

Play for children in Islington

IPA Newsletter

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Islington adventure playground workers take part in international treehouse building competition

Eleven members of staff from seven of Islington's adventure playgrounds went on a trip to the 'Kulturinsel Einsiedel', a woodland adventure playground near Dresden in Germany. The trip was organised following extensive consultation with playworkers at the



end of 2007 when a majority of staff asked for more training and experience in structure building and an event bringing playgrounds together. The four-day trip saw playworkers exploring the extensive woodland playground, exchanging ideas with its designers and taking part in an international treehouse building competition. There was also a fair amount of team building (partying) after a long day's backbreaking labour.

The Kulturinsel offers play opportunities on three different levels - a labyrinth of over 500 yards of underground tunnels connects through shafts and chutes; with play huts, castles and dens at ground level; and then bridges and walkways lead to a network of treehouses up to a height of 50 feet.

The playworkers were inspired by the many ideas, quirky designs and imaginative building techniques on show and will use the practical experience gained (as well as the hundreds of photos taken) in improving and extending their sites at home. Fittingly, the IPA has just been awarded a major three-year Playful Ideas lottery grant to build treehouses at dozens of sites across Islington, including, of course, the adventure playgrounds. The project will start in March 2009.

If you are interested in any aspect of the forthcoming treehouse project or would like more information on the Kulturinsel, please contact Anita or Max on 020 7607 9637 or write to max@islingtonplay.org.uk.

What's inside:

- Bob Hughes, Max Mueller and Morgan Leichter-Saxby discuss adventure play
- What are your play memories?
- IPA's autumn/winter training programme
- Quality in Play update
- Ofsted open access changes
- Independent Safeguarding Authority
- The next Play Forum meeting
- Funding news

IPA AGM

When:
6.30pm, Wednesday
12th November

Where:
Paradise Park
Children's Centre
164 MacKenzie Road
N7 8SE

All welcome!

For information on IPA's autumn/winter training programme see page 4

What is adventure play?

The next phase in IPA's "Access to Play" project is addressing the question "What is Adventure Play?" We tend to use phrases like "Adventure Play" as shorthand between practitioners, fairly confident that we all use them to refer to the same things. But what distinguishes adventure playgrounds from other types of provision, and what do we mean when we call certain kinds of play "adventurous?" The project workers - Bob Hughes, Morgan Leichter-Saxby and Max Mueller - are considering these questions.

Adventure Playgrounds have undergone significant changes since their "junk playground" origins in bomb sites. What are those changes, and what has remained consistent? The common elements of an Adventure Playground today might be large-scale fixed wooden play equipment, both indoor and outdoor space, and the opportunity to engage in a variety of play types, but is this necessarily "adventurous?" Many Adventure Playgrounds do provide opportunities for risky play that children would not otherwise have, but we need to be careful to offer provision for more than gross motor skills, and to encourage the children to make physical changes according to their needs. Natural elements, like vegetation, water, sand and fire, are all central to this. This question is also one of inclusion and access, as all children need rich and varied play, though some face greater obstacles than others to their participation.

We value your input and want to hear your opinions. To get involved in this discussion or to get a hold of the "What is adventure play?" paper contact Morgan on 020 7607 9637 or at morgan@islingtonplay.org.uk



High up in the trees!
One of the treehouses from the Islington playworkers' recent trip to the Kulturinsel Einsiedel in Germany

Morgan Leichter-Saxby introduces her play memories

Reminding an adult of the games of their childhood can be an effective way of engaging them in a discussion around play. Play memories can be very strong, almost visceral in recollection, and have the ability to transport us temporarily to a different time, when we inhabited smaller bodies.

