

Pitsmoor Adventure Playground

Consultation Report

June 2008

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Introduction

Children are at the heart of many services throughout Sheffield. Their involvement in the planning, delivery and evaluation of services affecting them is critical for ensuring a service is efficient and based on actual need

Article 12 of the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child states that,

“Children and young people have a right to express an opinion on any matter affecting them and to have that opinion taken into account”.

This statement is supported in Sheffield through the Sheffield Children and Young People's Plan and the Sheffield Children and Young People's Participation Strategy.

The Children's Voices Project is firmly committed to this principle and is leading on consultation and participation work with children in Sheffield.

For more information on matters relating to this report or for support and advice in involving children in your setting please contact:

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Executive Summary

Children's Voices were approached by Pitsmoor Adventure Playground to consult with its users about their views on a re-furbished / replacement indoor facility. Children's Voices worked alongside the architect and playground staff in conducting a consultation day on Saturday 21st June 2008 that included fun and engaging activities. The consultation gained almost 30 children's opinions on several aspects of the new building's design and usage.

A summary of the key findings from the children's responses is presented below:

Key findings

Building

- The majority of children liked both the feel and look of glass as a material that they would like the building to be made out of
- Children liked graffiti-style designs and writing both inside and outside of the building, however they did not like the old and worn graffiti on the walls
- Findings from several consultation techniques indicated that children would like a clean building, with clean toilets, sinks and bins
- The most popular shape of window was rectangle, with triangle and round windows being the second most popular
- Children indicated that they would like the indoor space to be bigger

Activities

- Findings from several consultation techniques indicated that children enjoyed playing pool and football
- Children would like to be able to play hide and seek and make dens both inside the building and on the roof
- Children would like to be able to play with water inside
- Children would like somewhere where they can relax

Roof

- Children liked the idea of having a fun and interesting way of getting up and down from the roof of the building. A straight tunnel slide and a zip wire were amongst the most popular methods
- The most popular designs for the railings were curly and snail shaped
- The majority of children chose to design their railings using a colour other than black
- Children's drawings indicated that they would like one main entrance with four windows placed in their conventional place

Additional findings:

- The majority of children knew of a child with a disability who had visited the playground. Children made reference to the hill being difficult for them to get up
- The majority of children have said that they would like to be involved in the designing and making process of the new building

Consultation findings

The following is a breakdown of all the findings

Big Brother-

A tent was set up with two sections; a camera was placed in one section and chair was placed in the other. Children went into the tent both by themselves and with friends and talk to the camera. The children were asked questions by 'big brother' an adult behind the camera. This technique allowed children to speak openly and freely by themselves. It also allowed us to probe deeper into a topic as we could ask additional questions as the conversation progressed.

The following are the key messages extracted from the interviews. The answers to each question are ranked in order of popularity.

Q1 What do you like most about the building?

- Nothing
- Its fun
- Its interesting

Q2 What do you not like about the building?

- The building itself
- Old
- Dirty inside and out
- Dirty toilets
- When people fight inside
- Paint on the tables and walls

“The toilets aren’t clean- we want cleaner toilets and sinks”

Q3 What do you most like to do inside the building?

- Play snooker
- Play sports
- Play table tennis
- Chill out

Q4 What would you like to be able to do in the building that you cannot do now?

- Play with water
- Places to play hide and seek
- Computers
- Quite space/chill out area with carpet
- Areas to dance
- Dance mats
- Trampolines
- Play football on Astroturf - when it’s raining outside
- Painting area
- Pet corner
- Have tunnels that go under ground
- Somewhere to put shoes and coats when you go inside

“I want a swimming pool”

*Big Brother
“what if you couldn’t have a swimming pool, would you still like to have water in the building?”*

“Yer, we love water fights. Yer some water”

Q5 Do you play upstairs on the roof?

Yes	5
No- it's boring	5
Yes when its not raining	1
No	1
Sometimes	1

Q6 What do you play on the roof?

- Tig
- Football
- Tiggy wall
- Play on bikes
- Play with a bouncy ball on the hard surface

*“Nothing-there
isn't anything to
do”*

Q7 What would you like to be able to do on the roof that you cannot do now?

