

The play opportunities that this group support include; holiday playschemes, adventure playgrounds, play centres, play ranger projects and some after school play provision. To find out more information about the specific play opportunities in your District, contact the relevant team detailed in this leaflet. For more information about childcare available all year round contact the Family Information Service on **01438 737502** or **01923 471502**.

Hertfordshire Play Officers group was established in 2001 to provide a united voice for play and playwork in Hertfordshire. They advocate the child's right to play, share and develop good practice, discuss training and funding opportunities, organise play conferences and evaluate play projects.

Hertfordshire Play Officers



Quick Reference Contacts

Broxbourne Borough Council
01992 785574
leisure@broxbourne.gov.uk

Dacorum Borough Council
01442 228622

East Herts District Council
01992 531459
www.eastherts.gov.uk/index.jsp?articleid=2269

Hertfordshire County Council
play@hertscc.gov.uk
www.hertsdirect.org/play

Hertsmere Borough Council
0208 2077568
play@hertsmere.gov.uk
www.hertsmere.gov.uk/play

North Herts District Council
01462 474000
www.north-herts.gov.uk

St Albans City & District Council
01727 819366
leisure@stalbans.gov.uk

Stevenage Borough Council
01438 242242
csc@stevenage.gov.uk

Three Rivers District Council
01923 776611
enquiries@threerivers.gov.uk
www.threerivers.gov.uk
www.iplayoutdoors.co.uk

Watford Borough Council
01923 278323 or 01923 278577
www.watford.gov.uk/play

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
01707 357000
play@welhat.gov.uk

'Play is freely chosen, personally directed, intrinsically motivated behaviour that actively engages the child. Play can be fun or serious. Through play children explore social, material and imaginary worlds and their relationship with them, elaborating all the while a flexible range of responses to the challenges they encounter';
Best Play – what play provision should do for children NPFA/PLAYLINK/Children's Play Council (2001).

What is Play?



Play

in Hertfordshire
Useful contacts in your area.



Find out more about Play in your area...



Broxbourne Borough Council

The Community Development Team develop and promote play events and youth activities. Projects include summer Kidz Klub for children aged 5-12 years, local park play events, family fun days at the local leisure centres, youth clubs and activities and assisting with Big Lottery fund project 'Let's GO Play'.

Contact The Community Development Team
T: 01992 785555 E: leisure@broxbourne.gov.uk
www.broxbourne.gov.uk/youngpeople

Dacorum Borough Council

The Children's Services team manage and promote a number of play opportunities in the borough. They have four large free, open access, Adventure Playgrounds and are responsible for delivering the 'More opportunities to Play in Dacorum' programme funded by the BIG Lottery. Taking play into the rural parishes and the 11+ twilight youth sessions two nights per week at each Adventure Playground for 11 - 16 years.

Contact Children's Services T: 01442 228622

East Herts District Council

East Herts Council works with a wide range of public and private sector partners to run a diverse range of free activities for school age children. The East Herts Community Projects Team manage the Big Lottery Play Portfolio "Playing on the Wild Side", support Child UK in delivering 'Out2Play' and Herts Youth Connexions in delivering a Mobile Play Space Project using the Wheels Bus.

East Herts Council manage over 50 play areas mainly located in the towns of Bishop's Stortford, Hertford, Ware and Sawbridgeworth, with seven in the larger rural villages.

Contact East Herts Community Projects Team
T: 01992 531459

Hertsmere Borough Council

The Play Development team support a range of play opportunities and deliver an accredited quality play scheme service to children aged 5-11 years. The popular playschemes run in school holidays at venues across the borough.

A new Play ranger programme (supported by the Big Lottery play fund and Hertsmere Play Strategy) operates every school holiday and is open access free to children and young people 5-19 years. Other play services include developing After School Clubs, 'Artplay' childrens parties and community events.

Contact The Play Development Team T: 020 8207 7568
E: play@hertsmere.gov.uk
www.hertsmere.gov.uk/play

North Herts District Council

The Children's Services Team develop and deliver play opportunities for children and young people. As well as directly delivering a range of open access play projects they support local community groups to provide opportunities across the towns and villages.

Contact The Children's Services Team T: 01462 474000
E: service@north-herts.gov.uk

St Albans City & District Council

The Culture and Community Development Department deliver a range of quality play and free-time opportunities to children, all of the time, all over the district. This includes fixed play areas, holiday playschemes, a mobile skate park, a soft play area and an innovative toddler splash park. In addition, a newly established Play Ranger team provide free play opportunities during the holidays for children aged 8 to 13 years.

