



# Play Preference Survey

A play space consultation technique for use with children and young people

Paper based surveys of children and young people present a problem. It is difficult to find the balance between creating something that is accessible to all abilities and something that could give you some really good information providing it is filled in correctly.

On the following pages you will find:

- a play space assessment leaflet that Bristol Council has produced (*pages 2-7*). This sheet is used with permission by local authorities across Britain to gather information on play spaces. It is a clear, accessible, document that allows you to gather basic information easily.
- a survey form we have developed in Oxfordshire (*pages 8 & 9*). This takes a different approach, asking respondents to grade activities from 1 ('I don't like it very much') to 5 ('I think it's fabulous').

The advantage of the Bristol form is that it is bright, colourful and requires little by way of introduction. If you are planning to leave survey forms around or give them to a group with no accompanying talk or activities we recommend you use this approach.

The Oxfordshire form gives more information and allows the children to add in their own activities but is of limited value unless the categories have been explained. If you are running a consultation event where a range of activities are planned (for example play mapping or shelter building) you should consider using this approach.

The Oxfordshire form only provides useful feedback if the group with whom you are working has spent some time reflecting on the range of play activities that they enjoy. The group needs to have given some consideration to how play can be classified and divided into different 'boxes'. For example:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>A suggested definition</b>	<b>Category</b>
<i>Football, tennis, badminton, hockey, rugby...</i>	<i>Active games with rules written by other people and written down in a book somewhere.</i>	<b>SPORT</b>
<i>Tag, it, stuck in the mud, hide and seek...</i>	<i>Active games with rules made up by the players</i>	<b>WIDE GAMES</b>
<i>BMX jumping, skating, blades...</i>	<i>Games with wheels involved</i>	<b>WHEELS</b>
<i>X Factor, Hannah Montana, Pirates, War, Star Wars, etc.</i>	<i>Games of fantasy and pretend</i>	<b>PRETEND</b>



chill

laugh

hang-out

meet

fun

swing run

play

jump

How do you feel about the places to play, or hang out, in your area?



Play areas



Adventure  
Playgrounds



Bike tracks



Streets

Playing  
fields



Ball courts

Are there enough? Are they any good? Let us know...

Skate parks



LOTTERY FUNDED



Making space for play



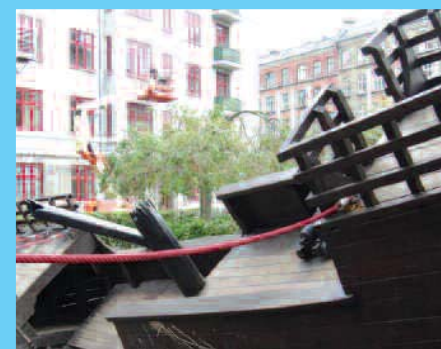
chill

laugh

swing

fun

run



Thank you for picking up this questionnaire.  
We hope you enjoy filling it in.

## 1 What I like to do...



### BE ACTIVE

Run about, jump, slide, swing, roll, ball games, skip, chase, generally mess about



### HANG OUT

Meet friends, chat, hang out, laugh, shout, talk



### ON YOUR WHEELS

Skate, cycle, skateboard



### BE SAFE

Feel safe from traffic, bullies or strange adults



### BE ADVENTUROUS

Climb, take risks, hang upside down, jump from high up, swing high



### MAKE THINGS

Create, build things, make dens



### BE QUIET

Imagine, dream, invent, hide, chill



2 What I think about the places where I play and hang out...



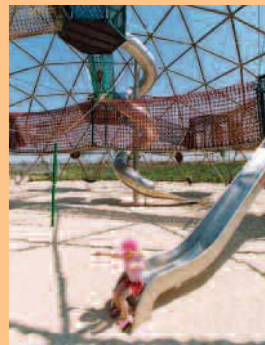
VERY GOOD



QUITE GOOD



Hmm...OKAY



A BIT BAD



VERY BAD



3 What would make it better?



Three horizontal dashed lines for writing.

The value judgements on what is a good or bad space in these photo's was made by the children and young people of Bristol

4 Is there enough choice?



YES! LOTS



YES! SOME



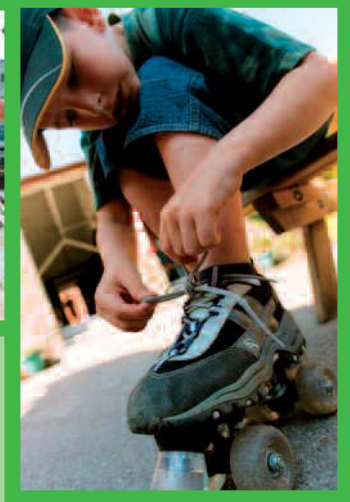
Hmm...OKAY



NO! NOT MUCH



NO! NONE



5 What choice is there? Please circle the icons below



BIKE TRACKS



WOODS



SKATE PARKS



HANG OUT AREAS



GRASSY AREAS



PLAYING FIELDS



PARKS



LARGE PLAY AREAS



BALL COURTS



STREETS



SMALL PLAY AREAS



ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

## ABOUT YOU

6

Are you a boy or a girl?  
Please tick one box only.



**Boy**



**Girl**

7

How old are you?  
Please write in the box.

\_\_\_\_\_ years

8

Do you think of yourself as a disabled young person?  
Please tick one box only.



**Yes**



**No**

9

What is your postcode?  
Please write in box.



If you would like this information in a different format, for example braille, audiotape, large print or computer disk, or community languages, please contact Bristol City Council 0117 352 5714

This survey was developed by Bristol City Council as part of the Play England local play indicators project. Designed and produced in consultation with the children and young people of Bristol.

10

Which of these best describes who you are?  
Please tick one box only.

### White



British



Irish



Any other White background

### Asian or Asian British



Indian



Pakistani



Bangladeshi



Any other Asian background

### Black or Black British



Caribbean



African



Any other Black background

### Mixed



White and Black Caribbean



White and Black African



White and Asian



Any other Mixed background

### Chinese or other ethnic group



Chinese



Other

Thank you very much for your help.

When you have filled in this survey please send it to:

\_\_\_\_\_

<b>Sport</b>	5
	4
	3
	2
	1

<b>Difficult Challenges</b>	5
	4
	3
	2
	1

<b>Wheels</b>	5
	4
	3
	2
	1

<b>Running About</b>	5
	4
	3
	2
	1

<b>Chat</b>	5
	4
	3
	2
	1

<b>Wide Games</b>	5
	4
	3
	2
	1

<b>Climbing</b>	5
	4
	3
	2
	1

<b>Safe</b>	5
	4
	3
	2
	1

<b>Pretend</b>	5
	4
	3
	2
	1

<b>Sliding</b>	5
	4
	3
	2
	1

<b>Spinning</b>	5
	4
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	1

<b>Building</b>	5
	4
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<b>Swinging</b>	5
	4
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<b>Risky Play</b>	5
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<b>Nature</b>	5
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