



Come and Play... Have Your Say!



Easter 06 Play Consultation Feedback Report

June 06

Introduction

Play is central to children's lives. Sheffield is committed to promoting the importance of play for a child's growth and development physically, mentally and socially. The Sheffield Play Strategy aims to change people's attitudes about play and to raise awareness about the importance of play for all children and young people across the city.

Its 10-year vision for children and young people's play in the city consists of:

- Changed attitudes towards play and children and young people
- More play spaces
- More opportunities for children and young people
- More innovation in provision

The Sheffield Play Strategy is committed to including children and young people in decision-making about services that affect them.

The Big Lottery Fund has committed £155million for developing children's play in England. The amount of funding available to Sheffield is £1,214,814.36 over 3 years.

For more information on anything relating to this report or the play strategy, please contact:

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Executive Summary

Nearly 700 children and young people from across the city, aged from 2-18 were consulted over 7 days during Easter 2006 on different aspects of play. The results will be fed into services contributing to children's play and Sheffield's bid to the Big Lottery. A summary of the key highlights is presented below:

Breakdown of attendees

- 53% girls
- 47% boys
- Average age of 8 years old
- Over 75% white

City Centre Play Space Junk Modelling - summary

- Water features and something to climb on were the most popular aspects of the models

Natural / Environmental Play Post-It Notes - summary

- Climbing trees was what children most liked about playing in the woods
- The main barriers to playing in the wood were thinking woods are dangerous or scary
- Children would most like to see more animals and nature in the woods

Street Play Idea Graffiti Wall- summary

- Children thought of a wide range of activities they would like to do in the street from trampolining to a sandpit
- Swings, skateboards, skipping ropes, balls and bikes were most popular
- Friends were very important

Inclusive Play Questionnaire – summary

- Parks were the most popular places to play
- Friends or other children to play with were what children said most helped them to play
- The weather and bullies were the main barriers to playing
- Most children said disabled children could play in the same places as other children but that name calling, not being able to go on the equipment and hills might stop them
- Almost every child who answered this questionnaire said they thought it was important that all children can use parks because its fair, fun and parks are for everyone
- Most children would change a slide's steps to a ramp so that more children could play on it
- Having more equipment for everyone, smooth surfaces, easier access, making them safer, more activities and ramps were some of the changes that children would make in parks to make them for everyone

Local Area Play Provision Treasure Map - summary

- Children liked playing with friends, lots of space to play in, parks and fields about their local area
- Negative comments included not having enough good places to play in, litter or dog dirt in parks and wanting more activities

Various types of Play Big Brother – summary

- Children's favourite place to play was the park
- Children most liked having friends to play with and the park about their local area
- More equipment or things to play on, cleaning up litter, having fewer cars, re-building the Rec that got burnt down and a swimming pool were what children would like to improve about their local area
- Half the children asked knew about the sports vans
- Children liked the idea of having play rangers or a play van and would like them to go to parks or fields
- They would like the play rangers to be kind, friendly and fun
- As well as sports, children would like play rangers to provide lots of other fun and different activities such as bikes and dancing
- Friends, fresh air and fun were what children most like about playing outside
- Children said they most like to play football and play with friends when they're outside
- Over two-thirds of children had never made a fire
- Two-thirds of children had made a den
- Over three-quarters had climbed a tree
- Just over one-third of children had chopped wood
- Children would most like to climb a tree
- Just over half the children preferred to play in a park than a wood or forest

Playworker Badge Making - summary

- Children would most like playworkers who are happy, kind and fun

City Centre Play Space Picture Voting - summary

- Water play in the city centre was the most popular picture
- Boulders to clamber on and tunnels were also popular choices

Parental Questionnaire - summary

- Most parents said that spending time with their children or seeing them happy were the things they most enjoyed about playing with their children
- During the week, most parents spent an hour a day playing with their children
- This rose to at least 4 hours at the weekend
- Work and household chores were the main barriers to playing with their

children

- Most parents thought it was most important for their child to be healthy
- Parents said that having fun was the most important aspect of playing for children
- Improvements for their local area included more play areas, activities and improved equipment
- Most parents felt there weren't sufficient play opportunities for children in their local area
- Half the parents felt that local play opportunities were well known about and easily accessible for children and their families
- Nearly all parents said they would take advantage of opportunities highlighting new ways of playing with their children
- Most parents would like to see future funding being spent on playground equipment

This information will be fed back to the children through a newsletter and on the sheffkids website, www.sheffkids.me.uk . In addition to this report for adults, the results will be fed into Sheffield's bid to the Big Lottery.

What did we do?

In April 2006, children and young people from across Sheffield were invited to ‘Come and Play, Have Your Say’, a fun day of consultation all about play. The results will be fed into services contributing to children’s play and Sheffield’s bid to the Big Lottery. The events were held over 7 days in the Easter holidays at venues in each of the proposed new service districts:

- Parson Cross
- St Mary’s, Bramall Lane
- Handsworth
- Verdon Street, Burngreave
- Hillsborough
- Herdings Youth Centre, Gleadless Valley
- Norfolk Park

In line with the aims and objectives of the Sheffield Play Strategy and previous consultations around play, several aspects of play were identified to consult around. These are shown in the table below.

There were 8 different consultation techniques used to obtain the children and young people’s views as well as other fun activities that ran alongside them. The majority of the techniques used had been tried and tested at previous consultations and were deemed fun and engaging. We also introduced 2 new techniques, to provide more inclusive methods of consultation. The following table details the different activities used:

Consultation Techniques	Consultation area
Junk Modelling*	City centre play space
Post-It Notes	Natural Play
Graffiti Wall	Street Play
Questionnaire	Inclusive Play
Treasure Map	Local Area Play
Big Brother	Local Area, Play Rangers, Natural Play
Badge Making*	Playworker
Picture Voting	City Centre Play Space

**new techniques*

There was also a questionnaire for any parents who attended the events to ensure that their views are also included when planning for play provision at a local level.

On arrival, the children received a booklet to take round with them, detailing the different activities taking place and a monitoring form for the child to complete. The information on the form comprised of name, gender, age, school attended, area lived in and ethnicity. For each activity completed, the child received a sticker to put in their book. On completion of a minimum of 4 “Come and Play” and 4 “Have Your Say” activities, they handed in the booklet in return for a goody bag. This allowed us to collect valuable monitoring information about the children attending and the children to leave knowing their views had been appreciated.

From this information, we know that half of the children who attended were girls and half were boys. The average age of the children who attended was 8 years old.

Come and Play, Have Your Say

Children and young people came from over 90 different areas of the city. Over three-quarters of those who attended were white.

The detailed findings from the events are presented below. For a full list of individual responses, please contact

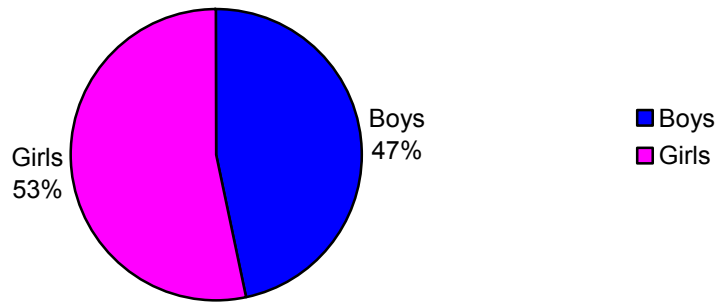
Nicole Harwood
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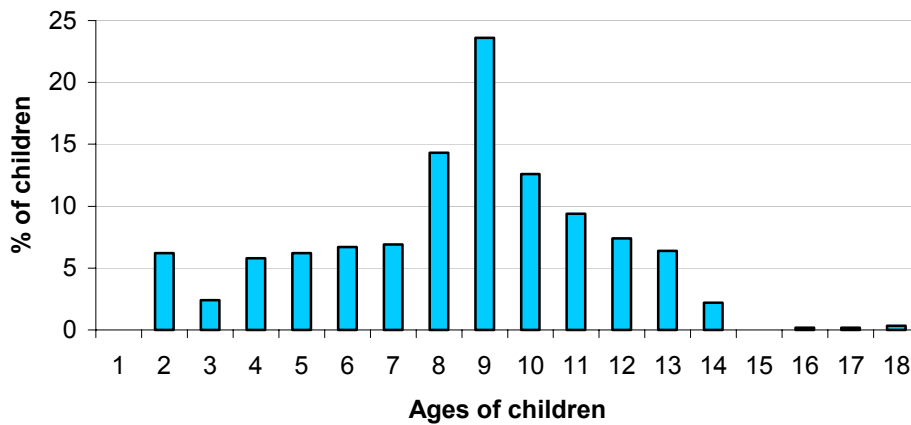
Tel: 0114 205 3086

Email: nicole.harwood@sheffield.gov.uk

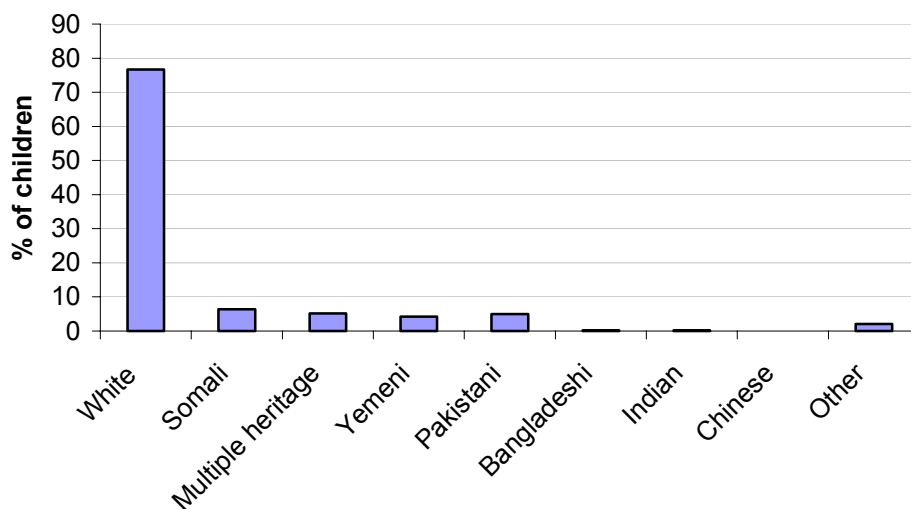
Are you a boy or a girl?



How old are you?



Which word best describes you?



What did the children and young people tell us?

Junk Modelling and Picture Voting on City Centre Play Space

Turning Sheffield into a playful city and developing a city centre play space for children is one of the aims of the Sheffield Play Strategy.

The children were asked to make a model of something that they would like to see in the city centre for them to play on using old egg cartons, washing up liquid bottles, tin foil and other materials. A selection of photos from the picture voting was displayed to give them ideas. The junk modelling enabled children to express themselves in a different way to writing or drawing.

The majority of children made models that included a water or climbing element to them. Some children also included equipment such as slides in their models.

