

*“ We don't stop playing because we grow old;
we grow old because we stop playing. “*
George Bernard Shaw

Bath Area Play Project



Bath Area Play Project

Annual Review 2008



Registered Charity No. 1013897

Chair's Report

Bath Area Play Project has continued throughout this year to offer a high quality service delivered by dedicated and professional staff offering imaginative solutions in quite often challenging situations.

At the beginning of the year we identified some key priorities that were to:

- **Secure New Office Premises**
- **Identify and work towards an appropriate quality assurance system**
- **Improve staff support in the delivery of services**
- **Continue to ensure services were used led**



The most significant developments in our work this year has been our move to the former Youth Club Building in Odd Down. We worked in partnership with the local community in saving the building that was threatened with closure. We now have newly decorated offices and new furniture that is a marked improvement on our previously crowded facilities. We have secured funding for a Youth Club one night a week and have helped in the development of community led activities.

Having explored various possibilities the trustees agreed to use money from the development fund to begin the ISO9001 Quality Assurance Management System. This will include an annual audit and confirm our commitment to quality management for staff and services across the board.

We have set up clear guidelines for the delivery of services with an outcomes focus and a clear monitoring process for funders. We have regular team meetings, monthly senior management meeting and weekly team meetings for the play schemes. All our funding applications incorporate full cost recovery to ensure that the total cost of running the service is funded.

All our services are evaluated by our users and we respond to issues raised in order to maintain good quality services. Our play schemes, Teenage Rampage and the SOFA Project also have considerable input from the children and young people on what should be included.

One other significant development is the threatened closure of our Crèche. The crèche has been running for 15 years providing much needed respite for local parents and giving children a rich experience in their early years development. Unfortunately with a change in funding criteria from Central Government that concentrates on Children's Centres, the crèche service cannot be provided equitably across all areas. The increase in fees necessary to meet our costs would be impossible for parents to meet. So unless we are able to secure new funding the crèche will be closing at the end of the financial year.

Ailsa Masterton

Chair of Trustees



Direct Services

Holiday playschemes

All open to children aged 5 – 12 years, disabled and non-disabled. Children have the freedom to play how they like with whom they like, making decisions about what they do and what resources they use. They control their play and plan what they do. They take place in community venues in Kingsmead, Twerton, Whiteway, Odd Down and Foxhill in Bath. Funded by B&NES Extended Service and Play Team.

One key aspect of our work in delivering child-centred play is our holiday playschemes which in 2008 were attended by 25% more children than 2007, facilitated by fantastic Playworkers, nearly 50% of whom return to work year after year. Five staff teams of between 4 and 7 paid staff in addition to volunteers, worked hard planning and organising the programme for each area. The holiday play schemes and play sessions we provide create an environment in which children can explore play. With the support of our dedicated staff children are supported to take control in order to have ownership of their play. We encourage risk taking and challenging play concepts using appropriate resources, physical space and well trained staff.

Through our play schemes links are developed in the community between parents and carers and local residents who welcome the provision. Agencies working in the community now refer families to our play schemes

We struggle with some venues in terms of access to outdoor space and inclusive physical access but in the main playschemes are provided in the heart of communities. Fortunately most locations have open space within easy reach on foot and so staff support children's access to outdoor play, subject to the weather! 2008 was particularly wet and dreary. Playschemes run Monday to Friday and are open for two sessions each day with the exception of the closed-access one which runs for one longer session.

With funding from the Bank of Ireland and Quartet Express Funds, we were able to provide children with access to a range of workshops including kart building, pottery and animation. A highlight for 2008 was the Kart Racing held at Royal Victoria Park where each playscheme raced their karts made at their playschemes. Races were judged by Eric Snook who also donated prizes. And it didn't rain!

Open-access holiday playscheme – children are free to come and go as they please but must register with the Senior Playworker. Children can come on as many days as they choose although the Senior Playworker monitors numbers to ensure ratios are maintained. Free of charge

Closed access holiday playscheme - children must be registered in advance by a parent/carers and book places which are allocated as equitably as possible. Children can only come on days where they have a place allocated.

As part of the Play Pathfinder developments where B&NES has been allocated £2.5 million pounds to develop 28 play spaces across B&NES, children at playschemes were involved in developing ideas for what changes they would like to see in the parks. Playworkers used a variety of methodologies including model making, children interviewing other children and drama games to involve as many children as possible. We received some funding to make a short film called “The State of Play in parks” which will be shown to parish councils and other bodies who might be interested in improving spaces for play.

A family who regularly used a playscheme during the summer were further supported by the staff team as the mother was feeling “like she was out of control”. The parent stayed with the staff team and observed how her children’s challenging behaviour was dealt with by staff. At the end of the sessions she felt relieved that there were some strategies that she could try using at home.



“Playschemes mean that my children have fun and are safe rather than out on the streets. It gives me the chance to do stuff at home – longer hours would be great!”

“I like meeting my friends and hiding in the garden – we don’t have one at home.”

