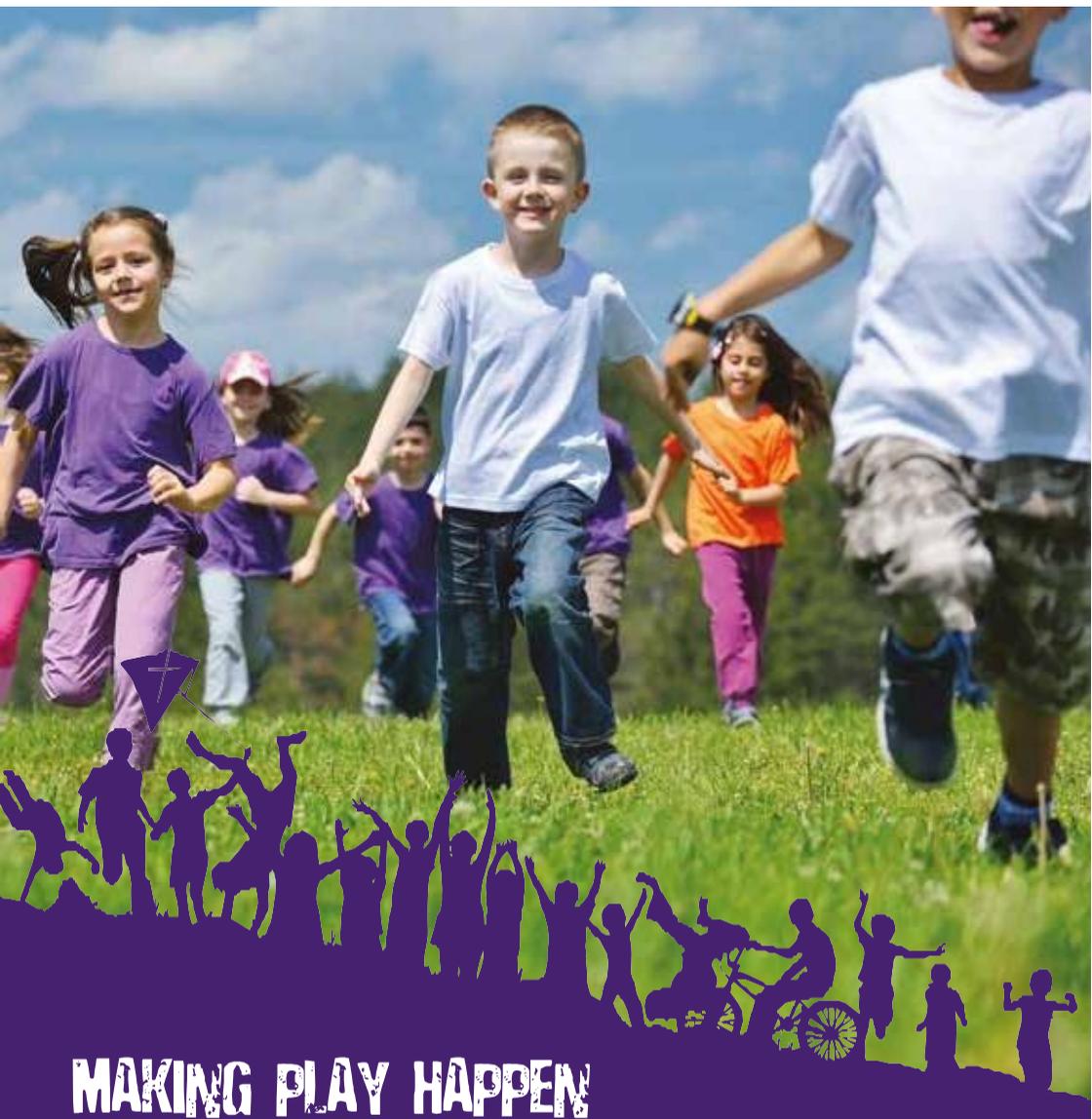




Open Access Play Opportunities

PARISH GUIDE & PRICE LIST 2019 - 2020



MAKING PLAY HAPPEN

Milton Keynes Play As

PA

Keynes
Association

01908 263033





Who We Are

Milton Keynes Play Association is one of the longest running charitable organisations in Milton Keynes, with over 40 years' experience of supporting child-centred play. We have two core aims which guide all of our work:

- **Making Play Happen** – we want all children in Milton Keynes and the surrounding area to have the opportunity to direct their own play in an open and accessible environment.
- **Making Play Matter** – we want to ensure that the statutory, private, voluntary and community sector understand the value of child-centred, free-play, and that organisations that work with children are trained and resourced to provide high quality play opportunities.

As a social enterprise we sell goods and services that deliver social impact. We are entrepreneurial and business focused in order to achieve our core values.

Our Values

Everything that Milton Keynes Play Association does is underpinned by four core values:

- **Being child-centred** - valuing the quality of life that children can create for themselves
- **Providing advocacy** - advocating for self-directed play and learning
- **Innovative** – being prepared to embrace new play practice and promote leading edge ideas
- **Enabling change** - effecting change to other people's practice through our own

We work with partners who share our value system and are committed to providing high quality play opportunities to children and families across Milton Keynes and surrounding areas.