My strongest play memories tend to be of places rather than particular games. The bit of woodland behind my Uncle's house, where I would go exploring in stout boots, or carry a basket and pretend to be Red Riding Hood on the lookout for wolves. The beach in California, which my parents would drive me to and let me wander about for hours, popping the bubbles in seaweed and peering into the tide pools where tiny animals would peer back at me. Although I did not grow up in an area with particularly good playgrounds, I was lucky enough to go to schools that offered excellent provision and provided us with opportunities to climb, gather fruit, hide behind bamboo screens to whisper secrets, and bruise ourselves severely by jumping off a climbing frame. My kindergarten even had a pet wallaby!

At the same time though, growing up in Southern California meant that no one had what might be called "range behavior", not even the grown-ups, and my clearest memory of all is of the back seat of my parents' car, where I spent endless hours while my Dad swore at the traffic and Mum ate Polo mints. The plastic trim would heat up and burn pink lines across the back of my legs, while my dolls rolled back and forth as we turned corners.

Share some of your memories, and help start a conversation about the childhood experiences that helped to shape us as individuals, and as playworkers.

Send in your play memories to us at info@islingtonplay.org.uk

News updates



Ofsted open access changes

From 1 September 2008 the old additional guidance on inspecting open access playschemes will no longer apply. The new arrangements differentiate between open access provision for the early years age group (aged from birth to 31 August after their fifth birthday) and for those older than the early years group. Open access provision for children who are not in the early years group will not have to register with Ofsted, but may choose to join the voluntary childcare register. There are also some situations where open access provision for those in the early years age group is exempt from registration. For more details see: www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-forms-and-guidance-by/Title-A-to-Z/Guide-to-registration-on-the-Childcare-Register

Getting ready for the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) in 2009

Employers of those working with, or seeking to work with, children need to be aware of new procedures for vetting and barring potential employees. The new scheme starts in October 2009 and involves a one-off ISA registration and 3 year CRB checks.

From October 2009

- New job applicants and volunteers need to apply for ISA registration (free for volunteers, £64 for employees)
- Employers working with children and vulnerable adults cannot recruit workers or volunteers who are not ISA-registered

From 2010

- Existing employees and volunteers will need to apply for ISA registration, starting with those who

have no CRB, followed by those whose CRB checks are the oldest
Find out more at www.isa-gov.org.uk

Quality in Play (QiP) update

The revised QiP manual is due out later this year. For those working towards the current scheme, take note of the following dates:

- For any providers who feel they are ready to be accredited, the next deadline for assessment applications under the current Quality in Play model is 3 November 2008
- All applications for assessment under the current manual must be received by April 2009

For more information on the new QiP sign up for IPA's 'Are you ready for the new Quality in Play?' training (see page 1) or see www.playengland.org.uk/quality

Adventure Playground of the Year Award

Somerford Grove Adventure Playground in Tottenham has won this year's Adventure Playground of the Year award; runners-up are Honor Oak in Brockley, and Slade Gardens in Stockwell.

Street play comes to Islington

On 31st August 2008, Street Play Leader Paul Hocker from London Play helped to arrange a street party on Cardwell and Chambers road in Islington, which catered for all the local houses and the Holloway Estate. It was a group effort - the Islington Play Rangers were there leading activities with the many children who attended, Paradise Park Children's Centre lent its marquee, there was food and drink provided by residents and Suggs from Madness attended! The event was a great success and another is planned for next year. Paul is able to help a number of people interested in arranging a street party with both advice and funding so if you are interested contact him on paul@londonplay.org.uk

IPA overview

For detailed information on IPA's work during 2007-8 download the annual report from our website www.islingtonplay.org.uk



One of the tree-houses from the Islington play-workers' recent trip to the Kulturinsel Einsiedel in Germany

TRAINING & SUPPORT

IPA play resources

IPA's autumn/winter training programme

We are pleased to announce our latest training programme to support playworkers with the issues they have talking to us about.

This programme complements the training we ran earlier in the year, which included training on safeguarding, integrated working, commissioning and procurement, and training for management committee members.