Many parents (68%) say that the reason their children go to a playscheme is so they know they are safe and supervised.

Children say they come to playschemes to meet their friends, do more activities and to have fun!

Holiday Playschemes and SOFA

Number of ch and yp using in 2008	874 + 190
Number of places per day	190 + 40 (70 basecamp)
Cost per place per day	£1.46 (Playscheme) and £9.20 (SOFA)
Number of locations	6
% of children disabled or with additional needs	9.6% / 14%
% of children from BOME groups	8.3% / 13%
Total number of staff	30 (24 FTE) Short term contract only
% of qualified staff NVQ Level 3 of above	53%



SOFA 08

Was a truly inclusive service attended by over 190 young people including disabled young people. Activities included snowboarding, canoeing, music workshops and Play Out Wild days. We employed a Development Worker, Shiva Page who worked tirelessly to ensure that every young person had an excellent four weeks, ably supported by a hard working staff team. The programme is put together by a group of young people, the SOFA Participation Group. They make decisions about what happens when, what the publicity looks like and what rules should be put in place. Information is sent out in a booklet to 100's of young people across B&NES via schools, youth clubs and our own mailing list. Young people choose which activities they would like to do and an emerging database attempts to allocate activities as fairly as possible. This year the participation group chose to use wristbands rather than ID cards and these were very popular. Culverhay School was once again the venue for Basecamp days where each week young people could take part in a range of activities including pool party, music, cooking, animation and rugby.

New to SOFA was a 19 year old disabled young man. His parents were very anxious as he had not previously attended anything inclusive. However this was a huge success story as the young man gained so much from participating in a wide range of activities. His personality shone through and the satisfaction and enjoyment that he got from activities was clearly evident. His parents commented that whilst they had been reluctant, they were incredibly pleased in what he achieved in such a short period of time.

After a fantastic summer with very few issues, the Final Basecamp day took place at Culverhay School where young people celebrated the end in style with a Fun Day involving 30 drummers, quad bikes, dance and sumo wrestling! There were over 80 attending and about 15 identified themselves as disabled or having additional needs some quite complex, there were young people represented from all schools from all classes and areas, It was the highlight of the summer and the atmosphere was electric with disabled and non-disabled young people supporting each other with friendships crossing social barriers.

"It was the best fun summer there has ever been. I can't wait until next year!"

"SOFA was really fun and I got to know more people."

"I was scared of abseiling but now I'm not."

"I think basecamp is good because then you can see the friends you made again."

86% of young people surveyed at the end of SOFA said that they overall rated SOFA as 7 or higher on a scale of 1 – 10

Summer of Fun Activities

Open to young people aged 12 – 16 years (25 years if disabled) including disabled and socially excluded young people. A free programme organised by young people and funded through the BIG Lottery for Play and Youthbank. Young people book in advance on to activity days ranging from canoeing and abseiling to ice skating and Leisure Parks. Basecamp days are Bath based and provide young people with somewhere to hang out and do a range of activities from music and animation to football and swimming. Accessible transport is provided with pick up points across B&NES.



Crèche

A place where children are looked after while their parents or carers are working or busy with other tasks. Based in Twerton, our sessional crèche provides care for children from birth to school-age with opportunities for a range of free play. High staff ratios, small maximum number of children per session with access to fantastic resources including garden and soft play room. Affordable care which can be used on a regular, occasional or one-off basis.

The **Crèche at the Hut** continued to provide an excellent service to the 98 children who used it throughout the year. The crèche gives children a rich experience that supports their development (in some cases where this is lacking at home) and also gives parents free time to attend appointments, undertake training, work part-time or just clean the house. We had 7 referrals from statutory agencies and successfully supported families through a variety of difficult situations. The staff team remain central to these families' lives, listening and offering advice when needed, being non-judgemental and providing consistent high quality care for the children from birth to 4.5 years.

Over 20% of families chose to keep their child at the crèche rather than moving them to a pre-school or nursery setting. A strong indicator that parents were satisfied with the level of care and play value for their children's learning and development. High satisfaction levels from parents/carers (98%) with the service and quality of care for children once again demonstrated how invaluable the service was for the area.

A highlight for many children is the huge variety of play opportunities that crèche workers facilitate and support them to do. Babies and young children play alongside each other playing in different ways; creating a huge village completely filling one room, planting seeds outside in the garden, getting really messy with hand and feet painting or developing imaginations in the home corner, cooking, dressing up and chatting.

It is not only children that are supported but families too. A parent arrived looking low and stressed and broke down in tears. A crèche worker asked if she wanted to go into a different room as her young child was getting upset. Other staff engaged the child in play and she soon relaxed and played. Meanwhile the parent explained that she had tried to take her own life. She was extremely anxious and worried about her children. The crèche worker provided advice and listened and gave her a lot of time. She commented how good it was to talk to someone casually and now regularly takes up the offer. She is more relaxed, her child has more sessions and she feels that she can come and chat whenever she feels low.