- Play football
- Hide and seek
- Make dens
- Slide down to the lower level
- Have picnic tables
- Grass (then cover it when it rains)
- Play cricket
- Play basketball
- Take some of the inside activities up to the roof
- More playground equipment (swings, slides etc)
- Trampoline
- Grass (then cover it when it rains)

*“ We want it to
be cooler,
wickeder,
greater and
more
interesting!”*

Q8 Is there enough space at the moment to have fun in the building?

No- would like bigger	5
Yes	4
Its okay- but would like it bigger	3
Would like it wider	1

Q9 Do you know if any disabled children have ever been to the playground?

Yes	8
No	1

Q10 How would you be able to make the playground and building easier for disabled children to use?

- If the ramp/hill wasn't so big
- Change the size of the building
- Have an electric chair going from the playground entrance to different areas of the park and building.

*“One person
couldn't walk
properly and she
couldn't get up
the hill”*

Q11 Would you like to be involved in the designing and making of the new building?

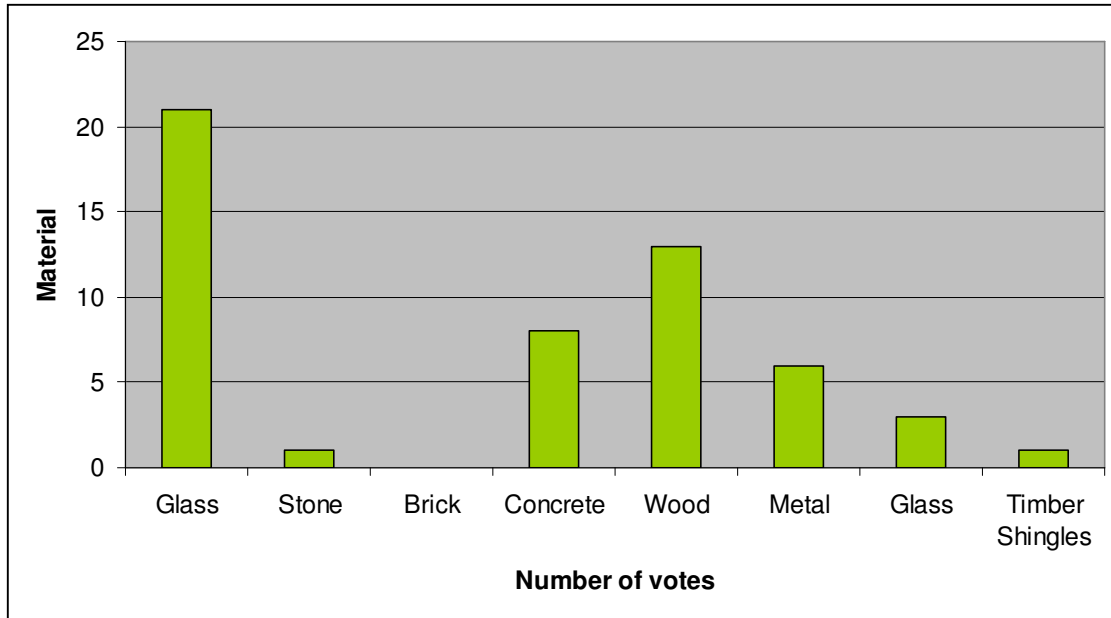
Yes	10
Only if adults helped	2
No	1
Not sure	1

“I’ll help you put graffiti on the walls”