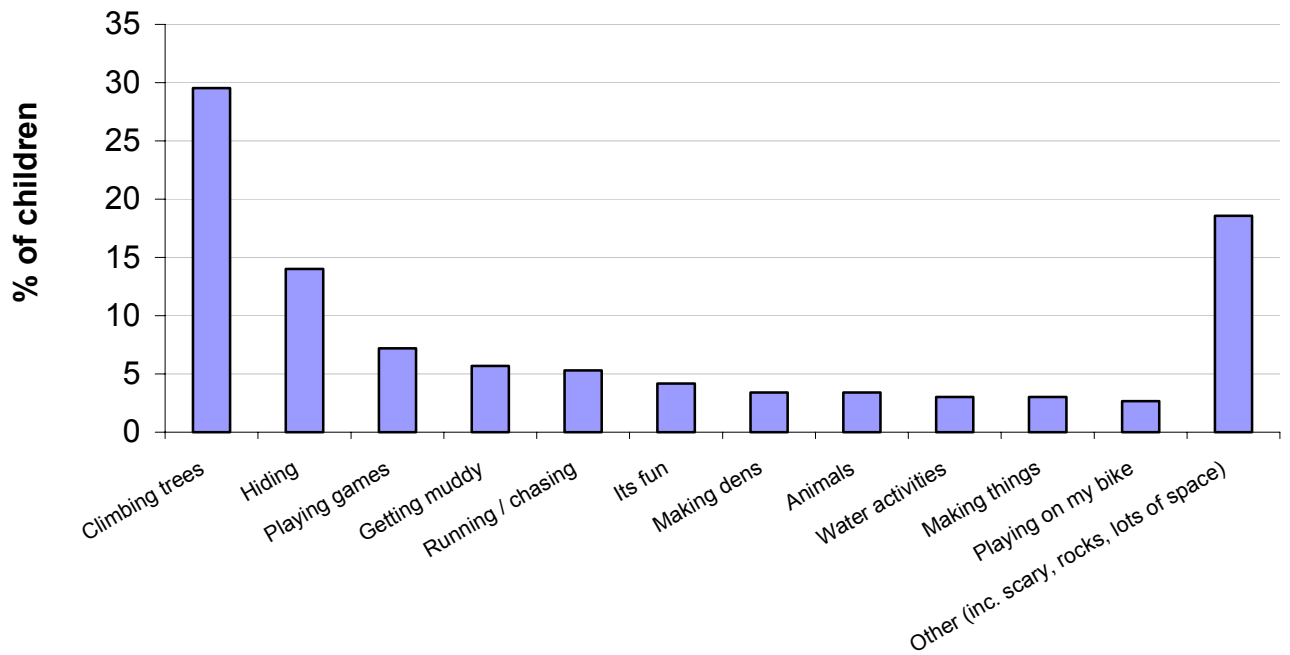


Post-it Notes on Natural Play

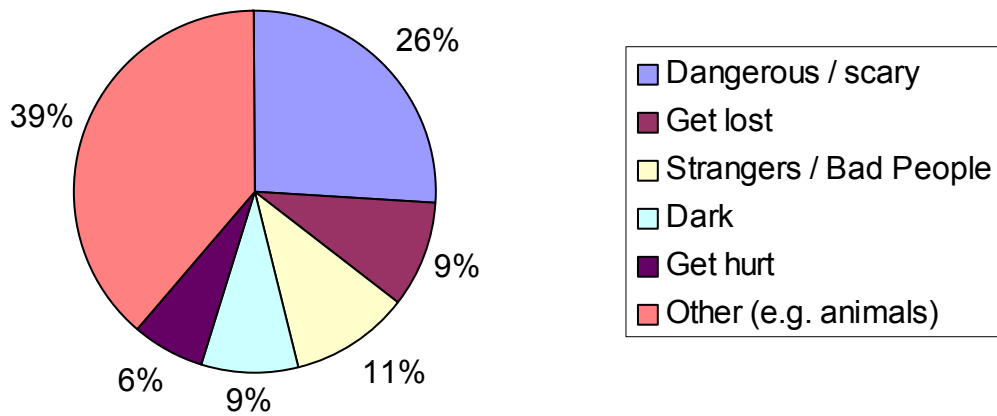
Promoting the benefits of natural play is an action point from the Sheffield Play Strategy and 'playing naturally' is the theme of National Playday this year. Children can play anywhere and it is important to promote playing in natural spaces.

The children were asked to write or draw their responses to 4 natural play related questions on post-it notes and stick them under the appropriate question.

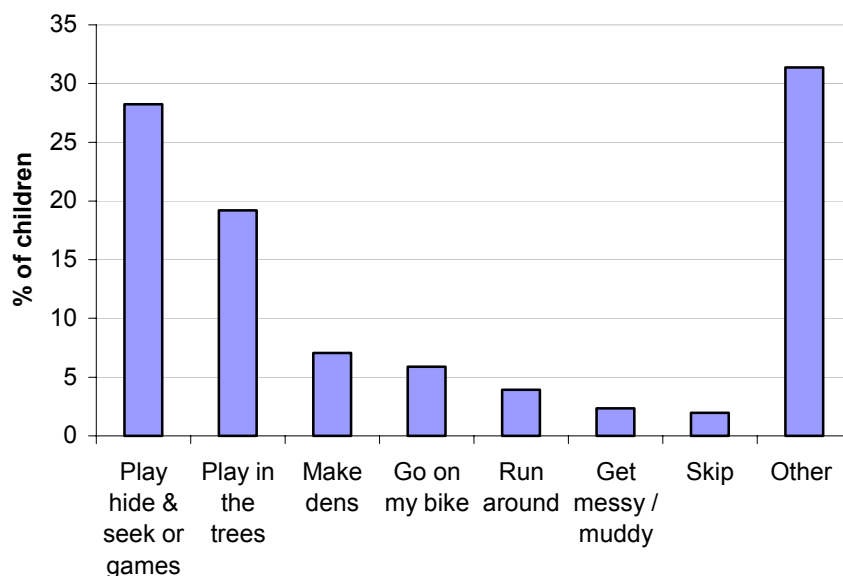
What do you like most about playing in the woods?



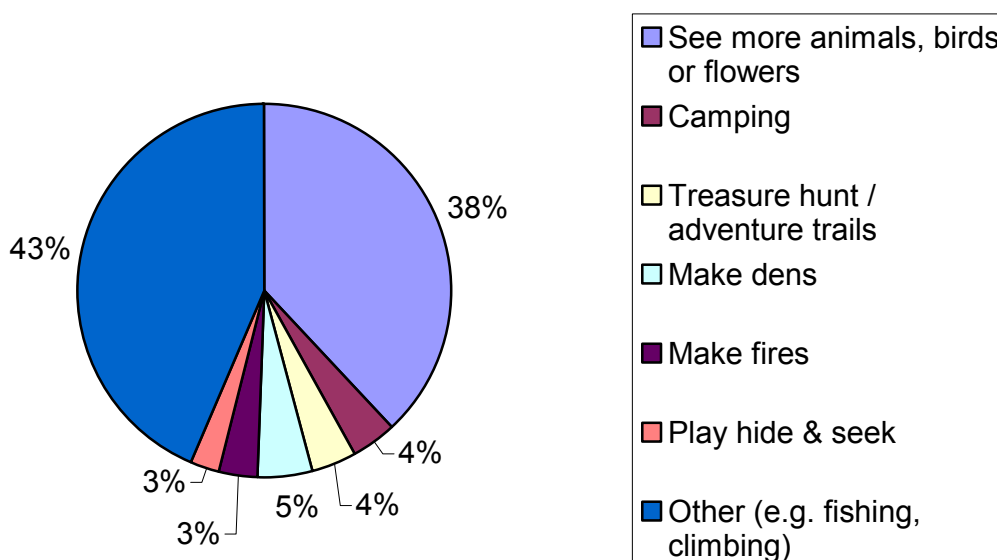
Why don't you play in the woods?



What do you like to do when you go to the woods?



What else would you like to be able to see or do in the woods?



Graffiti Wall on 'My Street Play Idea'

It is important to show and promote how children can play in any open space. 'Reclaiming the streets for play' is also the theme for next year's Playday.

The children were asked to write or draw their idea for street play on a graffiti wall.

The most common responses were:

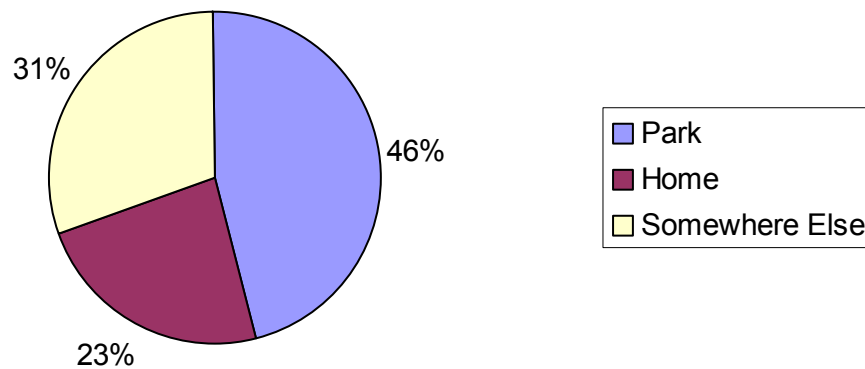
- Friends
- Sports, swings, skipping ropes, bikes and scooters, balls
- Hopscotch, a sand pit and circus skills were other ideas

Questionnaire on Inclusive Play

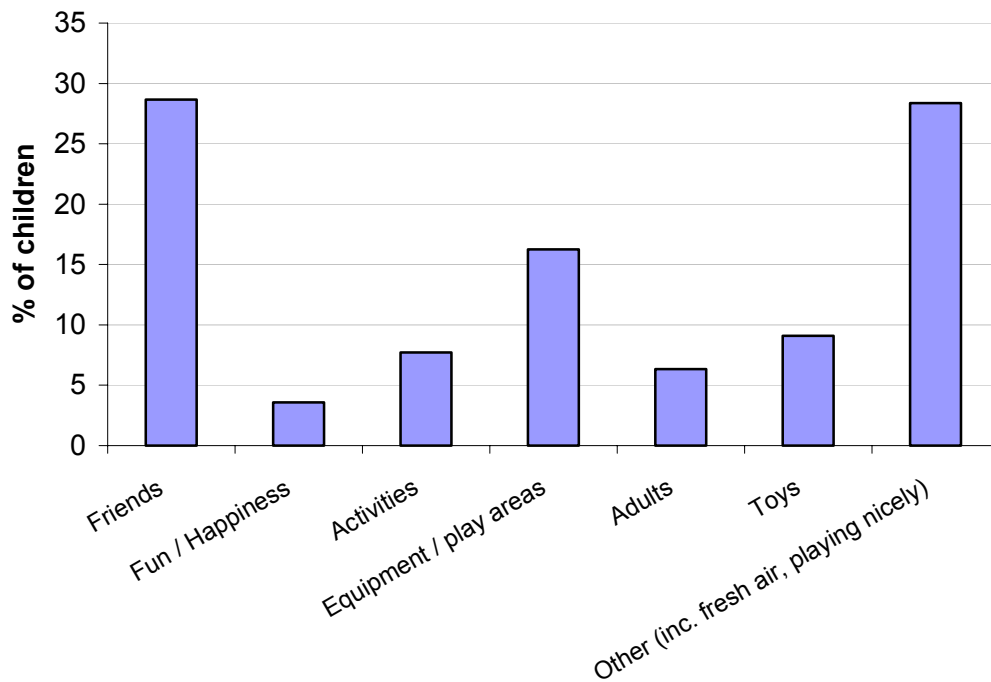
The Sheffield Play Strategy is an inclusive document and aims to improve play opportunities for ALL children and young people. We are constantly working to promote inclusive play and the benefits of all children playing together.

The children were asked to complete a questionnaire entitled 'Everyone Can Play' in relation to play opportunities for all children.