**Thursday 13 November
Privacy in Play**

**Tuesday 18 November
Are you ready for the new
Quality in Play?**

**Tuesday 25 November
Are the right people on your
management committee?**

**Wednesday 3 December
How to write a successful
fundraising bid**

All courses run from 10.30am—1.30pm and will include lunch. To book on any of these courses, contact Suzanne on 020 7607 9637 or at suzanne@islingtonplay.org.uk

The playscheme and afterschool club CD-ROM

toolkit is aimed at groups that run or want to run successful out of school childcare provision. Designed to help groups sail through their Ofsted inspections by providing all of the Policies, Procedures, Forms and Documents that they are required to have in place. Even if your group is not required to register with Ofsted the toolkit will still be useful as it also provides lots of additional information relevant to anyone running any form of play or childcare provision. **£12**



Cally Kids Play Inclusive Games

is more than just a book of inclusive games, although we are sure you will think the games are great. This book clearly demonstrates that with a bit of creativity, determination and an open mind any game can be adapted to be inclusive for everyone to enjoy and take part in. There are 18 games to discover but that's just the start of what this book has to offer. Each of the 'Cally Kids' gives ideas on how to adapt the games into exciting new, inclusive variations. So whether you are new to inclusive play or an old hand looking for new ideas, be bold, have a go, and make the world a more playful place for everyone. **£9**



The Playwork Option DVD

introduces playwork as a profession, aiming to encourage people to train and qualify in play work. Footage features children and playworkers from adventure playgrounds, after school club and holiday playscheme. 30 minute running time. **£15**



To order and for information on discounts available contact us on 020 7607 9637 or at info@islingtonplay.org.uk

Play Forum

When: 12-2pm, Wednesday 19th November ***Lunch provided***

Where: Paradise Park Children's Centre
164 MacKenzie Road N7 8SE

With a focus on:

- Your training needs
- Management committee skills audit and recruitment
- Christmas party

Islington Safeguarding Children Board - training and development



November 2008

12th - Supervisory and Management Skills for Safeguarding / Child Protection - Part II
14th - Workshop - Domestic Violence and Risk Assessment
21st - Protecting Children Whose Parents are Aggressive and Hostile
25th & 26th - Foundation in Safeguarding / Child Protection

December 2008

2nd & 3rd - Foundation in Safeguarding / Child Protection
9th - Supervisory and Management Skills for Safeguarding / Child Protection - Part III
10th - Neglect

January 2009

13th - Supervisory and Management Skills for Safeguarding / Child Protection - Part IV
15th - Workshop - Serious Case Reviews - Lessons Learnt
19th - Responding to the Needs of Looked After Children
28th & 29th - Foundation in Safeguarding / Child Protection

For more information or an application form contact Maria Gilby at
maria.gilby@islington.gov.uk or on 020 7527 4234

Forthcoming events at IPA's

Paradise Park Children's Centre

Paradise Park Children's Centre provides a warm and welcoming environment for children under five and their parents and carers.

Stay & Play

Our weekly 'Stay & Play' sessions happen every Wednesday 10am - 12noon here at Paradise Park and two other sessions happen at Freightliners Farm on Thursdays 1 - 3pm and Fridays 10:30am - 12:30pm. These sessions give parents and children the opportunity to spend time in a creative and fun environment, there is also opportunity to participate in singing and storytelling.

Young fathers digital arts and music project

We have a digital arts and music project (run by All Change) for young fathers and fathers-to-be up to 25 years old. Fathers learn new skills and create their own photography whilst working with professional artists using professional equipment. This is on Monday evening 6pm - 8pm until early December.

First aid and safeguarding sessions for parents

Sessions for parents are being run on First Aid with Babies and Infants on Monday 17th November and Safeguarding Children. Both sessions need to be booked by contacting the centre.