Contact The Culture and Community Development Department
T: 01727 819366
E: leisure@stalbans.gov.uk

Stevenage Borough Council

The Play section delivers and supports a range of opportunities and services that enable all children and young people to meet their play needs. They provide free play opportunities through Open access play provision for 5 to 14 year olds who choose to come and go as they please. These year round supervised play opportunities are throughout the town.

Contact The Play Section T: 01438 242389
www.stevenage.gov.uk and click on 'Leisure and Culture' and follow the link to play.

Three Rivers District Council

Three Rivers Leisure Development Team support a range of play opportunities for children including; Easter and summer holiday playschemes with a referral system for families living on a low income, a new outdoor open-space and woodland project supported by Play Rangers, and a variety of play and skate areas throughout the district with accessible equipment.

Contact Three Rivers District Council T: 01923 776611
E: enquiries@threerivers.gov.uk
www.threerivers.gov.uk and select 'Leisure & Culture'
www.iplayoutdoors.co.uk

Watford Borough Council

Watford Borough Council's Play Service offer all year round quality play opportunities to children and young people aged 5-15years, through a variety of provisions. This includes two adventure playgrounds and Play Rangers in nine local parks for 5-15 year olds.

Five Junior Clubs open after school during term time and playschemes are available during Easter and summer holidays, all for 5-11 year olds.

Playschemes have a small charge, with all other services free.

For more information, contact our Play team on
T: 01923 278323 or 01923 278577
www.watford.gov.uk/play

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council

The Welwyn Hatfield Play Partnership is made up of organisations with an interest in improving play opportunities, these include a mix of public, private and voluntary sector partners who run a range of activities. They also manages the local BIG lottery portfolio for children's play called re:play.

The council currently manages 35 playgrounds, catering for age groups ranging from four years to twelve years, with teenage equipment on several sites. The council's playgrounds strike a balance between providing challenging and stimulating play and learning and meeting current safety requirements.

Contact The Youth and Sports Partnership Team
T: 01707 357000 E: play@welhat.gov.uk

Other useful Contacts

County Play Partnership

Through the implementation plan of the County Play Policy and the coordinated work of the County Play Partnership, Hertfordshire recognises and advocates the value of play. If you would like to be involved in the County Play Partnership please email: play@hertsc.gov.uk

Play England

Play England aims to support all children and young people in England to have regular access to free, inclusive, local play provision.

The East of England regional team work with local authority areas and the play sector to promote local play strategies and build partnerships for play. They provide advice and support to promote good practice, and work to ensure that the importance of play is recognised by policy makers, planners and the public.

Contact the East of England team T: 0207 843 6300
www.playengland.org.uk/east

Family Information Service (FIS)

The Hertfordshire FIS team provide information and advice on a wide range of childcare and children's services in your local area, including:

- Childminders
- Nurseries
- Pre-schools / Playgroups
- Out of School Clubs
- Holiday Playschemes
- Help with childcare costs

Contact T: 01438 737502/01923 471502
E: fis@hertsc.gov.uk www.hertsdirect.org/fis

Children's Play Information Service

If you have a general enquiry about children's play, need contact details for a play organisation or would like a literature search on a play topic, contact Children's Play Information Service E: cpis@ncb.org.uk
T: 020 7843 6303/6026

KIDS Playwork Inclusion Project

KIDS is a charity which in its 38 years has pioneered a number of approaches and programmes for Disabled children and young people. These include Home Learning (Portage), Parent Partnerships, Adventure Playgrounds and the inclusion of Disabled children in mainstream settings. KIDS wishes to build on its history to meet the needs and aspirations of a new generation of Disabled children and young people and their families. In doing this KIDS will become one of the leading charities in developing both the thinking and services that create an inclusive world for Disabled children, young people and their families.

Contact the regional team on T: 0207 359 3073
www.kids.org.uk

Skillsactive

SkillsActive works across the UK leading the development of playwork education and training for all those working with children and young people. They have recently launched the first UK strategy for playwork education and training, 'Quality Training, Quality Play', the first ever playwork strategy to have a UK focus whilst accommodating the diverse needs of each of the UK nations. There are a number of other playwork related publications and research available on the website.

Contact the East Region team:
www.skillsactive.com/playwork

