

Acton Report – 1st October-December 2025

Playwork Projects: supporting children to play out earlier and more often

Over the past few generations there has been a significant shift in the age at which children start playing out in their community independently of their parents and/or carers. Where it might previously have been normal to see children aged four or five playing out (often with older children keeping an eye on them) in some communities children now only start being allowed to play out on their own, or with friends, at the age of 10 or 11. This change in culture has occurred for a number of reasons including increases in the amount and speed of traffic, sensationalist media reporting of tragic incidents, greater pressure on parents of young children to work and an over-structuring of children's time outside of school. As a result parents are understandably more cautious about allowing their young children out to play and often struggle to find time for play within the busy schedule of work, childcare and other extra-curricular activities.

Our Playwork projects support parents, other carers and children to feel more confident about playing out in their local communities and encourage them to prioritise time for playing out alongside other more structured activities. In doing so our aim is to support children to play out from as early as is possible and to continue playing out regularly throughout their childhoods.

Further Information

Please see 4 key links below which outline the importance of children's play, its rationale and the legislative framework for play in Wales.

1. United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) article 31 and general comment 17 underline the importance of play and the impact it has on children's wellbeing: [General comment No. 17 \(2013\) on the right of the child to rest, leisure, play, recreational activities, cultural life and the arts \(art. 31\) | Refworld](https://www.refworld.org/docid/541b372c0d.html)
2. Welsh Government legislative guidance on local authorities statutory duty to provide sufficient opportunities for children's play [Wales: a play friendly country | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales/wales-a-play-friendly-country)
3. Link to short film entitled 'This is Why Play is So Important' developed by Play Wales: <https://youtu.be/UnfdamgVFhY>
4. Summary paper of a new, upcoming publication which conducts a review of recent research into children's play, social policy and practice, with a focus on Wales. Ultimately providing a vast evidence base as to how play supports children to be well: [Summary – Playing and being well: A review of recent research into children's play, social policy and practice, with a focus on Wales - Play Wales](https://playwales.org.uk/our-work/reviews-reports-and-publications/summary-playing-being-well-review-recent-research-childrens-play-social-policy-practice-focus-wales-play-wales)

Attendance Statistics for Acton (1st Oct 2025 – 30th Dec 2025)

1 st Oct-30 th dec 2025	Both sites	The Green	Fairways
Number of sessions	12	11	1
Total number of visits	120	110	10
Average attendance per session	10	10	10
Individual number of children registered	193	N/A	N/A

As the figures above show we have delivered 12 sessions during this financial quarter with 120 attendances, the average attendance is 10 - which is fantastic considering the darker nights and colder weather.

This consistent attendance demonstrates that the sessions at the green are now embedded within the community and more importantly into children's lives.

Finally, 193 individual children have registered to the play sessions since April 2025, which is an increase from the whole of the previous year, reinforcing the notion that the project is now established within the community.

October Half Term

During October we ran 1 session at the Green and 1 session at the Fairways. At these sessions we provided pumpkins to carve, hot chocolate and toasting marshmallows on the campfire, as well as the regular play opportunities such as den building, sports, arts & crafts, go-karts & much more. These sessions were well attended- with 10 children attending each session. We are confident that these sessions will continue to be popular going forward.

Advertising

As you are aware, we have promoted the project with a leaflet drop in the surrounding streets of the play space. We delivered a promoted the sessions in local school assemblies. We have linked with CCP who have also kindly circulated our promotional material during their sessions. In addition to this we have updated our 25/ 26 timetable which has been circulated on social media with specific community posters. The WCBC play website and related QR code directs people to all Playscheme information.

Playworker comments

Below is some feedback from our Playwork team who deliver the weekly sessions and the things they have been up to:

"The sessions on the green are really busy, it's great to see the children coming out to play each week and I'm glad that we are able to provide them with lots of different opportunities and resources to increase their ability and desire to play on the space."