For more information on the above events or if you would like to know about anything else that the centre provides contact Paradise Park Children's Centre, 164 MacKenzie Road, London N7 8SE on 020 7697 7330 or at info@paradiseparkcc.org.uk

Playworkers have been telling us how valuable it is to be informed about forthcoming funding opportunities and we have dedicated the following 2 pages to meeting this need. This will be a regular feature in our newsletters and will cover funding for work with children and young people, revenue and capital, small and large scale funding.

Hedley Foundation

Average grants of £3,000 are available to groups supporting young people with education, training, health and welfare.

The next trustee meeting is **26 November 2008**. Trustees meet 6 times a year and applications must be received 1 month before trustees meet. For more information on how to apply see www.hedleyfoundation.org.uk

Islington Community Chest Grants 2008/2009

Grants of £5,000 - £10,000 available for groups:

- with a turnover under £100,000
- based in Islington
- Working on local regeneration and empowerment

The next panel meeting is on **17 December 2008** so submit your application asap. For more information on how to apply see www.cripplegate.org

Joanies Trust

Grants of £1,000 available for

projects offering intensive support and preventative work with young people, 11-25 years old.

The next deadline is **31 December 2008**. For more information on how to apply see www.joaniestrust.org.uk

Tesco Charity Trust Community Awards Scheme

Grants of £1,000 - £4,000 available for projects in the local communities around their stores to provide equipment and resources that directly benefit children's welfare and/or education.

Applications due between **1 December and 31 January**. For more information on how to apply see www.tescocharitytrustcommunityawards-applications.co.uk

BBC Children in Need

Grants for periods of one, two and three years are available for groups working with disadvantaged children aged 18 and under in the United Kingdom.

The next deadline is **15 January 2009** which sees money distributed in April. For more information on how to apply see www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey/grants/

Trusthouse Charitable Foundation

Grants of £1,000 - £30,000 (average £6,000) for groups working with urban deprivation focusing on young people in need and holidays for deprived children and young people.

Trustees meet in **February, May, July and November**. Applications must be received 8 weeks before trustees meet. For more information on how to apply see www.trusthousecharitablefoundation.org.uk

Weavers Company Benevolent Fund

Grants of £5,000—£15,000 available for groups with a turnover under £100,000 working with young people at risk of criminal involvement. Match funding needed and new/innovative projects preferred.

Trustees meet in **February, May and October**. For more information on how to apply see www.weavers.org.uk

Hilton in the Community

Grants of £5,000 - £10,000 for groups that help disadvantaged people in the community.

Trustees meet in **March, June, September and November**. Applications must be received 1 month before trustees meet. For more information on how to apply see www.hilton-foundation.org.uk

J Paul Getty JR Charitable Trust

Small grants up to £2,000 and larger grants available for groups working with disadvantaged communities, particularly helping young people long-term.

Trustees meet in **March, June, September and December**. For more information on how to apply see www.jpgettytrust.org.uk

The Archer Trust

Grants of £250 - £3,000 for groups supporting a defined group of deserving people.

Trustees meet in **March and September**. For more information contact: The Secretary, The Archer Trust, Bourne House, Wadesmill, Ware, Herts, SG12 OTT

Henry Smith

Small grants (£500—£10,000) for groups with a turnover under £150,000. One-off grants of over £10,000 or annual grants for periods of two or three years. Capital and/or revenue funding for work to support disadvantaged young people. holidays for disadvantaged children and disadvantaged communities.

Trustees meet in **March, June, September and December**. Applications must be received 8 weeks before trustees meet. For information on how to apply see www.henrysmithcharity.org.uk

Arsenal Small Grants

Grants of up to £1,000 for groups (or a group of local residents) providing activities or services for the benefit of residents and businesses in Highbury East, Highbury West and Holloway wards.