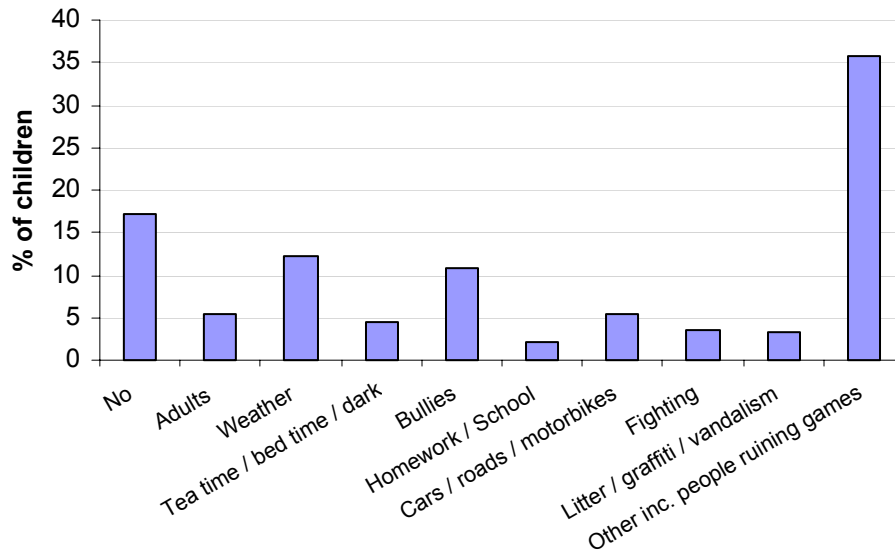
Where is your favourite place to play?



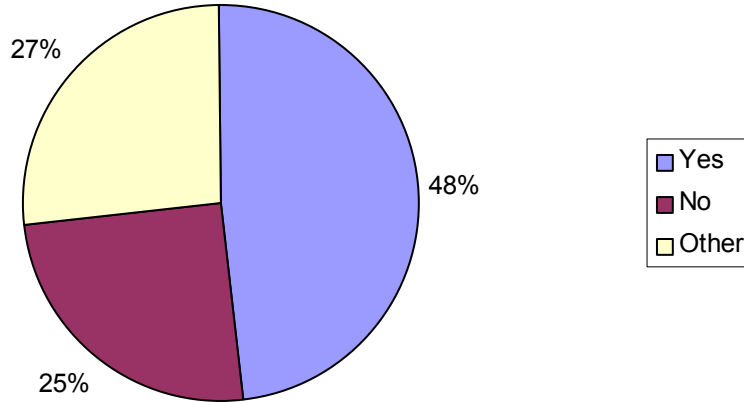
What do you think helps children to play?



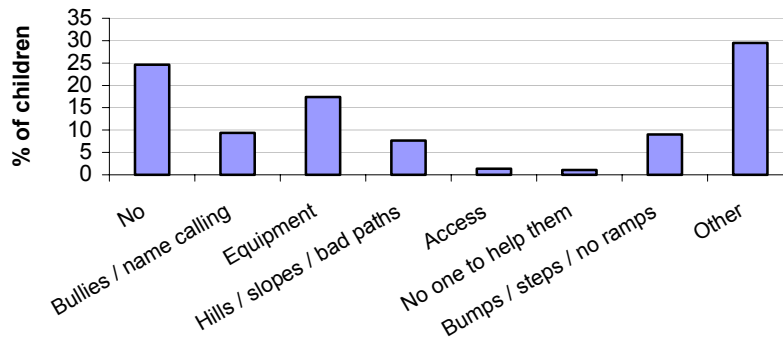
Is there anything that stops you playing?



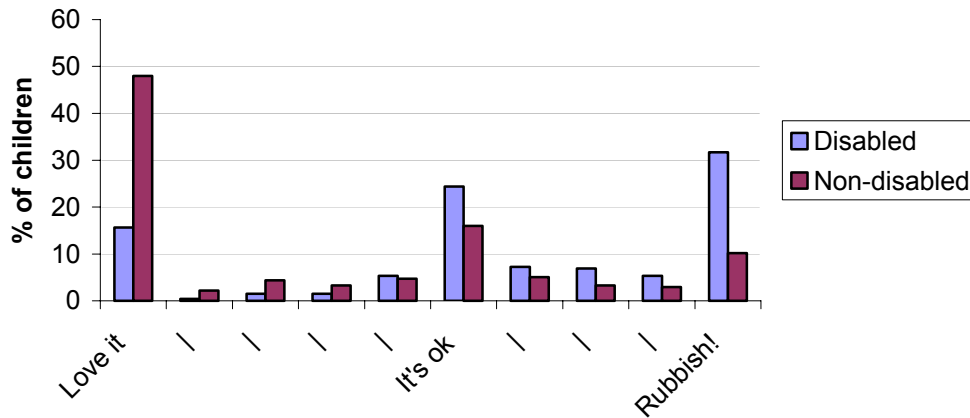
Can disabled children play where you play?



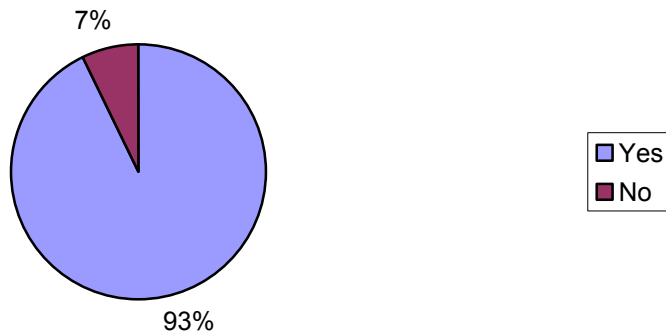
Is there anything that stops them from playing there?



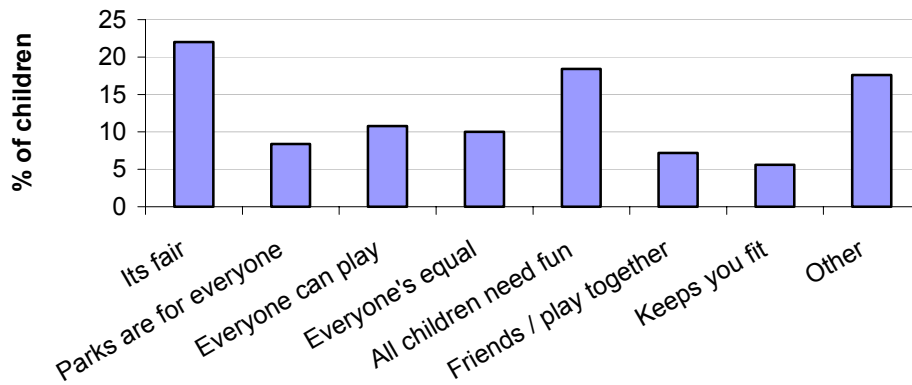
How would you rate your local play equipment for disabled and non-disabled children?



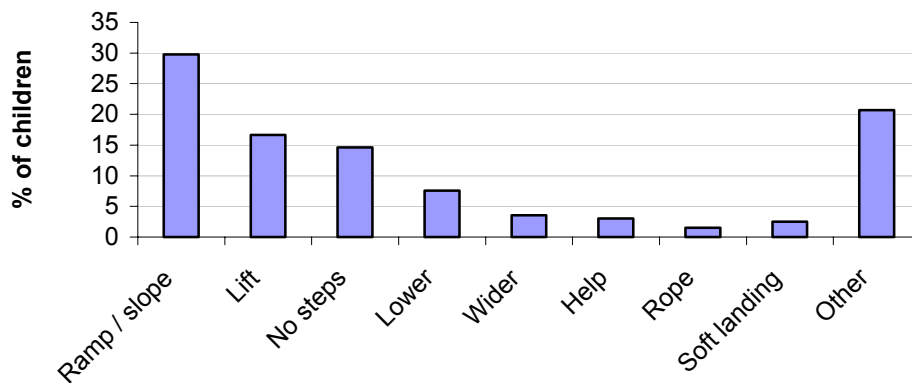
Do you think it's important that all children and young people can use parks?



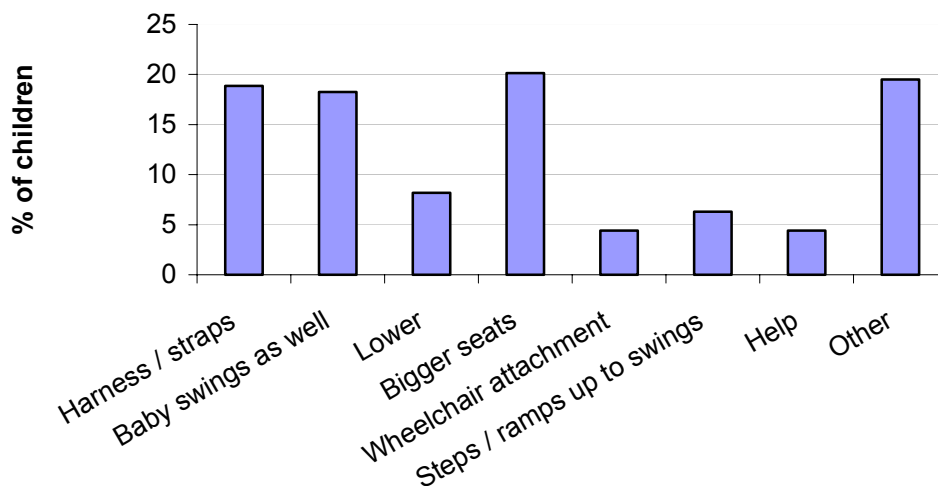
Why is it important that all children and young people can use parks?



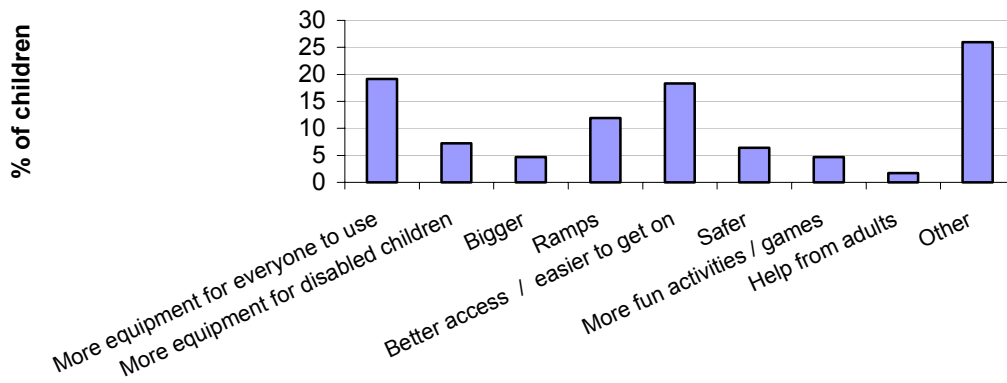
How could you change this slide so that all children could play on it?



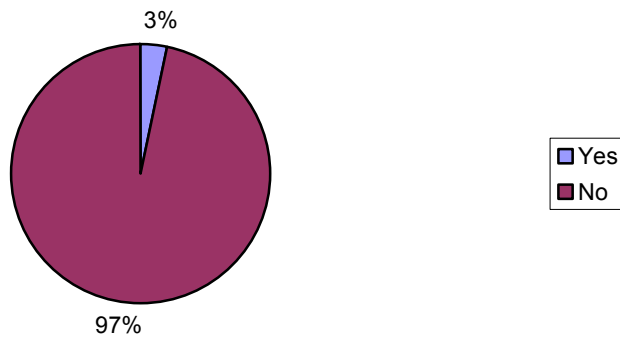
How could you change these swings so all children could play on them?