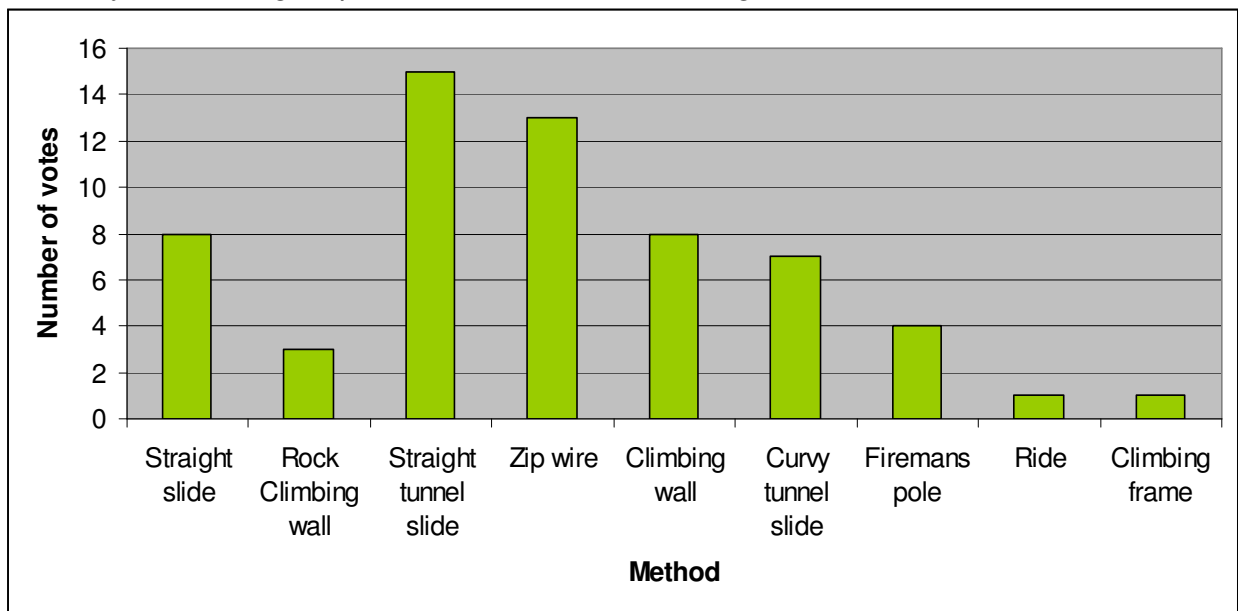
Picture voting

A selection of pictures were placed on a wall giving the children the option to choose their favourite picture for example a slide, fireman's pole, a zip wire etc. Children were given three stickers which they either chose to put them all on their favourite picture or they chose to split them up and put them on a selection of their favourites.

What do you want the outside walls to be made out of?



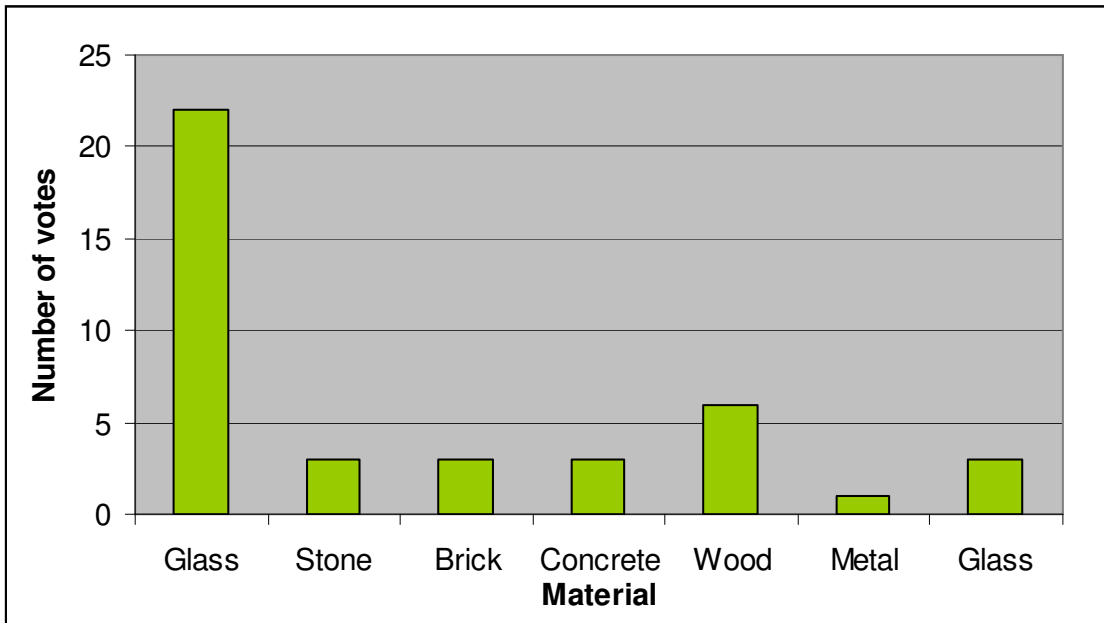
How do you want to get up to the roof and back down again?