Teenage Rampage

Is a weekly group for disabled young people aged 13 – 19 years of age. Young people from across B&NES attend regularly and help plan the programme each term. It is an evening session well supported by staff and volunteers enabling disabled young people to socialise with their peers and have the opportunity to do a range of age-appropriate activities. The Outreach Worker provides support through Home Visits and liaises with other professionals working with young people. A drama project with the egg is planned for 2009 with a high take up of involvement planned.

Teenage Rampage has worked with 29 young people from across B&NES in 2008. We have successfully supported two disabled young people to volunteer with Teenage Rampage and they have now moved on to another group for adults. Our Outreach Worker, Nikki Cox, supports young people to help plan the programme which this year has included Capoeira, visit to the Create Centre in Bristol and Lifeskills sessions about drugs, personal safety and cooking on fires as well as walking. One young person after a visit from the Olympic Artist, had her work chosen to be exhibited in both Bath and London. Following the hugely successful performance at the egg, where young people were involved in all aspects of production and performance, we will be starting work on another production for March 2009. Funding was applied for from the Positive Activities stream and "Rampage On" was successful. Young people identified they would like to extend the opportunities they have experienced at the sessions with dance and climbing sessions as well as a residential weekend.

Teenage Rampage successfully put forward an application to the Prince's Trust to secure funding to do up the Lounge space at Odd Down Community centre – the project started in September, with 4 sessions at Teenage Rampage where Young People were supported to paint the room using the paint that they had chosen. All the furnishings and equipment was chosen by the Young People, and they were really proud to show off their new space at our opening party in November 2008.

Teenage Rampage had a Rugby session taught by one of the Bath Rugby coaches – the session was really well attended, and most of the Young people joined in. The Young People took part in individual and pair skills work as well as a full on rugby game at the end of the session with both staff and Young People. We have since been invited to have a box at the Rec. to watch the Bath Rugby team play on the 12th January 2009.

Young People were able to take part in a Capoeira session – all the Young people had a chance to try out a new skill. Young People were encouraged to copy the moves of the coach – the session was really engaging for the Young people and offered a new experience. Alongside the session, some of the Young people cooked Brazilian Banana bread that went down well with everyone





Stay 'n' Play

The original concept of Stay 'n' Play was to give families of disabled children an opportunity to meet other families and to be supported by our workers in themed sessions. This year these have included gardening, music and sand art as well as use of the Soft Play Room, Sensory Room and Garden. However we have found that most parents want to use the session as respite care rather than to stay. Our remit as an organisation is to focus on play, so after some consideration we have decided to end the sessions.

Crèche, Teenage Rampage, Stay 'n' Play

Number of ch and yp using in 2008	120 + 29 + 16
Number of places	15 and 15 and 10
Cost per place per day / session	£1.04 (Crèche) £17.24 (TR) £8.30 (SP)
% of children disabled or with additional needs	4% / 100% / 100%
Total number of staff	15 (3.3FTE)
% of qualified staff NVQ Level 3 or above	62%



Play Events

We continue to provide a service for external crèche and play support to a variety of organisations and companies. At the Bath Spring Flower Show since 1992 we have provided a Junior Tent and, since 1998, the Crèche tent. This event is attended by thousands of people and helps to raise our profile to a wider audience as well as facilitating some creative play for children from 0 to 14 years.

With the successful award of the *Playwork training* tender, we have supported over 20 students to complete the Take 5 for Play course. Demand for further courses has not been sufficient to run further Take 5, Everyone Can Play or CACHE Level2 Certificate in Playwork courses but these will all be promoted in 2009. Demand for Paediatric First Aid training has been high so we have been working with a local provider to put on courses in Bath. Three are planned for early 2009 as there is high demand.

Looking Ahead

We have facilitated a group of young people to apply for funding from the Prince's Trust which was successful and now open a **Youth Club** one evening a week in Odd Down. Staffed by volunteers and three student Youthworkers, it is a successful club with between 30 and 40 young people regularly attending. Young people enjoy football, Trampolining, cooking, quizzes and hanging out. Several young people have expressed interest in training to become a Youthworker and plans are being put together to apply for funding to support young people into work opportunities.