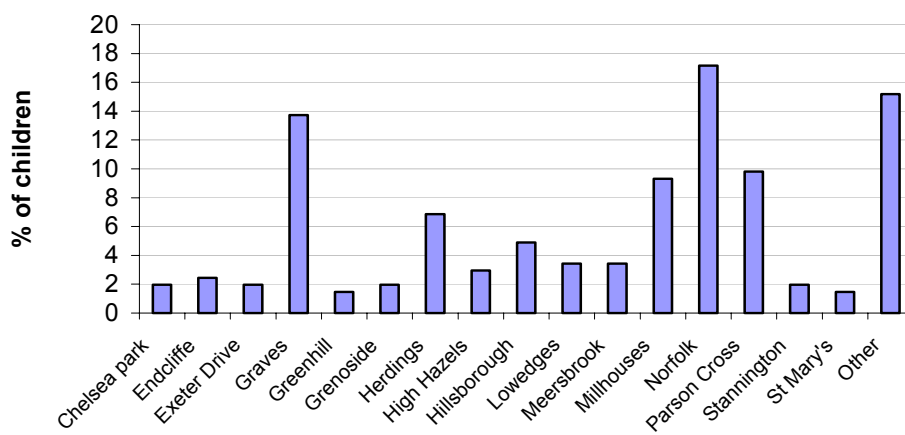
How could you change parks so that everyone could play there?



Are you disabled?



My favourite park is called...



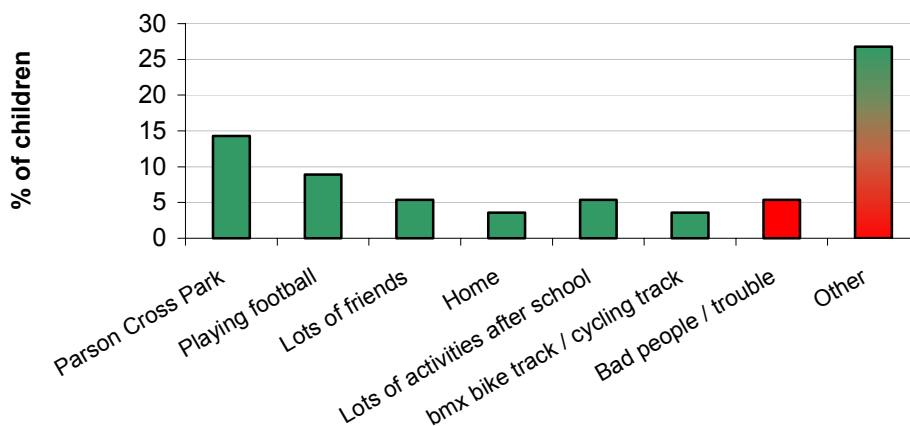
Treasure Map

Locally based, accessible play provision is a very important aspect of play for children and young people. In addition, area based provision promotes community cohesion and the use of joint budgets.

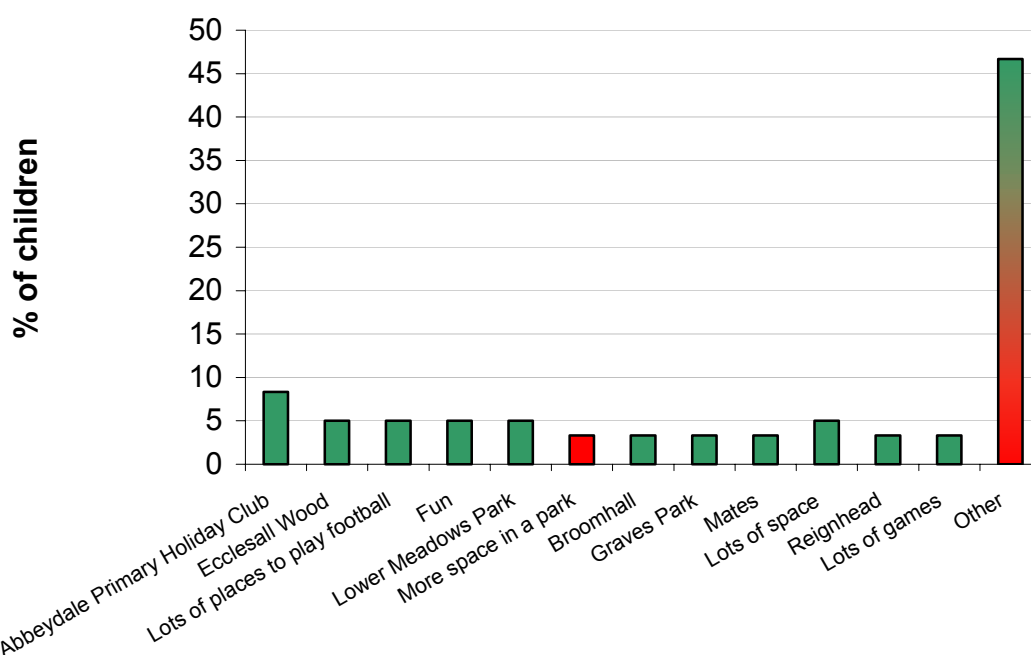
The children were invited to write a comment about somewhere they play in their area on a flag and stick it on the map in the appropriate place. If the comment was positive, they wrote it on a green flag, if it was negative they wrote it on a red flag. Please note that with this exercise, there were many individual comments (the most popular of which are shown below). The 'other' columns incorporate the rest.



