



Play Shaper

Cross-professional training

**PLAY
SHAPER**

CREATING CHILD-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

What is Play Shaper?

Play Shaper is a government funded, national initiative that helps the professionals who plan, design, build and manage our communities understand the importance of children's play and their role in creating child-friendly public spaces.

By March 2011, every top tier local authority in England will be offered a free, one-day cross-professional event.

Furthermore, two specialised modules are being developed for those who plan, design and build our public spaces, and for those who supervise the places where children play, such as the police.

Who should attend?

The Play Shaper cross-professional event brings together senior managers, managers and professionals working for, and with, the local authority, including:

- Planners and developers
- Landscape architects and designers
- Highways and transport
- Health
- Regeneration and housing
- Schools and children's services
- Police
- Parks and leisure
- Community engagement
- Voluntary and community sector



Why attend Play Shaper?

Working with local authorities and a full range of their partners, Play Shaper explores the importance of play in children and young people's lives and how, by making play a priority, professionals can deliver on a range of local priorities.

The Play Shaper programme supports the government's national Play Strategy and statutory guidance to Children's Trusts. These policy initiatives recognise

that the design, planning and management of public places is of fundamental importance to the quality of space available for children's play.

Participants will gain a better understanding of children and young people's play and informal recreation, how to apply this knowledge to their professional practice, and how they can work together with others that plan, design, build and manage public spaces to create more child-friendly communities.

Play Shaper programme

Introduction to Play Shaper

- National and local priorities
- How play fits in with your strategic aims

More places to play

- Essential features for play
- More than playgrounds

Supporting play throughout childhood

- Benefits of play for children and communities
- How supporting play can help your professional practice
- How your professional role can support play

Playing safely

- How children use outdoor spaces
- Key principles of successful design
- Balancing benefit against risk

Embedding play in local priorities - part one

- Joining up the work of parks, police, education, health and other key agencies
- Barriers and solutions

Child-friendly communities

- What 'child-friendly communities' mean
- Role of children and communities in place making
- Engaging with local communities

Embedding play in local priorities - part two

- Reviewing gaps identified in local plans
- Participant's next steps and actions
- Signposting to further resources, support opportunities

Our approach

Play Shaper is a free of charge, one-day event which uses practical exercises, case studies and group discussions, facilitated by experts in the field.

Each event is tailored to the specific requirements of the local area and the needs of its local development framework, Children and Young People's Plan and other local priorities.

SkillsActive assures the quality of the Play Shaper training through rigorous assessment and evaluation.

Participants will gain access to a dedicated website www.playshaper.org.uk packed with resources to support the training.

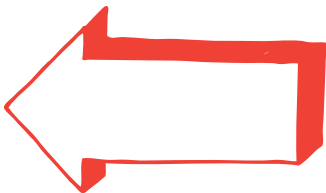
How to get involved

If you are a local authority interested in hosting a Play Shaper event or would like further information on the programme, please contact your local Play England regional office. Contact details can be found overleaf.



Play Shaper can help you:

- understand the nature and importance of children and young people's outdoor play
- understand your role in supporting children's play and safe, active travel
- learn how supporting children's play in your area can help deliver local priorities, for example increasing physical activity and developing sustainable communities
- identify what you can do to encourage children's play opportunities, drawing on good practice
- build links with partners across the local authority.



**For more information contact
your Play England regional
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