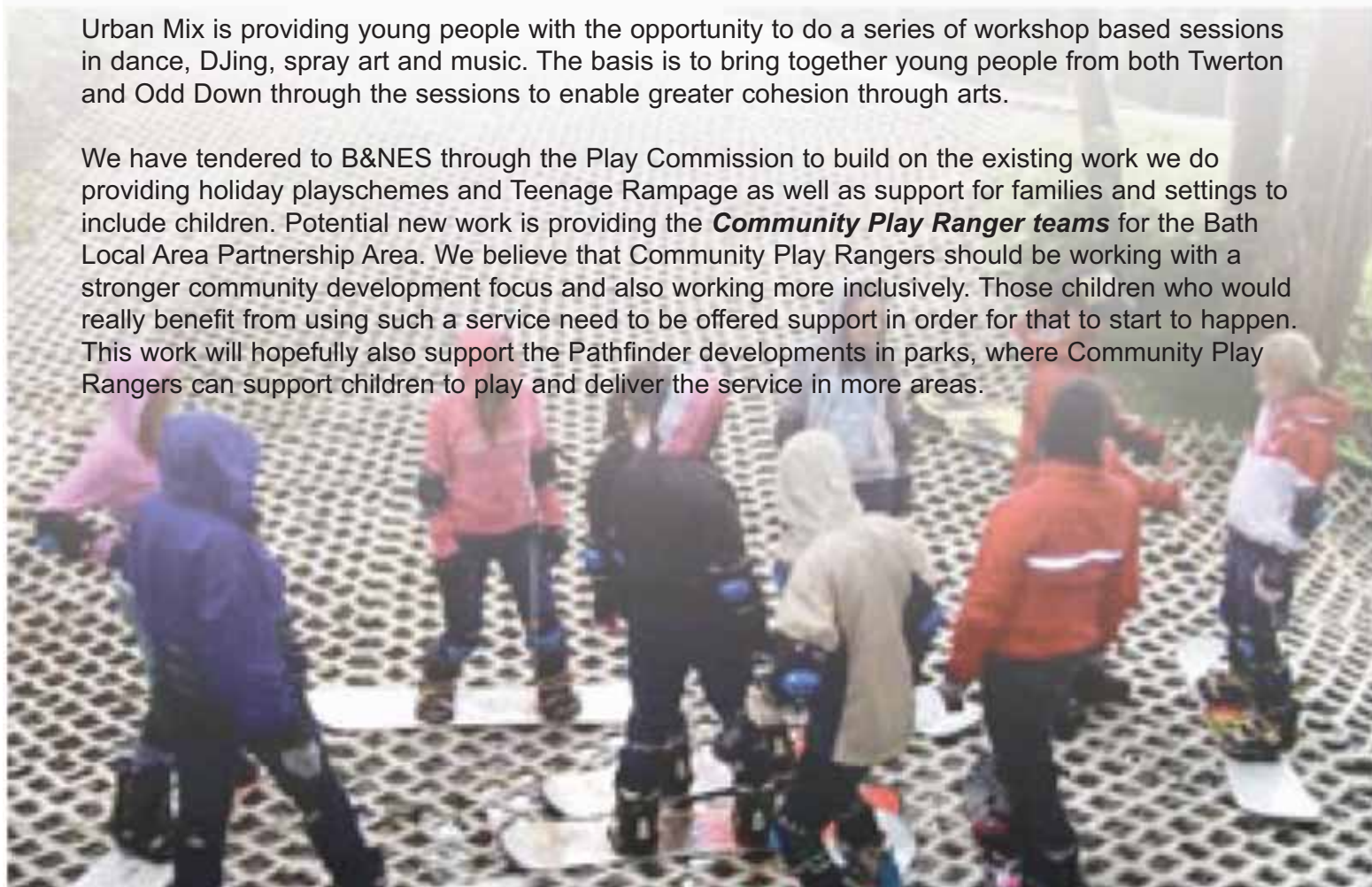
Play Out Wild is our approach to environmental play which we have developed and piloted with a small number of children and young people. We have recently applied for funding to deliver 8 sessions over a year to demonstrate the effectiveness of the project. It uses environmental play with small groups of children who struggle with larger groups, may be excluded from school or home schooled and all of whom have low self-confidence and self-esteem.

Fit for Play is a play based programme supporting children to increase their physical activity levels at regular after school sessions over 12 weeks with support and encouragement for children to continue their involvement in play through Community Play Rangers and After school clubs.

A consultation project took place in April in the Odd Down/Foxhill area of Bath where young people were asked about what they thought about the area and what they would like to see happen and what they would like to do. The results of this were used to apply for funding from the Bath LAP allocation for **Positive Activities for young people**. Active Odd Down and South Bath Urban Mix were both awarded funding and these projects will start in 2009. Active Odd Down is focussing on physical activity with sports tasters and then a series of sessions in basketball, football etc with a view to signposting young people onto other teams or clubs.

Urban Mix is providing young people with the opportunity to do a series of workshop based sessions in dance, DJing, spray art and music. The basis is to bring together young people from both Twerton and Odd Down through the sessions to enable greater cohesion through arts.

We have tendered to B&NES through the Play Commission to build on the existing work we do providing holiday playschemes and Teenage Rampage as well as support for families and settings to include children. Potential new work is providing the **Community Play Ranger teams** for the Bath Local Area Partnership Area. We believe that Community Play Rangers should be working with a stronger community development focus and also working more inclusively. Those children who would really benefit from using such a service need to be offered support in order for that to start to happen. This work will hopefully also support the Pathfinder developments in parks, where Community Play Rangers can support children to play and deliver the service in more areas.