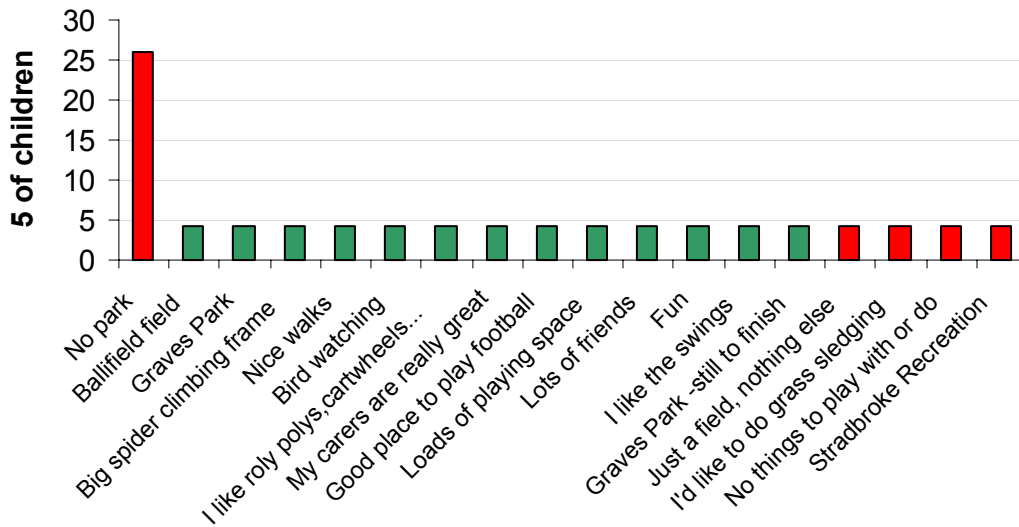
Parson Cross Likes & Dislikes



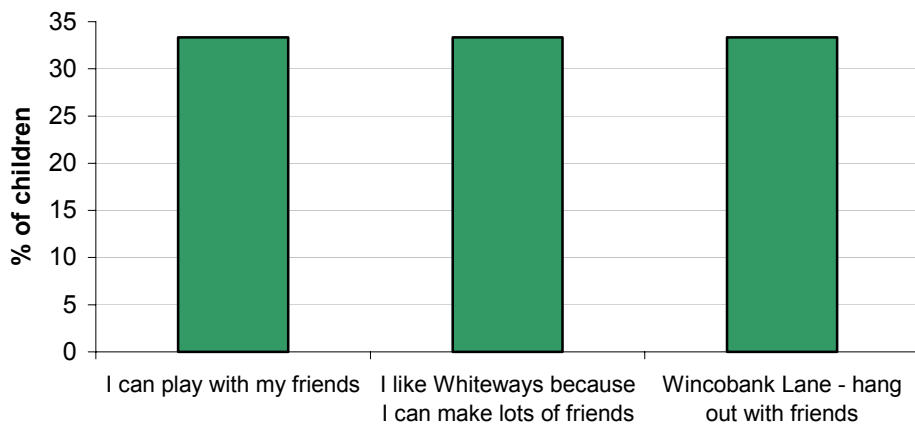
St Mary's Likes & Dislikes



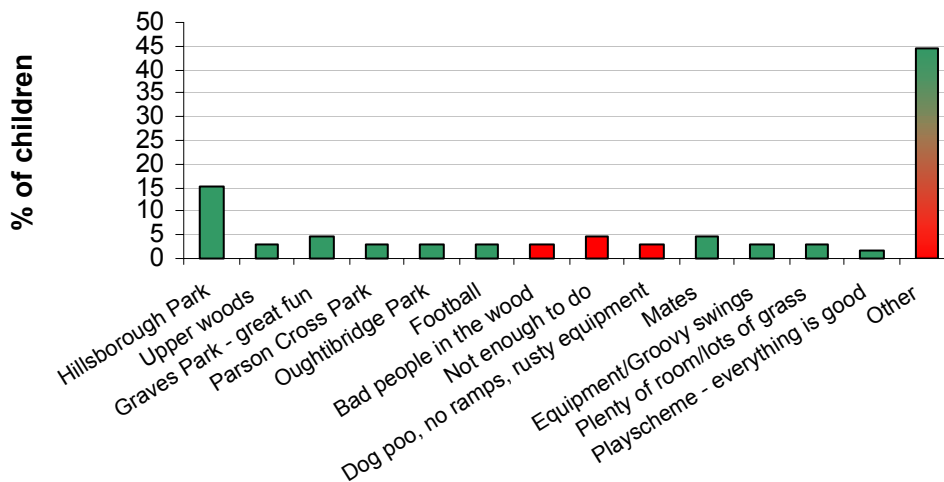
Handsworth Likes & Dislikes



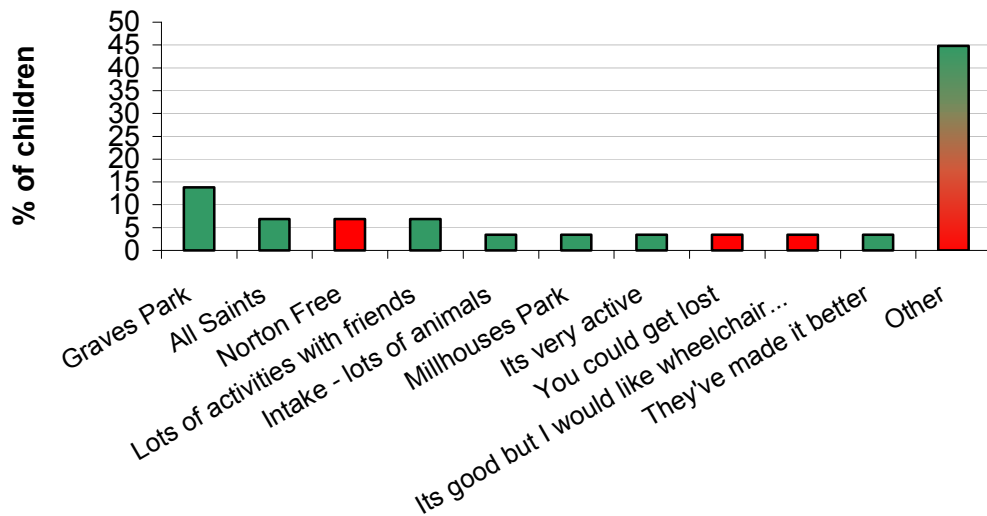
Burngreave Likes & Dislikes



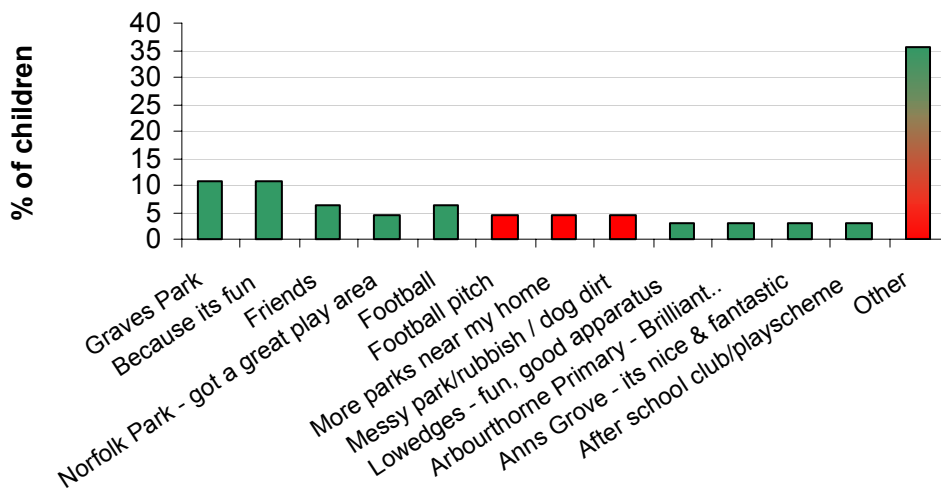
Hillsborough Likes & Dislikes



Gleadless Valley Likes & Dislikes



Norfolk Park Likes & Dislikes

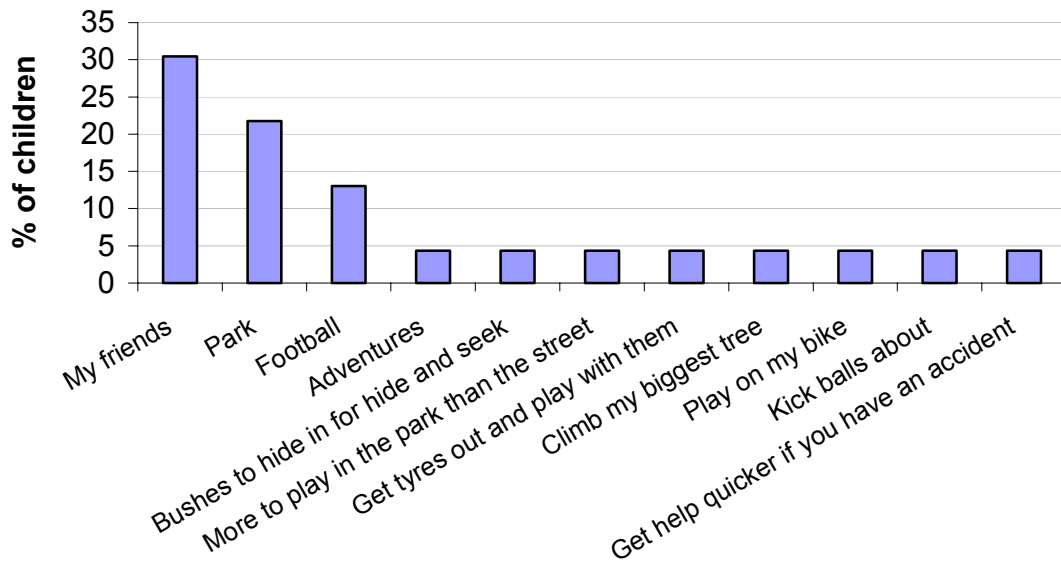


Big Brother

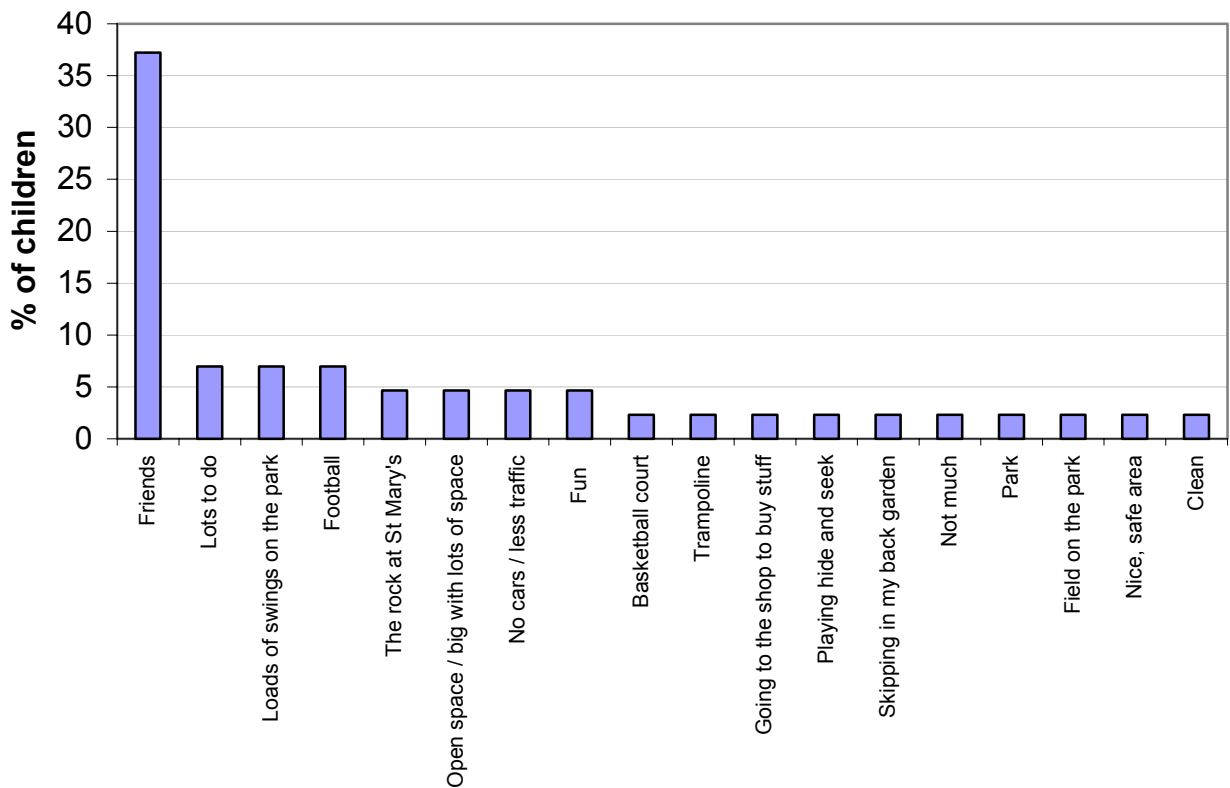
The children were invited to enter a Big Brother diary room style tent and answer questions about different aspects of play:

- Local play provision
- Play Rangers / Play Van
- Natural Play

Parson Cross What's really good about playing in your local area?

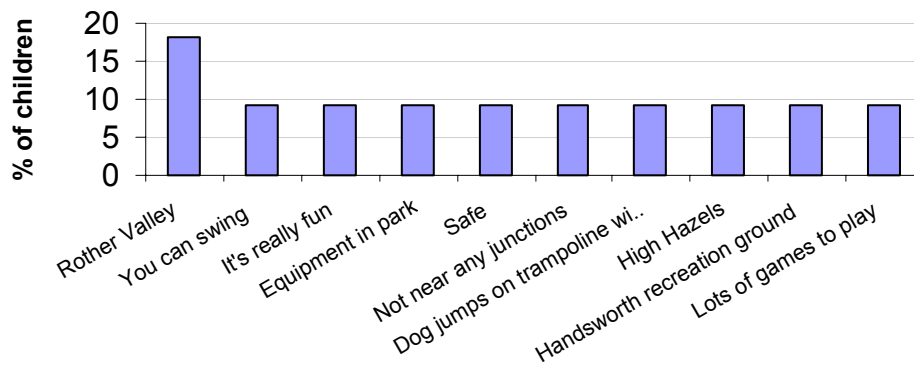


St Mary's What's really good about playing in your local area?



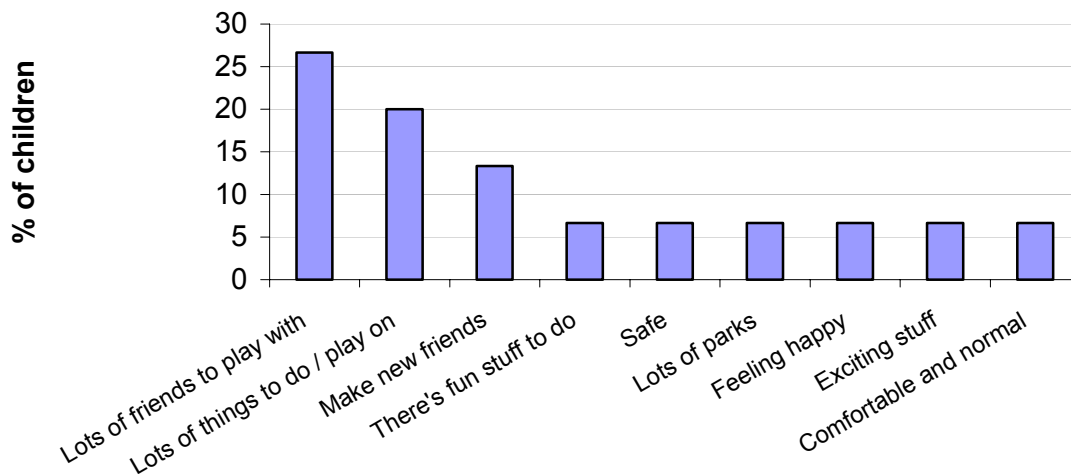
Handsworth

What's really good about playing in your local area?



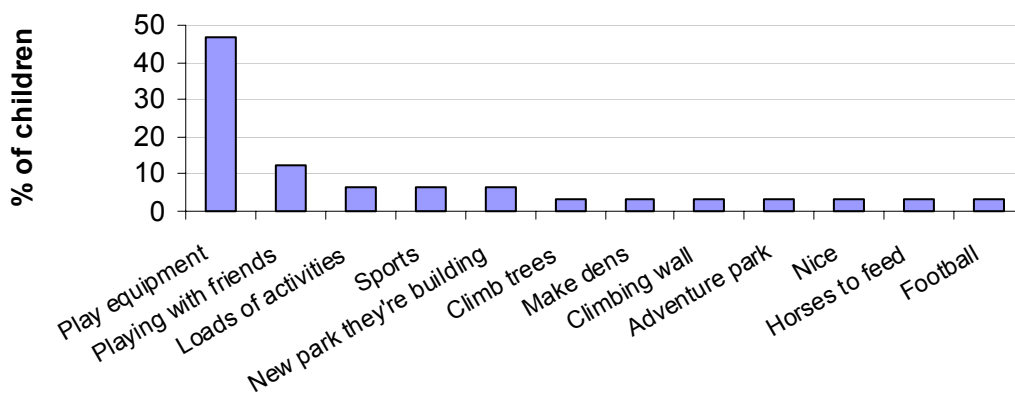
Burngreave

What's really good about playing in your local area?