Feely Boxes

Several boxes were set up with different materials inside for example wood, stone, metal. Children had the opportunity to put their hand inside the box and feel the texture of the material. Once the children had felt inside all the boxes they were asked to vote on their favourite.

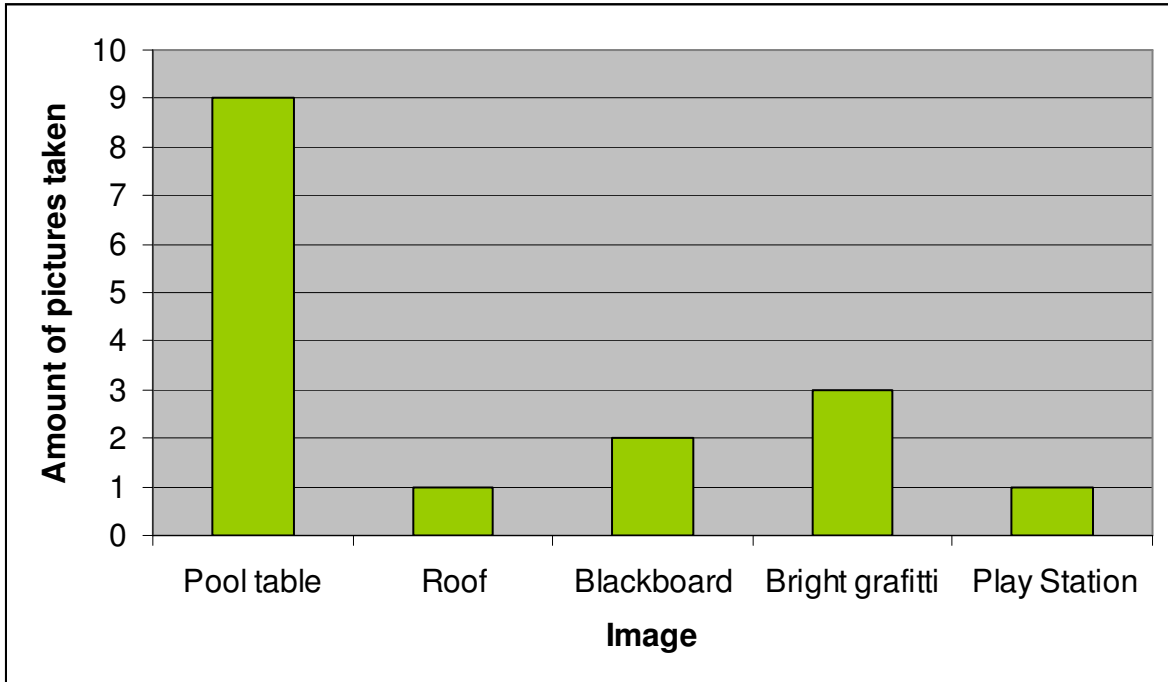
What material did you like the feel of the most?