The next deadline is **25 April 2009**. For more information on how to apply see www.newlon.org.uk/Community-Regeneration/current-projects.cfm

It is never too early to start preparing for next year's summer playscheme. See: www.hildencharitablefund.org.uk/play.htm

Rolling funding programmes with no specific deadlines include:

HDH Wills 1965 Charitable Trust
Grants of £100 - £1,000 available for general charitable purposes. For more information contact 01608 678 051 or willsct@ukonline.co.uk

The Morris Charitable Foundation
Grants of £150 - £3,500 available for relieving social hardship and deprivation. For more information see www.morrischaritabletrust.com

Youth Opportunities Fund
Grants of up to £5,000 for projects led by and for young people aged 13—19 meeting at least 1 of the 5 Every Child Matters outcomes. For more information contact Anna Spivack or Rita Burrows on 020 7527 4511 or anna.spivack@islington.gov.uk or rita.burrows@islington.gov.uk

Awards for All
Grants of £300 - £10,000 available for groups involving the community to enjoy arts, sports, social and other community activities. For more information see www.awardsforall.org.uk

Paul Hamlyn Foundation
Grants generally below £5,000 available for groups addressing issues of inequality and disadvantage in relation to young people through art and learning. For more information see www.phf.org.uk

Lloyds TSB Foundation
Typical grants of £15,000 available for groups supporting disadvantaged people play fuller roles in their communities. For more information see www.lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk

Tudor Trust
Grants of varying sizes (average £52,000) available for groups supporting the social, emotional and financial needs of people at the margins of society, including youth. For more information see www.tudortrust.org.uk



Capital funders include:

Garfield Weston (also revenue)
Grants of varying sizes available for groups supporting communities, education, health, welfare and youth. Rolling programme. For more information see www.garfieldweston.org.uk

Rose Foundation
Grants of £5,000 - £10,000 available towards building/landscaping projects that are under £200,000 in total. Deadline **31 March 2009** for projects starting in January 2010. For more information see www.rosefoundation.co.uk

Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation
Grants from £1,000 - £10,000 available for capital projects. Rolling programme. For more information contact Dr Brian Martin on 020 7408 2198

Clothworkers' Foundation
For groups improving the health and welfare of people and communities facing disadvantage, including young people, social inclusion and disability. Small grants for groups with an annual turnover under 250,000 applying for a grant of between £500 and £10,000 for capital costs. Main Grants for groups with an annual turnover of under £10m applying for a grant of over £1,000 for capital costs. Rolling programme. For more information see www.clothworkers.co.uk

Play Forum

When: 12-2pm, Wednesday 19th November

Where: Paradise Park Children's Centre
164 MacKenzie Road N7 8SE

With a focus on:

- Your training needs
- Management committee skills audit and recruitment
- Christmas party

Lunch provided



Play for children in Islington

Islington Play Association contact details:

Head office

West Library
Bridgeman Road
London
N1 1BD

Tel: 020 7607 9637
Fax: 020 7607 9638
Email:
info@islingtonplay.org.uk

Priory Heights Children's Centre

Wynford Road
London
N1 9SG

Tel: 020 7713 7366

Paradise Park Children's Centre

164 MacKenzie Road
London
N7 8SE

Tel: 020 7697 7330
Email:
info@paradiseparkcc.org.uk

IPA Training

FREE

PRIVACY IN PLAY

Thursday 13th November 10.30am- 1.30pm

ARE YOU READY FOR THE NEW QUALITY IN PLAY?

Tuesday 18th November 10.30am- 1.30pm

ARE THE RIGHT PEOPLE ON YOUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE?

Tuesday 25th November 10.30am- 1.30pm

HOW TO WRITE A SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISING BID

Wednesday 3rd December 10.30am- 1.30pm

All courses include lunch. To book on any of these courses,
contact Suzanne on 020 7607 9637 or
suzanne@islingtonplay.org.uk

IPA Staff

Anita Grant	Director
Suzanne Murray	Business Manager
Gary Ewer	Finance & Admin Manager
Max Mueller	Access Builder
Morgan Leichter-Saxby	Access Developer
Bob Hughes	Access Developer

We're on the web at
www.islingtonplay.org.uk