Support Services

TURTLE Toy Library continues to provide access to good quality toys and equipment for over a 100 families from across B&NES. Sessions run fortnightly on a Saturday and Monday mornings, with increased membership from Early Years settings. Outreach Toy Library sessions mean that selections of toys are taken out into different communities across B&NES including Odd Down, Southdown, Camerton and Radstock. We have started compiling a new electronic catalogue of toys which will be available at every B&NES Children's Centre as well as on-line on our website. At a toy library session, there was a young parent from out of the area who was very shy and on the verge of walking out of the room. The Outreach Worker started chatting to her but she didn't seem very keen to attend any of the groups that her Health Visitor had recommended. The worker mentioned that she attended one of the groups – Bumps and Babes and she asked if she could attend with her. The following week the worker met her outside and they went in together. Since then she has grown hugely in confidence and one week when the worker was at a different group, she rang and explained she would be coming later but not at the start. The worker arrived to find the parent happily chatting to other parents. She has made friends and feels part of the group.

Childminders as well as families use the toy library and borrow toys regularly throughout the year. There is increased demand for outdoor toys in the warmer months and often parents are surprised by what their children choose to take home.

The Outreach Toy Library contract has been extended allowing more sessions to be provided and securing funding to allow toys to be catalogued and replaced as the need arises. Parents and children are able to make suggestions as well as duplicate items bought that are particularly popular and there is a regular waiting list

Toy Library

Membership open to all families with children from birth to 16 years of age, people working with this age group of children including childminders, after school groups and early years settings. Families can borrow 2 toys per child every month for a nominal fee ranging from 20p to £1. Outreach sessions take a smaller selection of toys to specific groups across B&NES and also provide a play session using the toys and other resources such as messy play activities. A large catalogue lists 800+ toys and equipment ranging from board games and dressing up to skateboard ramps and camping equipment.

Comments from users of the Toy Library

*"Being a member of the toy library means that my children get to play with things I never would have afforded and they get to play with loads at the sessions."
Parent of twins.*

*"I can change my son's toys every week; it's brilliant! He is never bored with what we have at home now."
Parent of 6 year old.*

"We try out toys when we are thinking of buying something for birthdays or Christmas. We have been very surprised before – things we thought she would like and were going to buy, she showed little interest in. Its beengreat." Parent of 4 year old.

A person with reddish hair, wearing a blue hoodie, is seen from behind, aiming a bow at a target. The target is a circular archery target with a yellow center and red, blue, and white rings. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and a fence.

Support for Play and Inclusion

Is provided to families as well as to settings and those working with children. The focus is around inclusion of disabled and socially excluded children and we take referrals from other agencies. Home visits as well as supported contact ensure that children are better able to access appropriate play provision which suits their needs

Play Inclusion Support has enabled many settings to successfully include children with increased confidence from the staff as well as satisfaction that taking risks can be challenging but worth doing. The Family support has been crucial to this success, with James building relationships with the families, getting to know the child and how they like to play and working with the setting to support their inclusion into the setting.

James has also worked alongside other staff to involve and include children and young people, their parents and carers and the wider community in the development of parks across B&NES with the Play Pathfinder work. Setting up a parents of disabled children group, an e-group as well as speaking to parents and children about the barriers they face in accessing the park. This work will continue throughout the Pathfinder project to ensure that parks will become more inclusive to disabled children.

Prior to this year's summer Holiday many young people and their families were visited to inform them what was out there for them with regards to play over the whole county and what they would like to do.

This highlighted that with clear support and communication there is a good range of options for Disabled Children and young people if you support the process for all parties.