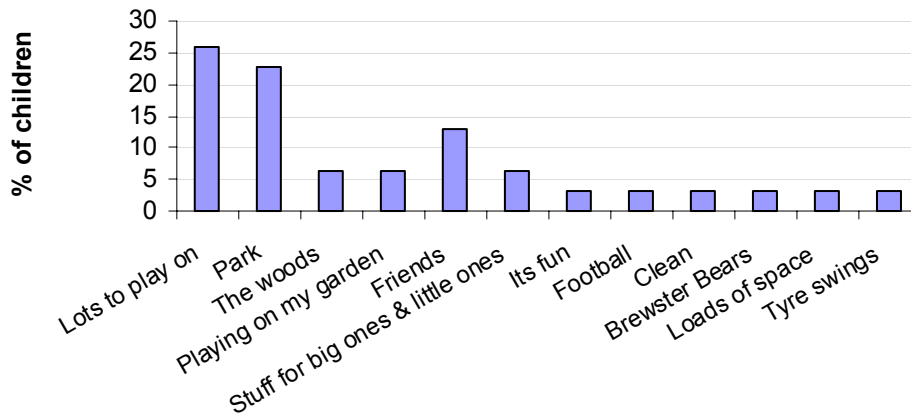


Hillsborough

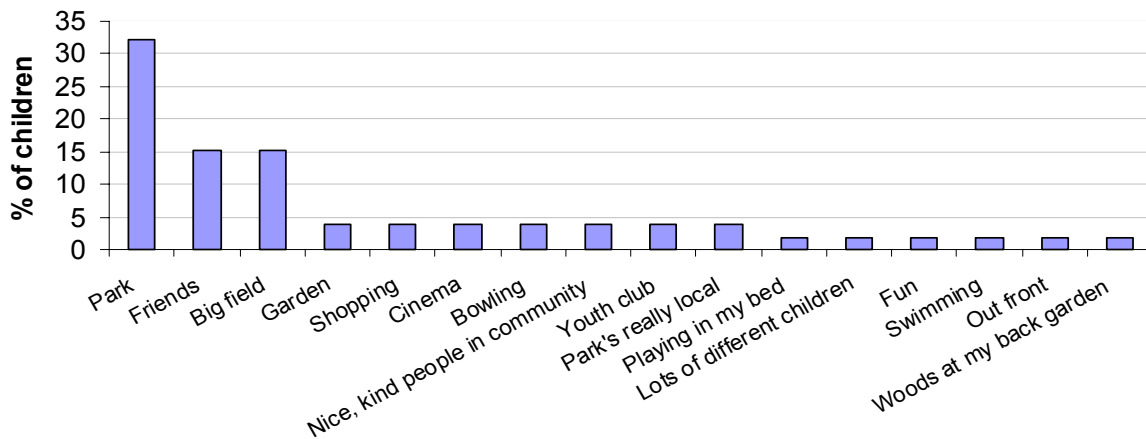
What's really good about playing in your local area?



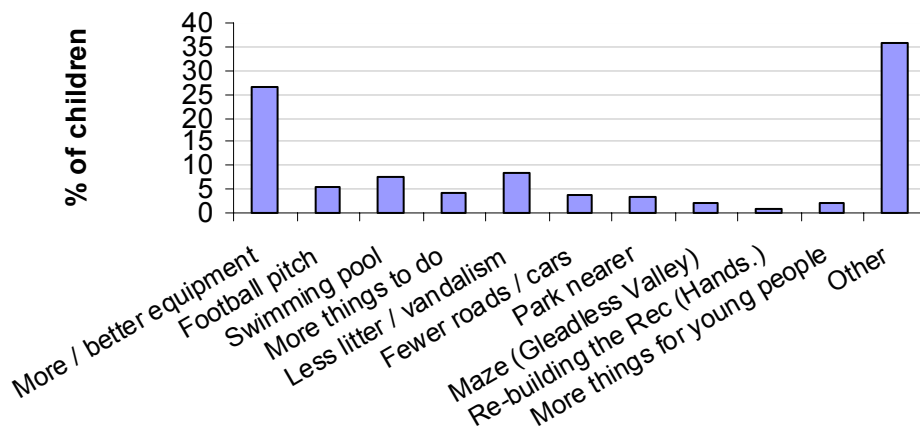
Gleadless Valley What's really good about playing in your local area?



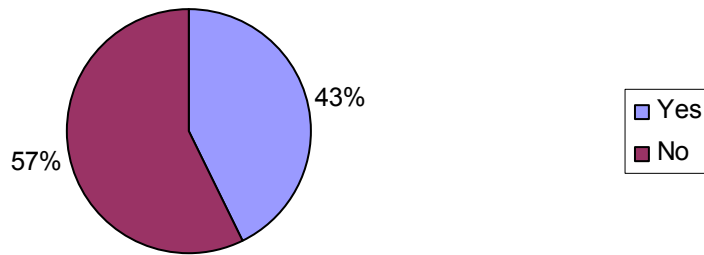
Norfolk Park What's really good about playing in your local area?



What would make your area better for children & young people to play in?



Do you know what a sports van is?

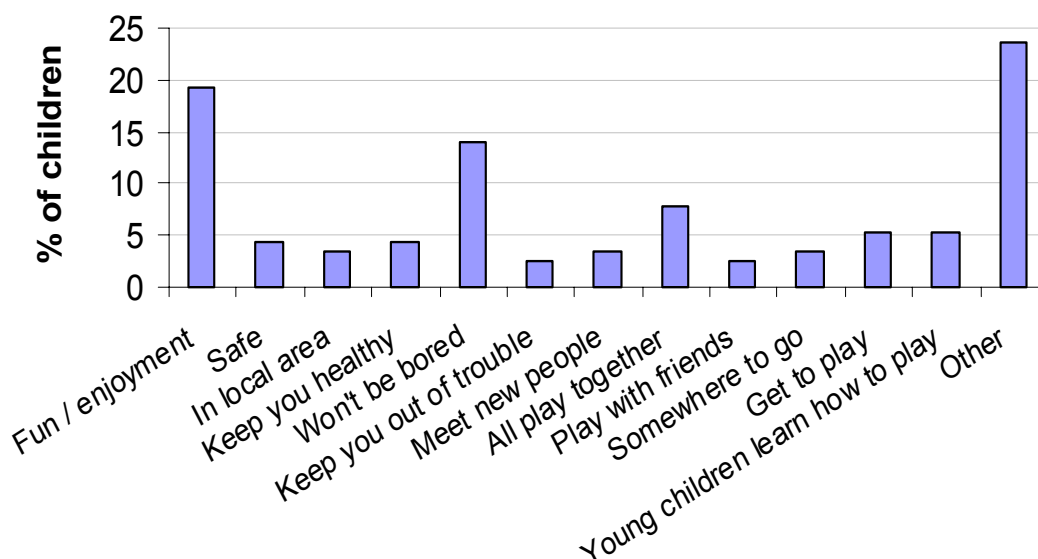


If there was a play van what would you like it to do differently?*

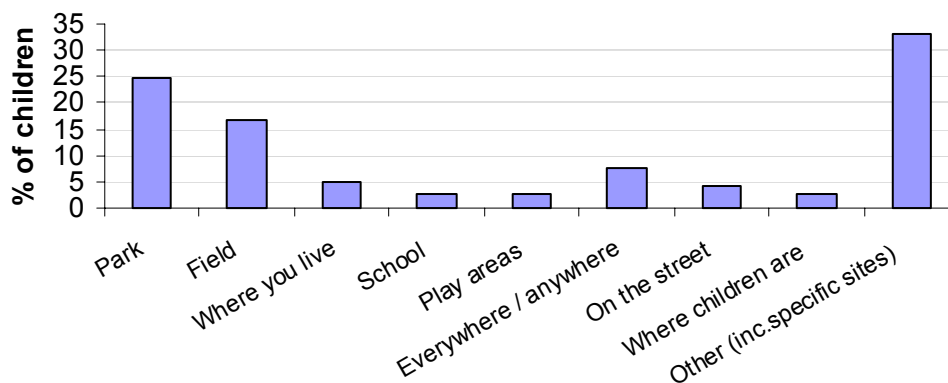
Different sports & games that everyone likes	Play
Skipping	Play area with swings & a spinny thing
Blow up quad track / quad bikes	Bikes
Bouncy castle	Biscuit making
Circus skills	Fly
Dance / Dance mat	Golf
Slide	Have fun
Inside water park	Hula hoops
More fun activities	Ice skating rink
Obstacle course	Parties

*These were the top answers to this question, too many ideas were given to create a graph

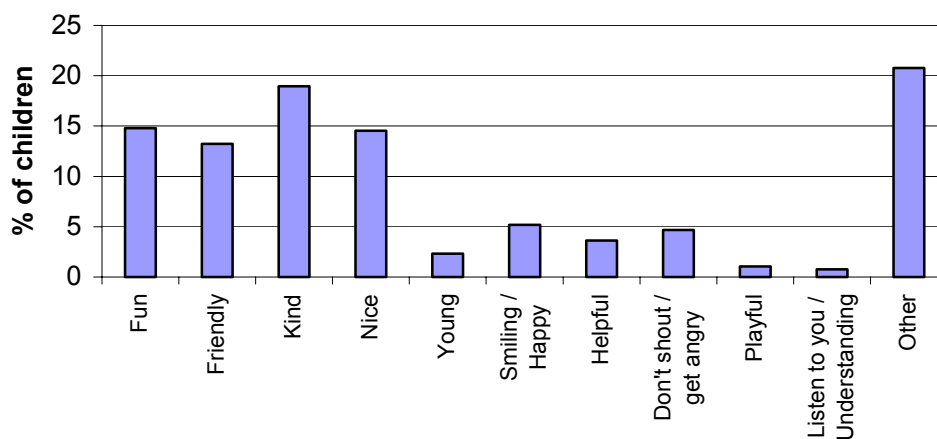
What would be good for children & young people about having a play van or play rangers?



Where would you like the play rangers or play van to go?



What sort of people would you like the play rangers to be?

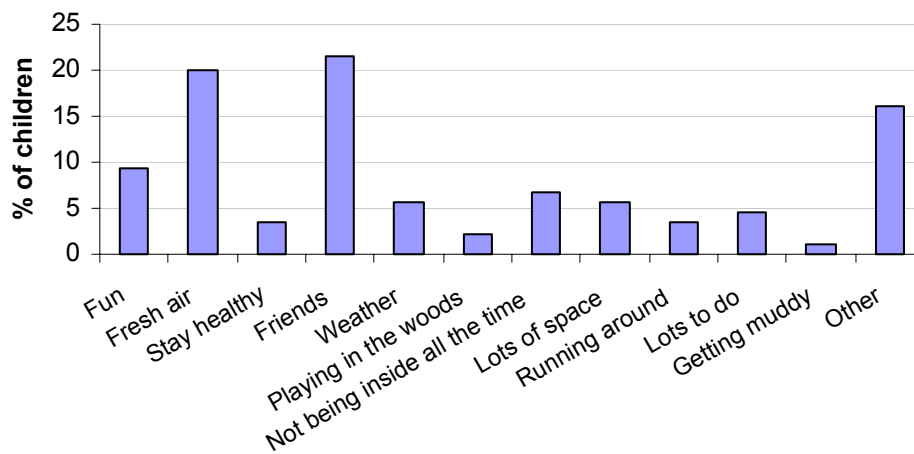


What activities would you like the play rangers to do?