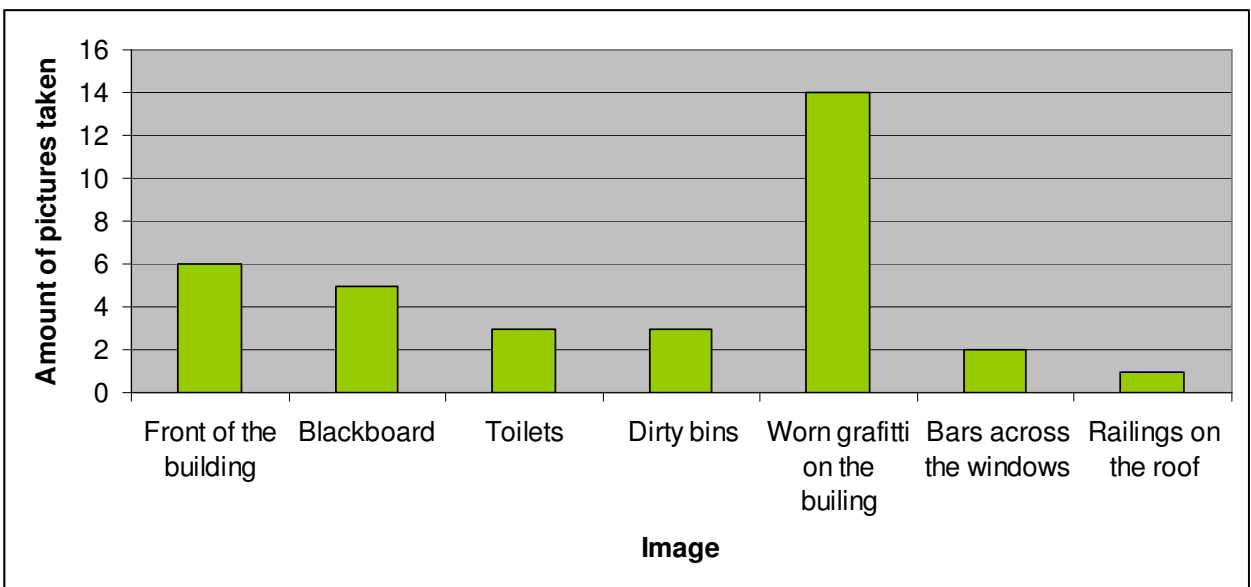
Photography with cameras

Children were given a camera and asked to take two pictures of things that they liked and two pictures of things they disliked about the existing building.