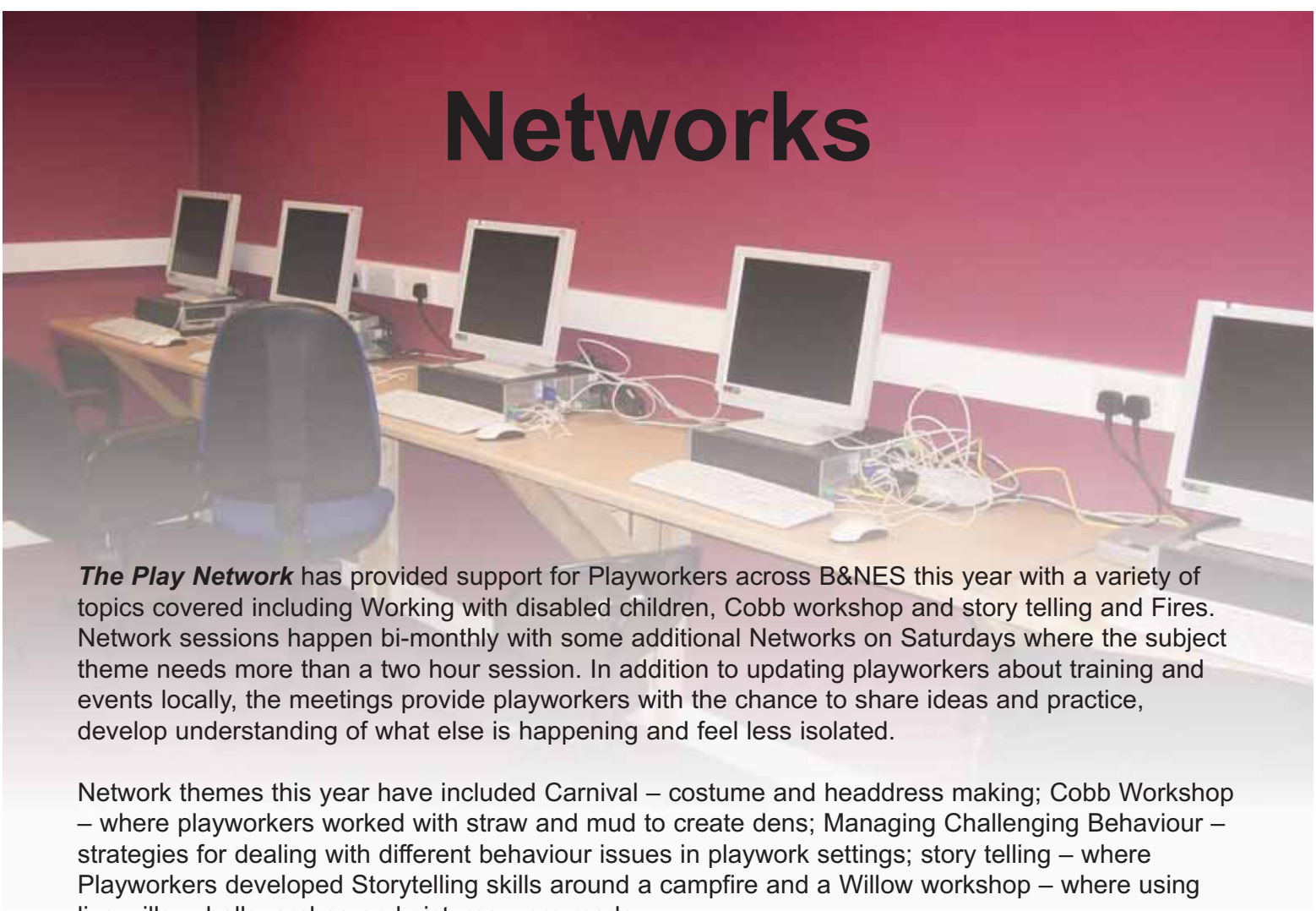
So after consultation with families and play providers we started to signpost families to play providers and offer support for the family and child through meetings and information sharing. The response from those whose children got involved in inclusive play provision was extremely positive with two disabled children going on to use their local after school club and all families expressing their gratitude for the support and encouragement received which meant that their children had a fun and playful summer.

Funded by GWR / V project, our **Volunteer Project** has employed a Volunteer Co-ordinator to recruit and support volunteer involvement in children's play with BAPP and other services.

We have had a very successful 2008, with 28 volunteers working at BAPP. One volunteer, 41 year old female with learning difficulties started volunteering during the summer playscheme. She decided to volunteer at BAPP as she had been out of employment for some time and decided to change to a career working with children and young people. There are many successes; here is one.

A volunteer was very apprehensive about her ability to relate to children/young people. However during her volunteering she was able to access support from the playscheme team and the volunteer co-ordinator. She enjoyed the experience so much that she decided to gain more experience with working with disabled children/ young people, she then became a volunteer with our Teenage Rampage group, where she has become a very valid member of the team and continues to gain experience and confidence, which all has had a positive impact on her self-esteem and her enthusiasm to seek a career with working with disabled children and young people.

Networks

A photograph of a computer lab or office. Several wooden desks are arranged in a row against a red wall. Each desk has a computer monitor, keyboard, and mouse. A blue office chair is visible in the foreground. The room is brightly lit, and the overall atmosphere is professional and modern.

The Play Network has provided support for Playworkers across B&NES this year with a variety of topics covered including Working with disabled children, Cobb workshop and story telling and Fires. Network sessions happen bi-monthly with some additional Networks on Saturdays where the subject theme needs more than a two hour session. In addition to updating playworkers about training and events locally, the meetings provide playworkers with the chance to share ideas and practice, develop understanding of what else is happening and feel less isolated.

Network themes this year have included Carnival – costume and headdress making; Cobb Workshop – where playworkers worked with straw and mud to create dens; Managing Challenging Behaviour – strategies for dealing with different behaviour issues in playwork settings; story telling – where Playworkers developed Storytelling skills around a campfire and a Willow workshop – where using live willow, balls, arches and pictures were made.

The CWDC funded **Children & Young People's Network** has held meetings throughout the year in both Keynsham and Bath. Topics have included Workforce Reform, Training and the Compact. Aimed at people in the voluntary sector working with children and young people, it has ensured that representation is made at all strategic level meetings in B&NES. The Children's Trust Arrangements Executive has also agreed to fund VS reps to ensure that they are paid for the time involved in attending and participating in these meetings.