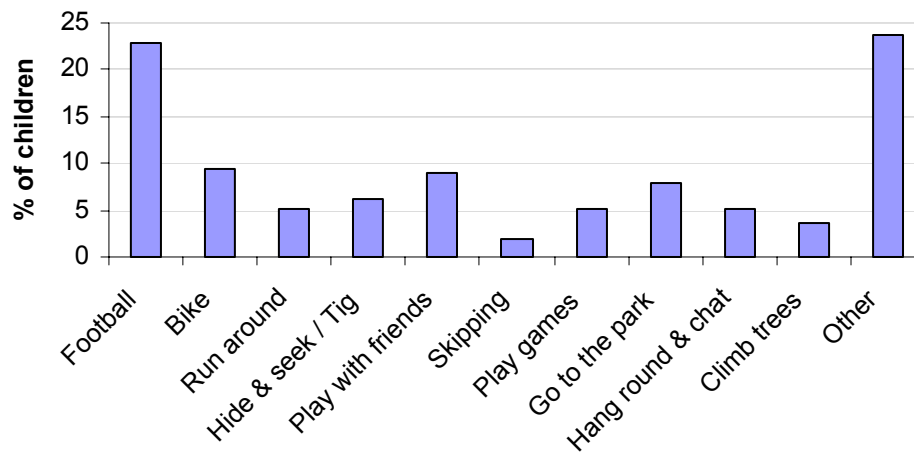
Water activities	Challenge in a wood
Skateboarding	Wall climbing
Sports (football, tennis, basketball, cricket, rounders)	Roller blades
Trampolining	Things for younger children
Face Painting	Tiggy
Arts & crafts	Climb trees
Hide & seek	Hula hooping
Drama	Ball pits
Graffiti	Everything so you can express yourself
Swimming	Lots of fun stuff

**These are in addition to those mentioned above about the play van and are a sample of answers*

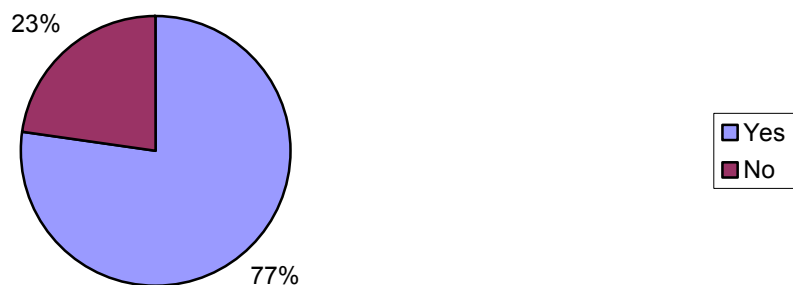
What do you like most about playing outside?



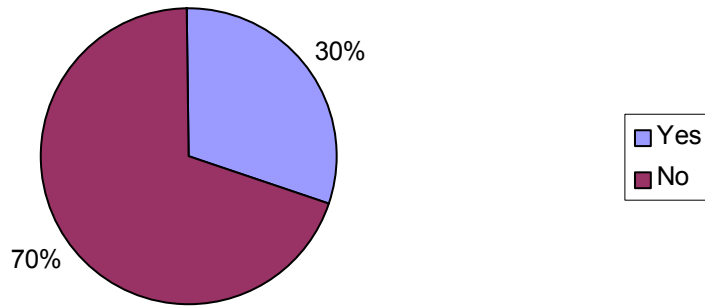
What do you most like to do when you're outside?



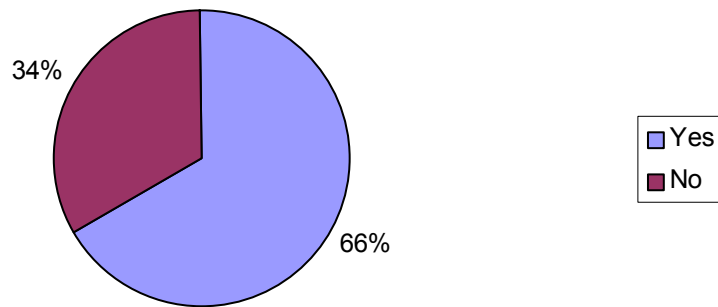
Have you ever been in a wood / forest?



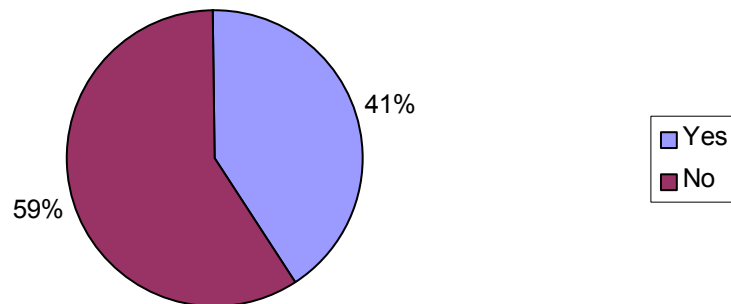
Have you ever made a fire?



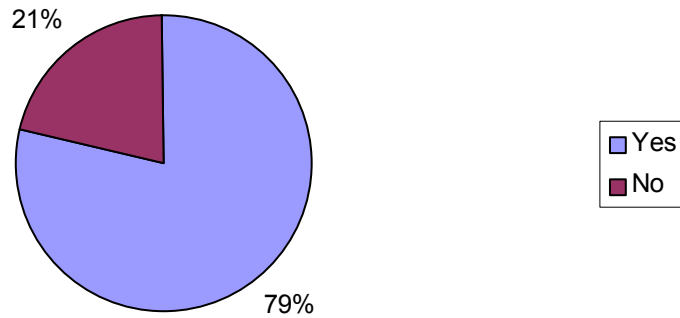
Have you ever made a den?



Have you ever chopped wood?



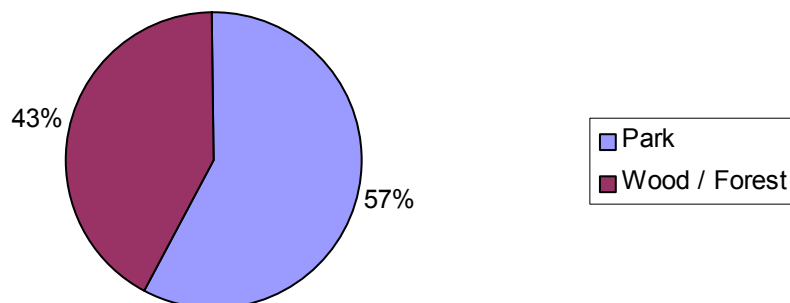
Have you ever climbed a tree?



Which of these would you most like to do?



Do you prefer to play in a park or a wood / forest?

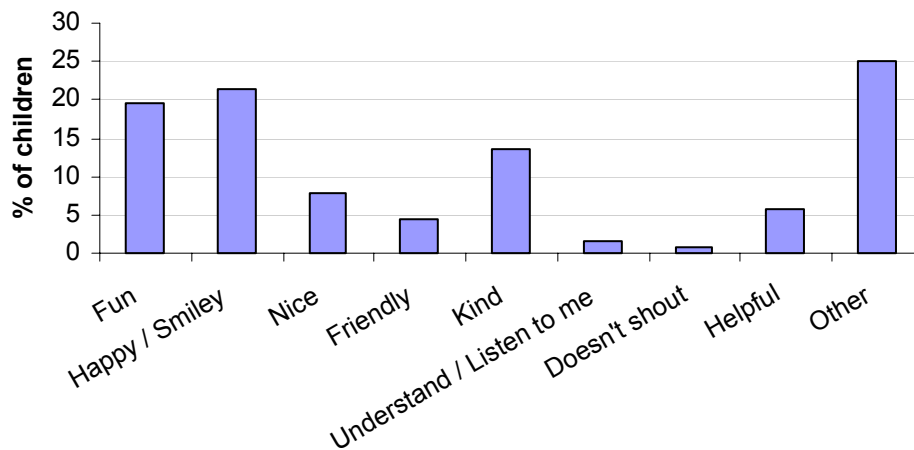


Badge Making

Children have a right to be involved in decision-making that affects them and this can be applied to the recruitment of playworkers. The qualities of a playworker are very important to children and young people. Children can spend a lot of time with playworkers and it is essential that they feel comfortable with them.

In this activity, the children were invited to make a badge depicting their ideal playworker. They then pinned the badge onto a mannequin.

What would your ideal playworker be like?



Picture Voting on City Centre Play Space

The picture voting consisted of 12 pictures of different public play spaces around Europe displayed on a board. The children were given 3 voting stickers and asked to put them on the pictures they would most like to see in Sheffield city centre. If they just liked one, they could put all the stickers on one picture.

Which of these would you most like to have in Sheffield City Centre?



23%



17%



15%



11%



7%



6%



5%



4%



4%



3%



3%



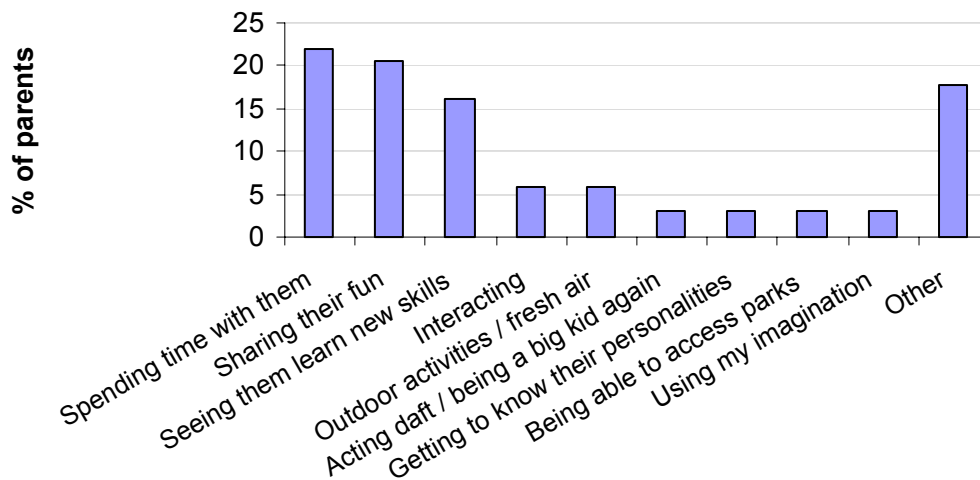
2%

Parent Questionnaire

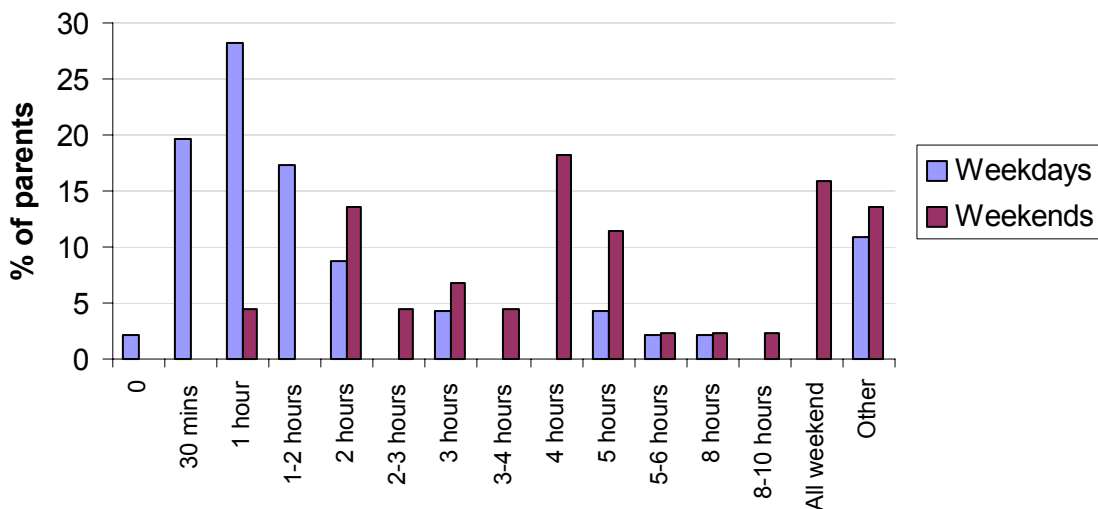
Play provision is seen as important by parents and carers. Parents and carers are affected by and involved in children’s play and so their views also need to be sought when planning for play. One of the aims of the Sheffield Play Strategy is for play opportunities to be family based.

During this consultation, any parent or carer who attended was invited to answer a questionnaire about valuing play and future investment opportunities.

