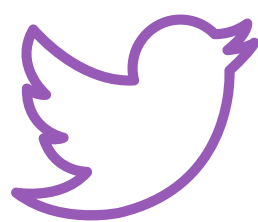




- Include Play in School Policy
- Increase Play Training for School Staff
- Improve Community Access for Play in School Grounds
- Introduce Play Champions
- Offer Play Workshops for Parents/Carers



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ABOUT VALE PLAY DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Our role is to ensure that all children have opportunities to play across the Vale.

Vale Play Development Team work in various locations across the Vale, developing and delivering opportunities for children to play. We offer training opportunities to families and professionals including play staff, school staff and community groups.

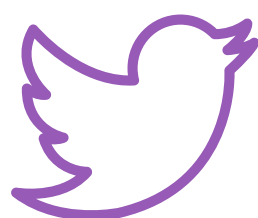


We are a dynamic and enthusiastic team who now have the opportunity to grow and develop our play ethos within schools.

We have a wealth of training and experience in the playwork sector, and would like to share our expertise with local schools.

We are looking for schools with a passion for play and a commitment to increase play opportunities for children and young people, as well as the wider community.

www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/play
playfriendly@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk



@valeplayteam



WHAT IS PLAY?

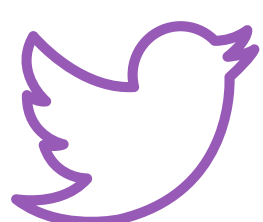
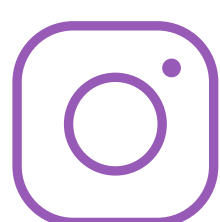
Playing is one of the most immediate and important aspects of children's lives – they value the time, the space and the freedom to play. Play involves children doing as they wish in their own time and in their own way. It has the key characteristics of fun, uncertainty, challenge, flexibility and non-productivity.



WHY IS PLAY IMPORTANT?

Playing is central to children's physical, mental, social and emotional health and wellbeing and is enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Through play, children develop resilience and flexibility, contributing to physical and emotional wellbeing. For children themselves, playing is one of the most important aspects of their lives.

"The right to play is a child's first claim on the community. Play is nature's training for life. No community can infringe that right without doing deep and enduring harm to the minds and bodies of its citizens." (David Lloyd George, 1925)



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BECOMING A PLAY FRIENDLY SCHOOL

INCLUDE PLAY IN SCHOOL POLICY



Play Wales recommends that schools that wish to provide a rich play environment for children adopt a play policy. A school play policy states the value that the school places on children's play and commits itself to supporting children's play opportunities.

Play Wales have produced a sample school play policy that may be used in its entirety or adapted to suit the needs of the school.

INCREASE PLAY TRAINING FOR STAFF

Raising awareness of the importance of play within your school. Vale Play Team work alongside Adult Learning Wales to deliver accredited Playwork training, we can offer the following training opportunities to your staff team, including teachers, learning support assistants, caretakers, lunchtime supervisors, volunteers:



- Introduction to Playwork (Level One)
- Level Two Award in Playwork Practice (L2APP)
- Award in Transition to Playwork (Level 3)
- Managing a Holiday Play Scheme (MAHPS Level 3)
- Playwork; Principles into Practice (P3 - Level 3 Playwork Diploma)



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IMPROVE COMMUNITY ACCESS FOR PLAY IN YOUR SCHOOL GROUNDS

Throughout Wales many school grounds offer a significant resource for children's play. School grounds often represent the only area of open space where children can play within their local community.



Likewise, some schools offer the only flat surface locally where children learn to ride bikes and play with their scooters and skateboards. By becoming a Play Friendly School, you will commit to opening your school grounds, outside of school hours, for the purpose of community play

INTRODUCE PLAY CHAMPIONS IN YOUR SCHOOL



Play Champions will advocate for play across your school, they will be the lead contact for all things play! Play Champions can be any adults and children within your school with a passion for play.

PLAY WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS/CARERS

Parents and carers are important supporters of play for children – no matter how old they are. Facilitating play workshops can help parents and carers give children time, space and support to play at home and in their local community.



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START YOUR PLAY FRIENDLY JOURNEY TODAY



To sign up, or for more information about your school's Play Friendly Journey please contact Vale Play Development Team:

playfriendly@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk



The information provided in this document can also be found on the Play Wales website. Play Wales is the national charity for children's play. Campaigning for a play-friendly Wales and championing every child's right to play. Visit: www.playwales.org.uk