Open Access Play

Milton Keynes Play Association has been providing Open Access Play opportunities for children and families in Milton Keynes for over 10 years.



We provide the sessions in partnership with Parish and Town Councils, who work with their local community to identify and fund projects and activities in their local area.

The sessions take place across Milton Keynes in parks, playing fields and green spaces, and are described as "open access" because we never turn anyone away (although children under the age of 8 should be accompanied by a responsible adult).

Sessions normally last between 2 to 2 ½ hours and are aimed at 4 to 14 year olds, and we actively encourage parental involvement – this is about playing together!

Sessions include some sort of large play item such as a bouncy castle or bouncy

slide whenever weather conditions allow. These items are all suitable for use by children aged 4 years old and over.

We always provide sporting activities, and come with enough equipment to run several different games. Cricket and football are always popular, but we'll always be ready for children's requests.

The art and craft area is always a favourite. We are lucky enough to have a resource unit and 'scrapstore' at our Kiln Farm base, where we can get a huge supply of fabric, paints, glues and other materials. We encourage children to work as a group to make large collages, paintings and murals as well as making their own craft items to take home.

Why Is Open Access Play Beneficial?

Play is an essential part of every child's life. It is vital for the enjoyment of childhood as well as for social, emotional, intellectual and physical development. When children are asked about what they think is important in their lives, playing and friends are usually at the top of the list.

Research shows that play has many benefits for children, families and the wider community, as well as improving health and quality of life.

Recent research suggests that children's access to good play provision can:

- Increase their self-awareness, self-esteem, and self-respect
- Improve and maintain their physical and mental health
- Allow them to increase their confidence through developing new skills
- Promote their imagination, independence and creativity
- Provide opportunities for developing social skills and learning
- Build resilience through risk taking and challenge, problem solving, and dealing with new and novel situations
- Provide opportunities to learn about their environment and the wider community

Evidence is also available that outlines wider benefits of play provision for families and communities, suggesting it:

- Offers opportunities for social interaction for the wider community and supports the development of a greater sense of community spirit, promoting social cohesion
- Enables buildings and facilities used by play services are frequently seen as a focal point for communities
- Helps parks and open spaces used for organised play become more popular with adults taking young children out to play and for older children and young people to spend time together

Many of the Parishes we work with see the play sessions as an opportunity to reach a wide cross-section of their local community, and often conduct consultation exercises about other Parish issues at the same time. This allows Parish Councils to get valuable feedback and opinions from their residents without the additional cost of running separate consultations.

Who Runs The Play Sessions?

Milton Keynes Play Association has a core team of play workers who co-ordinate, manage the Open Access Play sessions and have an understanding of the play principles.

All members of our team are expected to:

- Deliver a professional and high quality service to our customers
- Have a customer-focussed approach to their work
- Be reliable and consistent in all that they do
- Take on responsibility and adapt to the changing circumstances
- Collaborate with others to achieve the best for the organisation

We employ a team of play workers to support the Open Access Play sessions. This team will include professional Play Workers who have responsibility for managing a team. The rest of the sessional staff are students, the majority of whom are training to be teachers, youth work, sports development or childcare professionals.

Our core 'Play Team' run training and workshops each year ahead of the Summer sessions to make sure that our play workers are up-to-date with current legislation surrounding working with children and to make sure that they are skilled and confident to make the sessions stimulating and fun.

Many of the sessional staff work for us all year round in a casual capacity, but may well be in their third or fourth summer with us.

All our team leaders either have a qualification or have had basic first aid training provided by MKPA. All the team are DBS checked, and will come fully trained to run crafts, sports and other activities.

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WBC worked closely with MKPA this summer to deliver a service that was bespoke to West Bletchley. We are already in talks and can't wait to see more out-of-the-box creative ideas to excite and engage our young residents and families.

CORRINA MILNER, Community Engagement and Events Officer, West Bletchley Council”

£325
per session

Gold Package



Gold packages are available to Parish/Town Councils that book 20+ Play sessions during the Year (April – March).

What is included in this package?

- Inflatable (Castle/Slide) at every session
- Art & craft activities
- Sports activities including Tag Rugby and Korf Ball
- The Wikidizer for two sessions during the Summer Holiday
- 1 FREE additional activity for every 5 additional activities booked

£330
per session

Silver Package



Silver packages are available to Parish/Town Councils that book 10 to 19 Play sessions during the Year (April – March).

What is included in this package?

- Inflatable (Castle/Slide) at every session
- Art & craft activities
- Sports activities including cricket/football/rounder's
- The Wikidizer for one session during the Summer Holiday
- 1 FREE additional activity for every 6 additional activities booked

£340
per session

Bronze Package



Bronze packages are available to Parish/Town Councils that book 1-9 Play sessions during the Year (April – March).

What is included in the package?