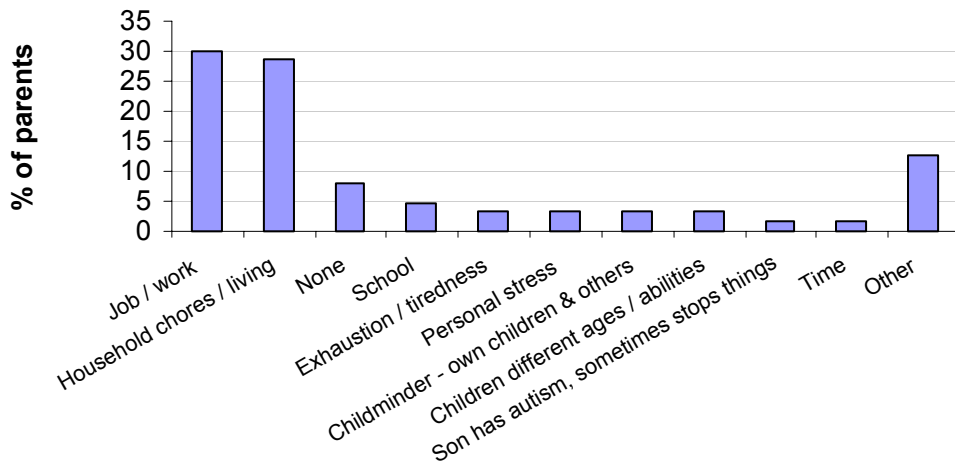
As a parent, what do you enjoy most about playing with your child / children?



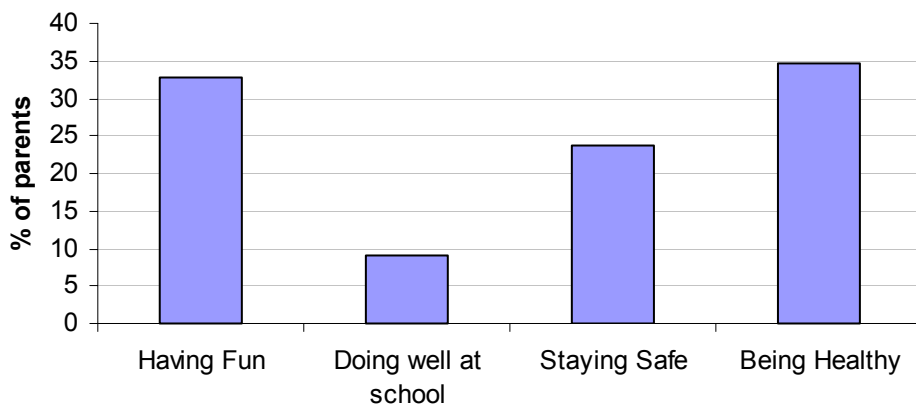
On average, how much time each day do you spend playing with your child / children?



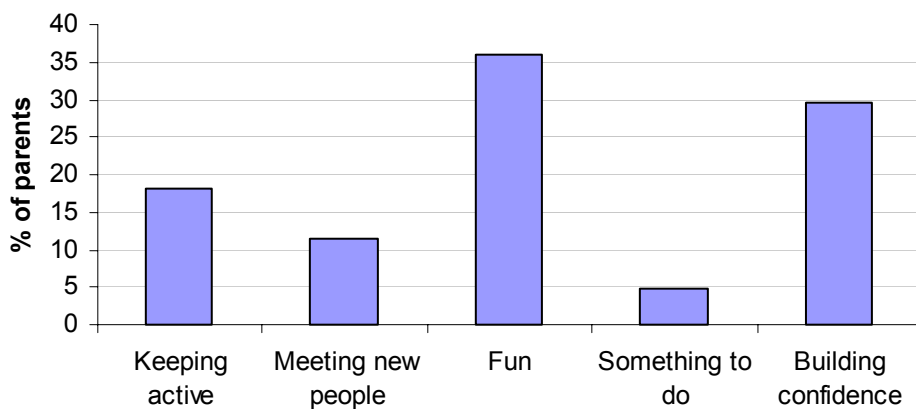
What do you find are the barriers that stop you from spending time playing with your child / children?



Of those listed, what would you rank as the top priority for children?



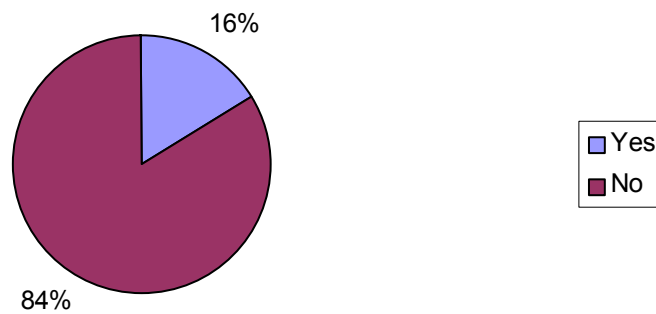
What would you say is the most important thing about playing for children?



If you could choose one improvement for your local area, what would it be?

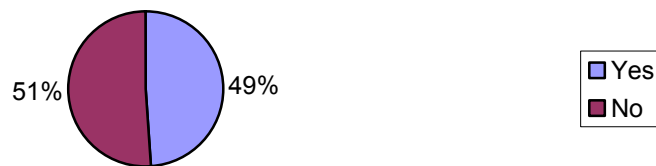
General	More safe / adventure type play areas using natural resources
	Swimming pool close by
	Pedestrianise around schools - make walking to school enjoyable i.e. interesting landmarks, colour in the environment, resting spots
	Place for motorbikes so children can be safe
	A safe environment for children to get together and have fun e.g. a safe park perhaps with wardens
	Toilets located in all parks e.g. Cobnar Road entrance to Graves Park had loos and now they're gone
	More for children to do in their free time
	More playschemes and more after school / out of school clubs with more specific activities
Frecheville	More parks with better play equipment
Woodhouse Mill	Playground for toddlers closer to home
Charnock	Better playground area
Wisewood	More parks
	Park - more activities outdoors
Handsworth	Park x 3
	Picnic area
	Less rubbish in green areas
	More activities like today
	More organised activities to cover all ages
Graves Park	Dog dirt free area
Endcliffe Park	Improved facilities
Birley	More group activities for parents and children to do together
Norton Lees	Improved play area
Burngreave	More indoor play space - especially trampolining
Gleadless	More play areas
	Less gangs causing trouble
Foxhill	More holiday activities for kids
	Separate play areas for young and older kids
Shirecliffe	Safety
Oughtibridge	More adventure playground equipment
	More and better equipment
	Community Centre
Wadsley	More facilities sponsored by the Government
	More organised activities for young children
Heeley	Road safety, reduction in traffic volume
	More activities outdoors
North Anston	Better play area away from dog mess
Lowedges	Better youth club building
Loxley	Speed humps on road
Pitsmoor	Activities for children under 8 as well as over - it's a huge problem
Woodseats	Safe playground to play and challenging equipment to stretch them
Parson Cross	More inclusive play facilities i.e. "normal" 7 year old, autistic 5 year old
Batemoor	Better facilities, safer environment
Richmond	More play areas for children

Do you feel there are sufficient play opportunities for children & young people in your local area?

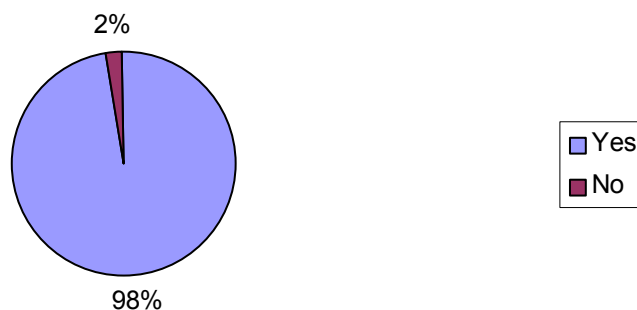


Are the local play opportunities well known about and easily accessible to local children and their families?

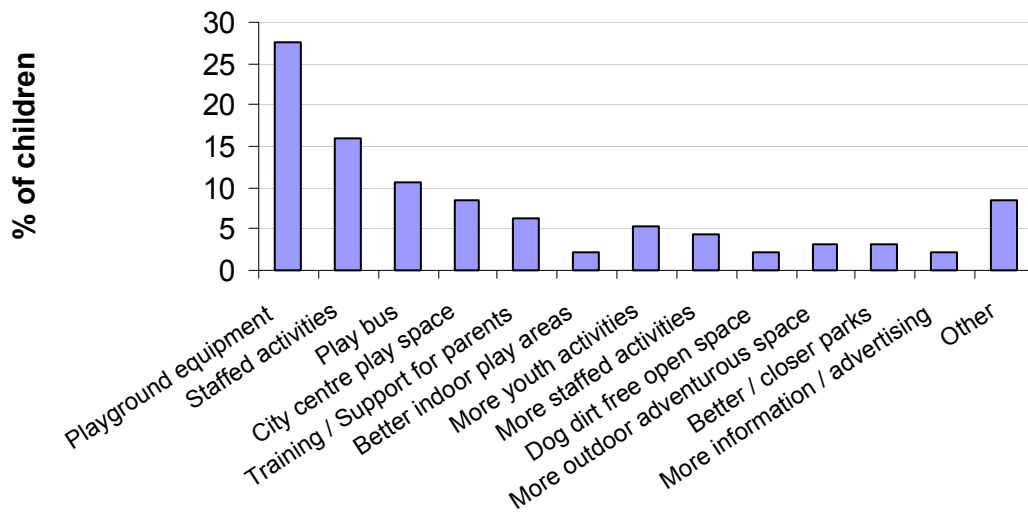
(e.g. is there a cost, can disabled children play there easily, are they within easy walking distance?)



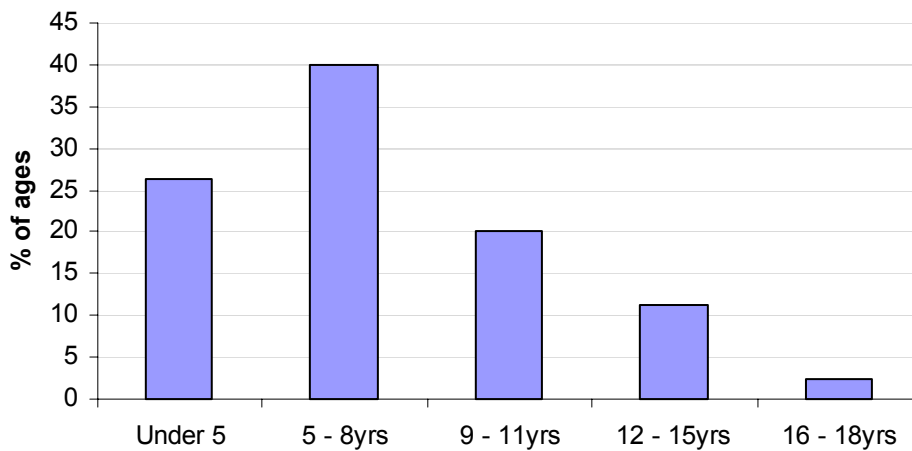
Would you take advantage of any opportunities that arose highlighting different ways of playing with your children?



Sheffield is due to receive some funding to develop its play provision - what would you like to see the money spent on?



How old is your child / children?



What happens next?

Feedback to the children and young people is a critical part of the consultation process to enable them to see that their views have been listened to and taken into account. There are several methods outlined below which will ensure this happens.

Feedback will be sent to the children and young people in the form of a newsletter and they will soon be available on www.sheffkids.me.uk.

This report is being sent to services and organisations that contribute to children's play directly or indirectly. The findings from this consultation should be used to influence future planning for these services to ensure that they are taking into account the views of children, young people and parents.

These results will be used as the voice of children and young people when developing Sheffield's bid to the Big Lottery.

The junk modelling and picture voting results have been taken to the developers of the Moor in Sheffield to be fed into their plans.

This report is also available to download from www.sheffield.gov.uk/play.