

Free 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. These events are aimed at children up to 12 years of age.

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

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

In 2022 we offered open access play to thousands of children across Milton Keynes and the surrounding areas.

At each of our sessions our creative and friendly staff team bring a wide range of activities, including:

- Arts and crafts, resourced from our in-house Scrap Store
- Bouncy castles
- Den building
- Giant games
- Sports/team events
- Water slide
- Sensory play
- Risky play

Plus, many more!

Sessions on offer (dependent on travel, session times may need to change slightly)

- 2 hour fun session – either 10.00am to 12.00pm or 2.00pm to 4.00pm
- 5-hour fun day session – 10.30am to 3.30pm

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

Let us do all the hard work for you so that you can provide free open access play to your local families to help build better communities!

If you have any questions, please contact Jodi on **01908 263033** or email play@mkpa.co.uk



Parish Play Scheme Pricing information

During the summer of 2022 we held numerous play events across Milton Keynes and surrounding villages, offering free access play for up to 13350 children. We are pleased to be able to continue to offer these going forward into 2023.

Feedback we gathered from parents has been excellent with comments recorded such as,

“Great experience. My children particularly loved bottle rockets and climbing over the van!”

“They were brilliant. My 2 year old had so much fun doing a slightly adapted risky play and sports day play. Staff were very accommodating with changing plans due to her age/size.”

“Superb experience for both my children.”

“Excellent, the staff were all really well trained, approachable and friendly.”

“Fab. I thought the play sessions were run really well.”

Through our activities we are helping children make happy memories, whilst developing skills that they will be using as tomorrows Citizens of Milton Keynes.

Pricing from April 2023 to March 2024

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 Council 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 annual 10% increase of National Minimum Wage in April 2023
- Costs for the hire of our vans have risen, along with fuel and insurance prices
- Our charity’s overheads have risen

Due to the above, we have set the prices for next season at £450 for a half day event or £925 for a full day event.

Please note; Additional charges will be added & agreed by both parties for areas outside of Milton Keynes.

We do have activities that can be added at an extra cost.

‘Add - on options’

- Wikidizer £100 per session (excluding team)
- Zorb Balls £55 for one £100 per pair per session (excluding team)

Our play programme is at the heart of our charity’s values. Our Parish Councils support the largest part of the outdoor play programme, with us also supporting other activities, for example fetes and family events.

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Milton Keynes Play Association



@Milton Keynes Play Association

Making Play Happen...Making play Matter