

# Play Gloucestershire Report Card: Bourton-on-the-Water



Monitoring Period: July to September 2018

Play Gloucestershire is the local charity that helps children to Get Out and Play! Our mission is to transform children's lives using the power of outdoor play. We believe that outdoor play is an essential part of a happy and healthy childhood, and benefits families, schools and communities.

Our Play Rangers provide active and creative play in urban and rural communities in the Cheltenham, Cotswolds, Forest of Dean, Gloucester, Stroud and Tewkesbury districts. Activities are both school and community based, providing adventure, friendship and fun for hundreds of young people each year. School aged children and their families are the beneficiaries of our work. We particularly support children from disadvantaged and rurally isolated communities, and those living in challenging circumstances.

Play Gloucestershire's Play Rangers work year round in Bourton-on-the-Water delivering afterschool and school holiday play sessions. The work is kindly funded by Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council through to March 2019.

## How much did we do?

- We provided **6 after school play sessions** and **6 school holiday play sessions**
- **Totalling 27 hours of play**
- We received **335 play visits from children, young people and adults**

## How well did we do it?

Finding stones in the mud some of the younger children were pretending to be archaeologists: **"These dinosaurs left behind some really interesting fossils."** Danny, aged 6

**"This is so messy and fun! I love it!"** Zander, aged 10

**"These things are great, I love making up games for them."**  
Danny age 4 talking about the Moshi Toys he found in the van

## Have we made a difference to children and young people?

- An opportunity for children and young people to take part in active and creative play that supports childhood health and wellbeing
- A unique opportunity for children and young people of different ages to play together that doesn't happen in school and sports clubs environments where age groups are separated
- An unstructured approach to play that encourages young people to develop skills in resilience and decision making
- Providing volunteering opportunities for young people who in turn role model positive behaviour among their peers
- Provided at least 60 minutes of the recommended daily dose of physical activity at every play session, developing physical literacy
- Active and healthy lifestyles with a range of activities and snacks. This combination of food and fun improves mental health and physical health, providing a sense of increased wellbeing

## Play Gloucestershire in Bourton-on-the-Water

### Session Log Sheet Extract

Today's session was busy! We had such fun and the park was full of people and who all joined in with us at some point, had fun and made a creative mess.

Knowing we are getting a fresh batch of paint tomorrow we thought that we'd have fun using all the old paints up. I rolled a big roll of paper across the park; we opened up the bottles and went for it using what we had left. Then we added toy cars and other things to play/paint with and everyone had so much fun getting creative.

This inspired some to want to paint themselves, so we got the face paints out. Great fun was had by all!

### Play Ranger Observation

We have started to have sit down snack times together at Melville, not intentionally set out by us but it has just become a social meal time. A small group help to prepare the snacks and then we all sit and share the food together – it feels like a family meal time where we chat about our week and share jokes. It is lovely.

I'm not sure how many of the kids we see have regular sit down meals with working parents/carers as well as afterschool activities so the fact that we get to do this with them is really nice and something that we will keep doing as long as they want to.



### Session Log Sheet Extract

Last week we had a new parachute in the van and the kids loved it and again this week the parachute was the most popular piece of kit. They used it as a mushroom and played games like cat and mouse and washing machine all supervised from a distance but very much child led – for this group it was amazing & such an achievement for them.

We are seeing new faces every week and I get the feeling kids are travelling with parents from further afield as the car park seems to be getting busier every week. Some of the families are sweet and some do not know what to expect, we had a family today and mum kept asking what activity will we be doing next. She was a total helicopter parent and her sons obviously hated her involvement! I managed to get them out of her instructional range and we had a lot of fun just running being silly and having no game or specific rules set to us by any one, I could tell they really enjoyed it.

