

## Play in the East of England

The **Play England East** team would like to wish everyone a very **Merry Christmas** and **Happy New Year**. We look forward to seeing you all in 2008!

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### Highlight of the month

#### Children's Plan announced

The Children's Plan, announced on 11 December 2007 by the Children's Secretary, Ed Balls, includes £225 million of government funding for 3,500 playgrounds to be rebuilt or renewed over three years. The plan also pledges a cross-departmental national play strategy for 2008, to include training for 4,000 playworkers.

Adrian Voce, director of Play England, said: 'this is fantastic news for children. Play is the essence of childhood; just ask any adult what they recall most enjoying as a child. A good plan for play is a good plan for childhood.'

[http://www.playengland.org.uk/Page.asp?originx\\_840bo\\_77367422587h39h\\_20071211810j](http://www.playengland.org.uk/Page.asp?originx_840bo_77367422587h39h_20071211810j)

### Regional news

#### Big Lottery Fund Children's Play awards

On 18 December 2007 the Big Lottery Fund announced that a further 36 local authorities across the region have made successful bids to the Children's Play programme, resulting in over £9 million of funding for play in the East of England.

The regional team would like to say a big congratulations to all those local authorities that have been successful in the final submission round. It's fantastic to see so much hard work pay off!

[http://www.playengland.org.uk/Page.asp?originx\\_840bo\\_77367422587h39h\\_20071211810j](http://www.playengland.org.uk/Page.asp?originx_840bo_77367422587h39h_20071211810j)

### National news

#### Sustrans' Connect2 wins People's Lottery

Play England partner Sustrans has won £50 million of funding in the Big Lottery Fund's: The People's £50 Million Giveaway, to invest in walking and cycling throughout the UK.

As the leading sustainable transport charity, Sustrans is the organisation behind the National Cycle Network, Safe Routes to School, Bike It and TravelSmart projects.

Connect2 will revitalise local travel within 79 communities UK-wide and will enable many more people to walk and cycle when making everyday journeys to the shops, school, office or the park. Work on delivering the project will begin in January 2008.

[http://www.sustransconnect2.org.uk/about\\_connect2/](http://www.sustransconnect2.org.uk/about_connect2/)

## Benefits of unsupervised play

Children who are allowed outside the house to play unsupervised grow up to be healthier and more sociable, according to a study by University College London. They found that children allowed outside without adult supervision were more active and burnt more calories than those children who were constantly supervised.

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/pages/live/articles/news/news.html?in\\_article\\_id=503325&in\\_page\\_id=1770](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/pages/live/articles/news/news.html?in_article_id=503325&in_page_id=1770)

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## Playscape wins Landscape Institute award

The Groundwork Playscape project, sponsored by Play England, won first prize for exceptional communications and presentation at the national Landscape Institute Awards 2007.

Playscape was a real example of a play space created entirely from natural materials, and rejected swings and roundabouts in favour of timber, mounds, water and boulders.

<http://www.groundwork.org.uk/news/detail/index.asp?id=76>

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## Regional events

### Playwork education and training event

28 January 2008, Cambridge

Play England East are working in partnership with SkillsActive to deliver a playwork education and training event from 10am-1pm on 28 January 2008 in Cambridge.

Full details will follow shortly in the new year.

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### GreenSpace TAES training course

16 January, Essex

The Towards an Excellent Service (TAES) training will be of interest to local authority park managers and performance managers. Its framework helps organisations & partnerships providing parks & open spaces, sport & recreation & wider cultural services to understand what brings about excellent results and assess how they are performing.

<http://www.green-space.org.uk/conference/taes.php>

## National events

### Playwork Partnerships Playing on the Range

3 and 4 March 2008, Gloucester

This new level 2 playwork course aims to provide information, inspiration, and ideas for play rangers and others working with children and young people outdoors.

Focusing on participative learning, practical group work and individual reflective practice, the course will support learners to gain confidence in facilitating outdoor playwork.

<http://www.playwork.co.uk/userfiles/POTRstudentleaflet.pdf>

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## Recommended resources

### Participation Works How To guides

The Participation Works How To guides are a series of downloadable booklets that provide practical information, useful tips and case studies of good participation practice. Each one provides an introduction to a different element of participation to help organisations enhance their work with children and young people.

<http://www.participationworks.org.uk/ResourcesHub/ParticipationWorksHowtoGuides/tabid/316/Default.aspx>

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## Contact us

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**To be added to or removed from the mailing list, please send us your contact details.**

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