- Inflatable (Castle/Slide) at every session
- Art & craft activities
- Sport –Cricket/Football/Rounder's

“

Such a brilliant scheme, no excuse for not getting the kids out and active!

PARENT ATTENDING PLAY SESSION”

£150 to
£200
per session

Ranger Sessions



Ranger sessions are offered during both term time and holidays and are usually run at the same sites as the open access sessions.

The sessions in term time normally run from 3-5pm on a week day afternoon, and are a great way to engage older children who often “hang around” parks and green open spaces after school with their friends. Staffing ratios are lower than for holiday sessions because numbers of children are normally lower. This will be subject to regular review.

What is included in this package?

- Craft
- Sport
- Giant Games
- Large Loose Part Play Choices

Additional (Bolt On) Play Activities*



We are able to offer a range of additional play activities which can be added onto the Open Access Play sessions or Ranger sessions to add interest and variety.

Some of these activities need a trained member of staff to facilitate the riskier level of play involved; other activities attract higher staffing levels to ensure safety.

What can be added on to the sessions?

- Fire Pit – outdoor cooking, marshmallow toasting
- Breeze block carving
- Wickidizer
- Body Zorbs
- Zorb Balls
- Water Slide
- Large Play equipment – such as the Large Lego, Giant Connect 4, Soft Play Sets

* These activities generally require 2 to 2 ½ hours.

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We have used MKPA services for many years now and it provides an invaluable resource to the community. Funded by the Town Council, children of the parish have the opportunity to experience many different activities with competent qualified staff who are always enthusiastic and willing to try new ideas when we have requested them.

TRACEY JENKINS, Community Engagement Officer, Bletchley & Fenny Town Council

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Costs*

Gold £325.00 per session

Silver £330.00 per session

Bronze £340.00 per session

Ranger Sessions

£200 per session (school holidays)

£150 per session (term time)

Additional (bolt on) Play Activities

- Fire Pit - £50
- Breeze Block Carving - £100
- Wickidizer - £150
- Boby Zorbs - £50
- Water Slide - £50
- Tool time - £50

* These costs are for Parish & Town Council's within the main urban area of Milton Keynes. Additional costs may apply for some rural parishes due to additional travel costs, and will apply for Parish & Town Council's outside of Milton Keynes.

USEFUL INFORMATION

1. Sessions should be booked as early as possible.
2. Session dates will only be confirmed once a contract has been signed between MKPA and the Parish/Town Council.
3. Additional activities are subject to availability of trained staff and resources, and we recommend early booking to avoid disappointment.
4. Sessions need to be set up at least 20 minutes before the advertised start time, and we will require access to the site accordingly.
5. Sessions will last a minimum of two hours and will take place whatever the weather, but be weather appropriate.
6. The provision of large inflatables will be subject to weather conditions as outlined in MKPA's Bouncy Castle policy (available on request).
7. MKPA commit to provide a minimum of four members of staff for each session and additional management support.
8. The sessions are designed for children and their parents to enjoy playing together, and MKPA encourages parental attendance and involvement.
9. To help with planning the sessions we prefer to carry out site visits to the parks and open spaces to be used for the sessions at least four weeks in advance of the sessions taking place.
10. The Parish Council are responsible for agreeing the use of the park/open space with whoever is the landowner and responsible for day-to-day management (often the Borough or District Council) and arranging access to the site at the appropriate time on the day of the sessions.
11. The Parish/Town Council must ensure that grass cutting and other activities liable to affect access to and use of the play area are not taking place during the session or setting up period.
12. A lead contact must be named by the Parish/Town Council who will be available should issues arise, including emergency contact details.
13. MKPA has appropriate insurance in place to cover our staff and equipment.
14. The Parish/Town Council is responsible for carrying out their own publicity for the sessions and encouraging parental attendance. They should notify MKPA if they do not want the sessions advertised by MKPA.
15. Photographs and film are often taken at the play sessions for promotional purposes, and notices to this effect will be displayed.
16. Invoicing will take place monthly and are subject to MKPA's standard 30 days payment terms.

Other Services Available From MKPA



ROOM HIRE

Training Room seats 20 – 30. Costs £10 per hour. Fully IT equipped with PowerPoint, Projector, Flipchart, Hot & cold drinks and biscuits included, lunch can be arranged. Call 01908 263 033 for a viewing, check availability or to make a booking.

RESOURCES

Have you visited our Resource Unit and Scrapstore? Here you will find a variety of materials which can be used for all sorts of play and activities; art and craft, den building, scrap modelling and more.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

DBS checks, photocopying, laminating.

MEMBERSHIP

We support community groups, play settings, uniformed groups, faith groups and others with equipment hire, skills and expertise. Membership starts as low as £10 per year.

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The sessions are extremely popular and provide excellent entertainment for children of all ages, as well as building on community spirit for adults and children alike. The play programme devised in partnership with MKPA continues to grow from strength to strength.

AMANDA WILMOT, Parish Clerk, Kents Hill & Monkston (Milton Keynes)

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MAKING PLAY HAPPEN