Children liked



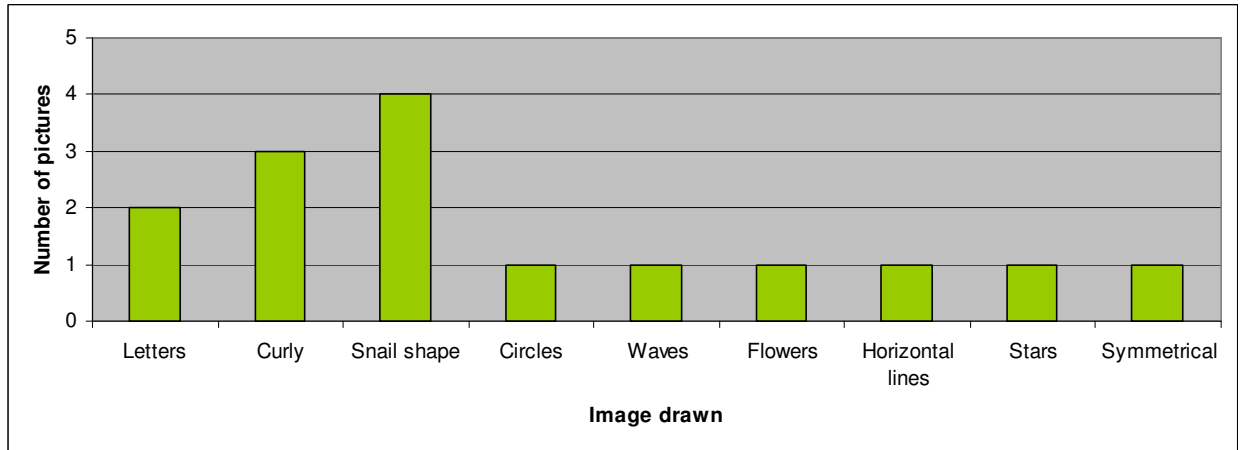
Children didn't like



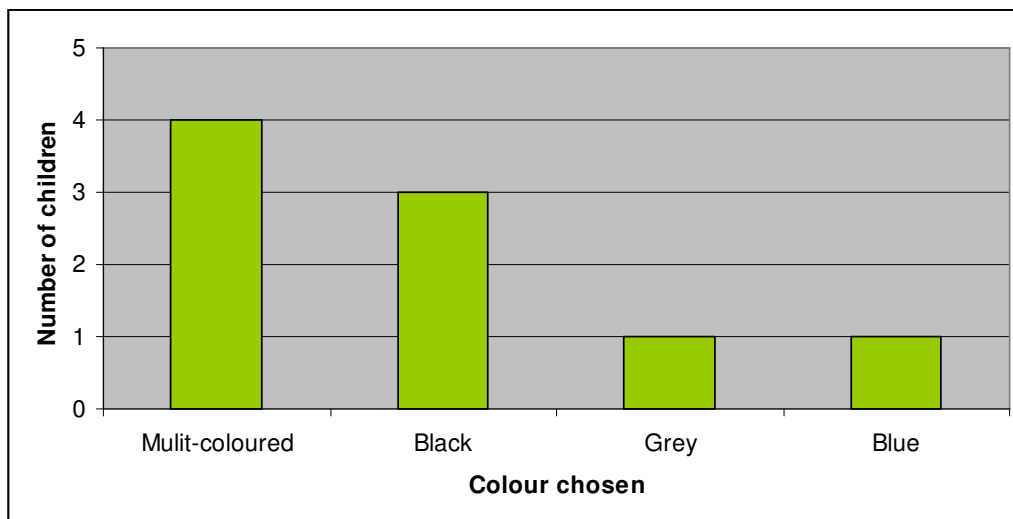
Railing patterns

The children were given the opportunity to design the patterns of the railings. They were given a square shape on a piece of paper in which to draw their patterns.

Images the children drew



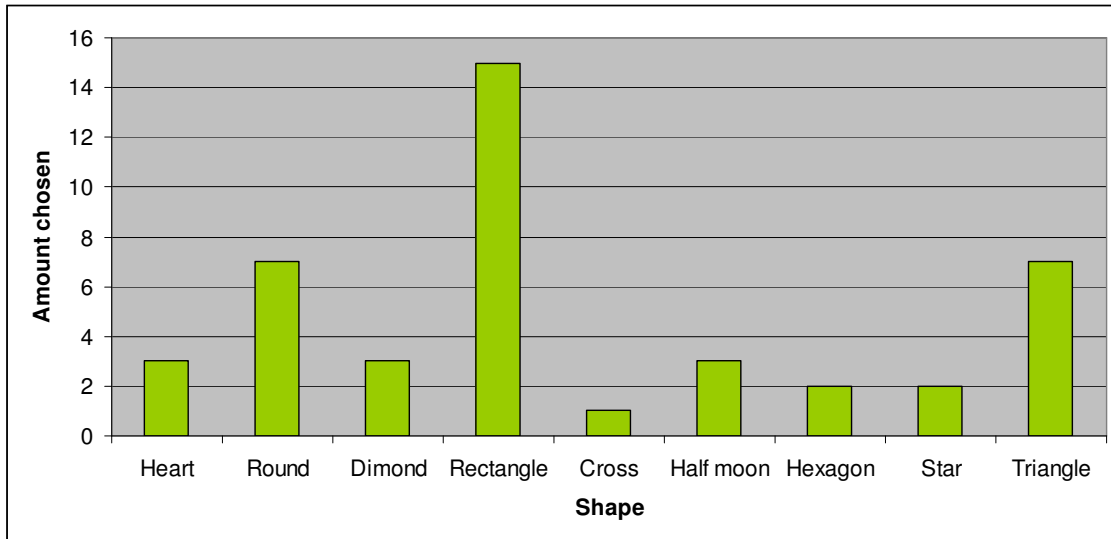
The colour chosen to draw with



Drawings

Children were given a line drawing of the current shape of the building they could draw and design the front of the building. There were also several shaped windows that the children cut and stick onto their drawing. They had the choice of which shapes to use and they could choose where to place them on their drawing.

Shape of windows chosen



Drawings- doors

All children that drew a door on their picture placed it in the centre of the building and the majority drew double doors.

Drawings- windows

Out of the 10 children that chose to put windows on their drawing 7 out of 10 chose to place them in the conventional house style; two up two down.

Graffiti wall

Sheets of paper were laid out on a table for the children to freely write or draw on. The children were set the question of what activities would they like to see in the upstairs and downstairs spaces. The children could choose whether to write or draw their responses on the wall.

This technique was not as successful as we would have hoped. The majority of children did not answer the question posed, instead they chose to design their own 'tags' and names in a graffiti style. Even though we have no answers to the question set, we believe this activity was still beneficial as it shows us that the children enjoy writing in the style of graffiti.