



The average child laughs about 300 times a day - the average adult only laughs 17 times a day.  
 Association for Applied and Therapeutic Humour

# A Play Charter

## ... for Richmondshire

Richmondshire is 'Passionate about Play' and is committed to being a family friendly community where 'Every Child Matters'. Play is an essential part of how children and young people develop. Richmondshire Play Partnership believes that play helps us to:

- Develop creativity and self expression
- Understand the world around us by exploring our environment
- Learn how to take 'safe' risks and know ourselves, learning from our mistakes
- Learn new skills by experimenting and feeling part of something
- Get to know ourselves and those around us
- Develop an understanding of how our minds and bodies work
- Think about others and feel good about ourselves
- Learn through experience and have the freedom to express our hopes, aspirations, desires in a safe environment
- Use our imaginations

### There are four key themes to the Play Strategy Action Plan:

- 1 Improve access to play opportunities for children and young people in rural areas
- 2 Enhance and add value to existing play provision/space
- 3 Involve children and communities in the development of play opportunities
- 4 Implement and monitor the strategy

Richmondshire District Play Partnership  
 Richmondshire District Council  
 Friars Wynd, Richmond  
 Tel: 01748 827182  
 Email: [jo-anne.simpson@richmondshire.gov.uk](mailto:jo-anne.simpson@richmondshire.gov.uk)



# You told us ...

What is play?	Where to play?	When to play?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Loads of different games</li> <li>● Making friends</li> <li>● Having a laugh</li> <li>● Fun, games and sport</li> <li>● Freedom</li> <li>● Football, sleep, basketball, badminton and tennis</li> <li>● Dance/drama</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In the woods</li> <li>● In the streets</li> <li>● On the river bank</li> <li>● In fields</li> <li>● In the park</li> <li>● The woods for adventure and the Hipswell Habitat</li> <li>● Outside with friends and family</li> <li>● The river and garden but fun parks are the most fun</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Any time</li> <li>● All the time</li> <li>● After school</li> <li>● Before school</li> <li>● When there is no school</li> </ul> <div data-bbox="1182 622 1437 869" style="border: 2px solid blue; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; text-align: center; color: white; font-weight: bold;">                     Committed to being a family friendly community                 </div>
How does play make you feel?	An adult involved in play is good because ...	Why do you like to play?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Funny and a bit good</li> <li>● All fun and exciting</li> <li>● Fun</li> <li>● Nice</li> <li>● It's happy</li> <li>● It's good</li> </ul> <div data-bbox="145 1352 580 1805" style="border: 2px solid yellow; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px;">  </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● I like playing with them</li> <li>● I just like them to play</li> <li>● They are my best friends</li> <li>● They have fun</li> <li>● They give a helping hand</li> <li>● It helps them to relax</li> <li>● They organise activities at Youth Club</li> <li>● They need to have fun too</li> <li>● They help me play</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● It's good for you</li> <li>● You get to talk</li> <li>● Have fun together</li> <li>● Fun, interaction with toys or other adults and children</li> <li>● It's important part of family life</li> <li>● Important part of life, keeps us fit and healthy</li> <li>● It promotes team building skills, compromise and negotiating skills</li> <li>● Brings families together</li> </ul> <div data-bbox="995 1621 1493 2130" style="border: 2px solid yellow; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px;">  </div>

Eighty nine children, young people and their families were consulted including: 24 children from the Dales Youth Centre, attending four different schools; seven four year olds at pre-school; 36 young people from Richmond School, Saint Francis Xavier School, Colburn Youth Café, Wensleydale School, Middleham Drop In and Risedale Youth Club and 22 parents and children from the Almond Tree Project.