



Open Access Summer Play Sessions



Activities suitable for
ages up to 12 years



Open access play events

Play is a critical part of any child's development, yet it is sometimes easy to overlook its importance. It can be hard to find safe opportunities where children can have the freedom, space, or time that they need for play. Our role is to help overcome some of these challenges so that children have opportunities for child-led play, this helps to develop social skills, build relationships, and promotes self-confidence. Every year the charity offers our hugely popular Open Access Play Events across multiple areas of Milton Keynes.

Every Year we offer open access play to thousands of children across Milton Keynes and the surrounding areas.

Sessions can take place most places. Historically the majority have taken place outdoors in local parks, village halls or any green space available but we are open to anywhere!

Don't forget we can provide our play sessions in any of the school holidays, not just summer and you can ensure they are not affected by bad weather by giving us an indoor space. The session we provided for Two Mile Ash in October half term was a huge success and was fully booked within a few days of advertising it!

You could even make a day of it by adding a session onto an existing parish event you are holding.

Some parishes have booked us for other types of sessions, like children's & adult crafting sessions.

This is a very well-established programme that is hugely popular amongst residents in the communities we serve.

This is some of the lovely feedback received from your parishioners in summer 2023

I just wanted to say thank you very much for the play sessions that you organised with the parishes over the school holidays. It was a long summer and often wet. Our family does not qualify for HAF activities, so I appreciated the sessions that were put on to give the kids something to do. My children enjoyed the craft activities, and the risky play. My nephew who was visiting from the North, was also able to take part. The adverts for the week's sessions were clearly advertised on Facebook, so I was able to plan which sessions I could attend. My children loved the bouncy castles. In the final week, my children finally had an opportunity to try the Zorb balls. They found it hysterical fun. They also really enjoyed the Wiki. One of the play volunteers – [redacted], at the Stantonbury morning session on 31/08/23 allowed me to join my children in the Zorb ball, and it really was so much fun. That session also had a session on circus skills – my girls, and even I, mastered plate spinning! So, thank you for an amazing summer of fun activities.

It was such a nice surprise and so random to find you in Heelands today! 😊 Thank you for the warm welcome!

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Thank you. I think what you guys do is amazing and my 3.5yr old daughter loved attending the play one in Medbourne Pavilion 😊

I just wanted to stop by and say hi and what an incredible thing you're doing.

We've been to a couple of your plays and we are currently at Bradwell Village, which is by far the best one we've been to so far.

The staff are awesome the kids are soaked and tired out.

Thank you for what you're doing in these tough times as some families are in such desperate need of smiles and fun..

Thank you 🙏

This pictures from walnut tree session last week, we had wonderful time and thank you very much for the bbq marshmallows treat 😊

My 3-year old had such a great time at the risky play one on Monday. He was so excited about climbing up over the van! Your staff were amazing!

I just wanted to say a huge thank you to all involved in todays event at Two Mile Ash. My two girls and I loved all the activities and all the helpers worked extremely hard and always with a smile on their faces. We'll hopefully be back for another event before the holidays end. Keep up the good work and thanks again 🙏

Sessions & Pricing

During the summer of 2023 we held 142 play events across Milton Keynes and surrounding villages, offering free access play for up to 14200 children.

We are pleased to be able to continue to offer these going forward into 2023.

The play programme we provide to you operates at a loss, with other areas of the charity subsidising this.

We have had to re-assess our rates for the Parish play sessions and events for the upcoming year, so that we can continue to offer free access play events. We have seen and will see further significant increases in costs.

The huge increase of National Minimum Wage in April 2024.

The costs for the hire of our vans have risen, along with fuel and insurance prices Our charity's overheads have also risen.

We have tried to keep the costs as low as possible for our parish partners, but in order to do this we have changed the length of the session.

Due to the above, we have set the prices for next season at

2 hour session 10.00am - 12.00pm or 1.30pm - 3.30pm - £505.00

Five hour fun day session - 10.30am - 3.30pm - £990.00

3 hour 11-14 years session - 10.00am - 1.00pm - £990.00

If your location is outside of MK we charge for fuel by mileage. This price will be given upon enquiry.

Parish Councils, Town Councils or Community Organisations can book these sessions providing positive activities for local children and their families to take part in during the school holidays. The sessions are run by our dedicated play work staff, including set up and take down, so there is no work for you to do apart from local advertising with a poster we will create for you. We also advertise the summer programmes on our website and social media pages.



On MKPA Play Sessions ...

Explore different types of play

Risky Play



Risky play

This session allows children to encounter risky experiences, to develop survival skills and conquer fears. E.g climbing trees, lifting large objects, balancing on high beams or using ropes to build and balance, Using dangerous tools such as saws, water slides, assault courses, using and lighting a fire pit to cook. Some children discover strength they didn't know they had.

Every location will experience ...

each type of play

Sports & Games



This session allows children to be interactive and sociable with each other and to work together for a common goal, through sports and playing games. These include football, cricket, rounders, archery, badminton, volleyball, tag, parachute games, tennis and many more.



Bring spare clothes!!!

Imaginative / Messy Play



Messy play

This session will allow children to discover textures and the effect some ingredients have on each other through fun experiments, painting, foam play, slime play, sand & water play and all types of arts and crafts using materials from our scrap store.



Imaginative play

This session allows a child's imagination to run wild, using objects & actions to represent other things. It includes loose parts play with small and large objects, face paint, dressing up, small world toys, and Den building.

Something for the older ones!!

Teen / Pre-Teen session



Feedback we received from parishes said parents attending sessions would like to see more activities aimed at the 10-14 years age bracket. In 2024 you will be able to book this package. It includes Everything you see on this page plus adult crafting activities and teaching of a few specific sports all in one big session.



Additional (Bolt on) Play Activities

We offer a range of play activities which can be added onto the Open Access Play sessions.

All activities need trained staff to facilitate the riskier level of play involved.

These activities attract higher staffing levels to ensure safety.



What can be added on to the sessions?

- Wickidizer
- Body Zorbs
- Zorb Balls
- Water Slide
- Large play equipment – e.g. Soft play sets & Ball pools.

