is a guide to creating accessible play and childcare environments.

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