



A conference on children,  
play and space

Birmingham University  
7-8 July 2021

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## SAVE THE DATE!

Bookings will open soon for this major new conference for professionals from the public, independent and academic sectors engaged in research, policy and practice in different aspects of supporting and enabling children's play.

Within the unavoidable context of the pandemic, the conference will consider the current and emerging issues: the latest research, policy responses, and examples of good practice. The aim is to inform and progress the agenda for universally child-friendly, playable neighbourhoods, towns, and cities, within the common framework of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), and the UNCRC's General Comment 17 (2013) on children's right to play.

### THEMES

Conference themes, developed through a high calibre programme of keynote speakers, plenary sessions and parallel workshops, will include: -

- Play in schools
- Street play, planning, and the built environment
- Playwork
- Play in the early years

Each theme will include a mix of research, policy and practice – and how each of these has been affected by the pandemic. These themes will be more fully developed by the programme committee in its call for papers.

### AUDIENCE

Play 2021 is for practitioners, researchers, students, public officials and policymakers concerned with issues of play and space in childhood. It will consider planning and traffic as much as playwork and pedagogy – with the common theme of advocacy for children's

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rights: to play, to enjoy the built and natural environments, and to fully participate in the life of their communities. The conference is for: -

- playworkers, play activists, teachers, youth workers, and early years practitioners;
- architects, landscape architects, planners, designers, highways engineers, and developers;
- parks and recreation managers, leisure officers and public health officials;
- policymakers, political advisers and politicians
- researchers, lecturers and students of play and playwork, children's geographies, childhood studies, child development, children's rights, and related disciplines.

### CALL FOR PAPERS

A call for papers will be published in the New Year. Submissions will be invited from researchers and practitioners in play, pedagogy and the built environment.

### LIVE OR ON-LINE!

In the first instance, all bookings will be for a high-quality streamed event; but as Covid restrictions change over the coming months, we anticipate that delegates will have the option of upgrading to a live seat for the event, which will be in Birmingham University's state of the art conference centre.

### TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

Birmingham is England's second city, easily accessible by rail and air. The university campus is a short journey from the city centre. Full travel directions and accommodation options will be published here in due course.

### ORGANISED BY



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