In April 2008, the Children and Young People's Network entered the second year of funding from the Children's Workforce Development Council. Whilst working to raise awareness of Workforce Reform, another major part of the Network Co-ordinator's role is to ensure that there is Voluntary and Community Sector representation at strategic level meetings across B&NES Children's Services. Since April, through the Network, we now have representation on the Local Strategic Partnership, the Children's Trust Board and each of the three Local Area Partnerships, and have a key role in the B&NES Workforce Reform Strategy. This is a huge achievement, meaning that the Voluntary and Community Sector working with children and young people now have the opportunity to receive up to date information, to respond to this information and to influence the decision making process in B&NES.

We have also assisted with the setting up of the **Odd Down Community Association** with a membership of 60 people. The primary focus is ensuring that youth provision in the area is maintained and supported as well as supporting the community with a focal point in the building providing a range of services which are in the main community led. Success this year has been the securing of funding to provide three student youthworkers who work on all youth projects in Odd Down. We are in the process of securing the Lease from B&NES which will mean the removal of the metal screens on windows. Community activities have included Coffee mornings, Bring /n/ Buy sales, IT for beginners classes, craft tasters with further plans for Ballroom Dancing, Street Dance and Bridge.

Business and Finance

We have received funding for a number of different projects as well as general donations. These are just as important as without them, the organisation would not survive. We seek Full Cost Recovery for all services funded although due to budget cuts from some bodies, these are not always possible. Income for 2007/08 was £227,482, a 15% increase on the previous financial year. Mark Garrett, Chartered Accountant continues to provide an Independent Examiner's Report. For a full copy of our Accounts, please contact the office.

We would like to thank the following Funders who have continued their support or begun supporting us and express our gratitude, for without this income, the state of play for children in B&NES would be in a very sorry state.

Grateful thanks to: B&NES Extended Services and Play Team, Children's Centre Services Team, Children's Workforce Development Council, BIG Lottery, B&NES Youthbank, BBC Children in Need, GWR / V project, Princes Trust, Quartet Community Foundation, Bank of Ireland Fund, Joyce Fletcher Memorial Trust, Bath Moral Welfare Fund, Bath University Student Community Action and Changemakers.



OBJECTIVES REVIEW 2007/08

BATH AREA PLAY PROJECT KEY OBJECTIVES

1. Promote and increase awareness of play

We continue to use the local media, meetings and publicity to promote the importance of play for all children and young people.

2. Provide quality play opportunities for all children and young people in B&NES

We have provided a range of inclusive and specialised play opportunities for children; the crèche, holiday playschemes, teenage rampage, the SOFA programme as well as Play Events throughout the year.

3. Provide quality outreach play services for all children and young people in B&NES

The Toy Library continues with an Outreach service covering all Children's Centre areas across B&NES; Play Inclusion support is provided to families as well as play settings and the Play Network enables staff to liaise 8 times a year.

4. Provide information, advice and support to parents, carers and professionals

We support parents and professionals through support on the telephone and through meetings, signposting where relevant to other service providers. The Children and Young People's Network provides regular e-news bulletins and network meetings.

5. Provide, organise and signpost training opportunities for play workers and organisations.

We secured the Playwork training Contract for B&NES and have provided training opportunities outside of this including First Aid.

6. Develop our staff

Staff and volunteers are supported to attend training and professional development opportunities, are supervised and jobs reviewed. Staff and Trustees meet annually to review work as well as plan future opportunities and contribute to decisions about services.

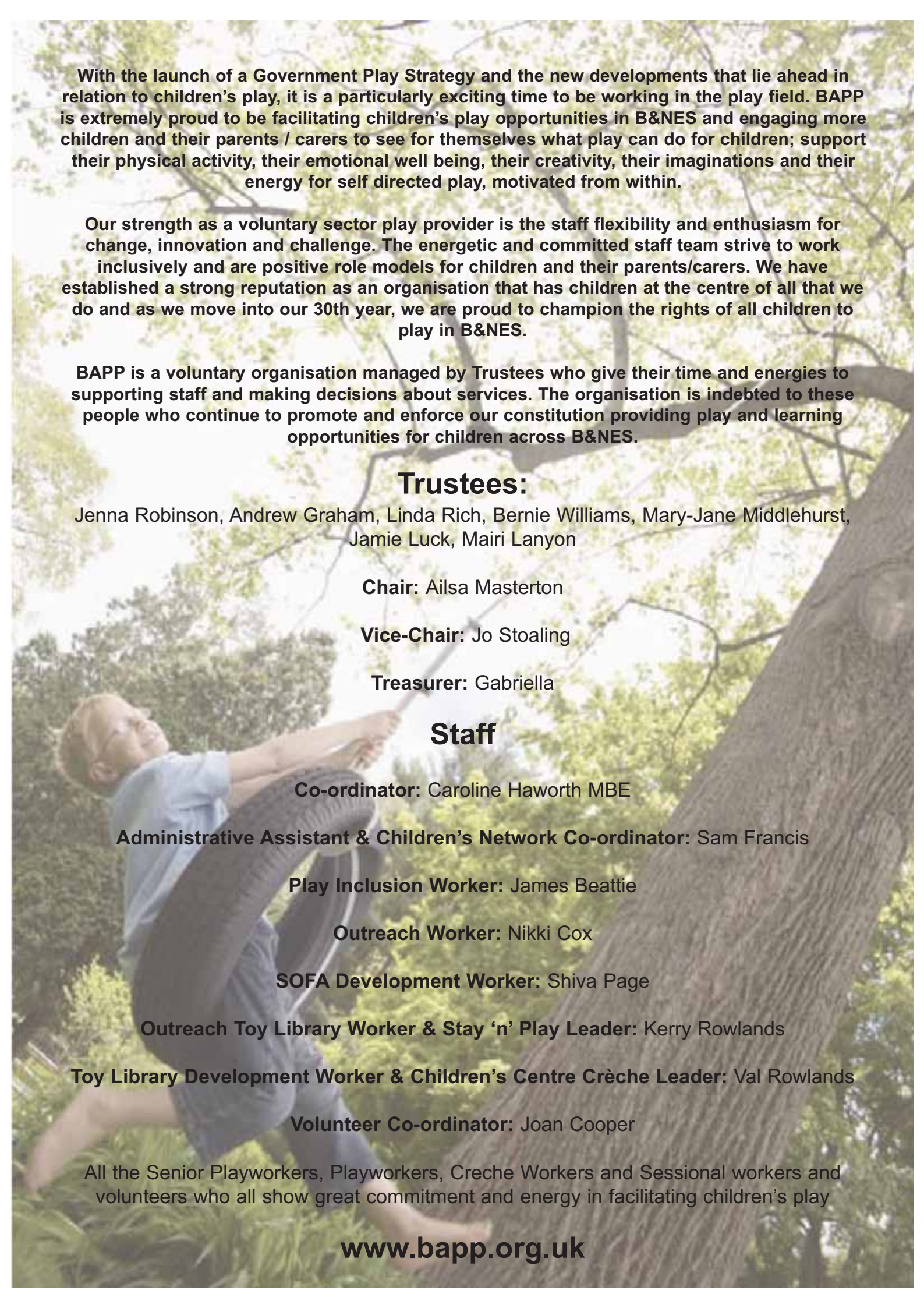
7. Maintain quality standards

The Trustees and Co-ordinator have begun the process of Quality Management assessment for the ISO9001 Standard. A Quality and Procedures Manual is being compiled with a view to becoming compliant by September 2009.

8. Secure our financial position and increase income

We continue to tender for appropriate services that fit to our constitution and have successfully increased income by 48% for 2009. We manage Reserves and a Development Fund.





With the launch of a Government Play Strategy and the new developments that lie ahead in relation to children's play, it is a particularly exciting time to be working in the play field. BAPP is extremely proud to be facilitating children's play opportunities in B&NES and engaging more children and their parents / carers to see for themselves what play can do for children; support their physical activity, their emotional well being, their creativity, their imaginations and their energy for self directed play, motivated from within.

Our strength as a voluntary sector play provider is the staff flexibility and enthusiasm for change, innovation and challenge. The energetic and committed staff team strive to work inclusively and are positive role models for children and their parents/carers. We have established a strong reputation as an organisation that has children at the centre of all that we do and as we move into our 30th year, we are proud to champion the rights of all children to play in B&NES.

BAPP is a voluntary organisation managed by Trustees who give their time and energies to supporting staff and making decisions about services. The organisation is indebted to these people who continue to promote and enforce our constitution providing play and learning opportunities for children across B&NES.

Trustees:

Jenna Robinson, Andrew Graham, Linda Rich, Bernie Williams, Mary-Jane Middlehurst, Jamie Luck, Mairi Lanyon

Chair: Ailsa Masterton

Vice-Chair: Jo Stoaling

Treasurer: Gabriella

Staff

Co-ordinator: Caroline Haworth MBE

Administrative Assistant & Children's Network Co-ordinator: Sam Francis

Play Inclusion Worker: James Beattie

Outreach Worker: Nikki Cox

SOFA Development Worker: Shiva Page

Outreach Toy Library Worker & Stay 'n' Play Leader: Kerry Rowlands

Toy Library Development Worker & Children's Centre Crèche Leader: Val Rowlands

Volunteer Co-ordinator: Joan Cooper

All the Senior Playworkers, Playworkers, Crèche Workers and Sessional workers and volunteers who all show great commitment and energy in facilitating children's play

www.bapp.org.uk

"Play is the highest expression of human development in childhood, for it alone is the free expression of what is in a child's soul."

Friedrich Froebel

"You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of conversation." Plato

"The human need to play is a powerful one. When we ignore it, we feel there is something missing in our lives."

Leo Buscaglia

"Play is freely chosen, personally directed, intrinsically motivated behaviour that actively engages the child"

Hughes, Best Play 2000

Play is an essential part of every child's life and vital to their development. It is the way children explore the world around them and develop and practice skills. It is essential for physical, emotional and spiritual growth, for intellectual and educational development, and for acquiring social and behavioural skills

'The new charter for children's play', published by Children's Play Council.

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