

# Play in South Norfolk

“ Play is what I do when I can do what I want with no-one telling me what to do. I like to play with friends or on my own. Play makes me happy. ”



## Why Play?

We all like to play. It allows us freedom and makes us happy. Play is what children and young people do when they are free to make their own choices and in charge of their own activities. It's an essential part of growing up and learning - through play children and young people exercise and strengthen their bodies, develop their thinking, emotions and social skills.

Play is essential for healthy minds and bodies and South Norfolk Council is constantly developing the range of play activities offered throughout the district:

**Children's Holiday Activities** – Art, sport and countryside activities for children aged from 5 – 12 years to come along and enjoy. Venues include Costessey, Diss, Harleston, Loddon, Long Stratton, Wymondham and various countryside sites. Activities include archery, fencing, box fit, kite making, recycled rockets, mosaics and much, much more!

**Countryside Rangers** – The Ranger Service provides a huge range of activities for families and children and works with many schools. Activities include pond dipping, bird box making, nature walks and many other conservation and wildlife activities.

**Countryside Sites** – We manage 12 sites ranging from wetland nature reserves to woodlands and commons. Great for family visits.

**Leisure Centres** – Our centres at Diss, Long Stratton and Wymondham offer a wide range of activities for children and families. There are swimming pools at Diss and Wymondham which host Fun Sessions with Ice Adventure and Traffic Jam inflatables.



**Outdoor Theatre Events** – Every Friday afternoon during the summer holidays there is a free outdoor theatre for all the family. Professional theatre companies providing magical experiences for children and young people.

**Play Areas** – Our Play and Amenities Team manage 48 play areas and 56 open spaces – the total increasing with every new housing development completed! These areas are managed to provide children with the opportunity to experience the risk essential to their development, within an environment which is well cared for and inspected regularly. To find out more about what is available and where, visit our website and follow the links to equipped play areas. Many towns and parishes across the district also have their own play areas, open spaces and sports facilities.

**South Norfolk Youth Action** – SNYA is a youth forum which gives young people the opportunity to get involved and represent their views to the Council. To find out more visit their website:  
**[www.synaction.org.uk](http://www.synaction.org.uk)**

**Play Equipment for Loan** – Games and equipment are available for hire at low rates by community groups, parish councils, etc. Included are a ball pond, circus skills equipment, musical instruments, parachute games and a variety of sports equipment.

**For further information about these services and facilities visit our website [www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/play](http://www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/play) or call us on 01508 533875**



## Raising the Game!

In 2007, South Norfolk Council was awarded £200,000 by the Big Lottery to boost children's play. Many exciting projects are taking place over the next 3 years including:

**Reaching Out** – Information about play opportunities and services in South Norfolk and roadshows touring the district in 2008.

**Play Rangers** – Rangers will help to create safe and fun environments so children can play freely outdoors in parks and open spaces. Special activity sessions and a wealth of ideas will be offered. A mobile bank of play equipment will be set up during 2009 for use in open spaces, also items for indoor community facilities in bad weather.

**Woodland Play** – Special sessions regularly organised with activities such as den building, tree climbing and animal tracking.

**Forest Quest** – A marvellous madcap adventure for children to take part in during summer 2008.

**Low Wire Play** – A challenging course of ropes, swings and bridges in Whitlingham Country Park from 2009.

**Parkour** – An environment to be developed in 2009 for running, jumping and vaulting obstacles.

**Cacheing** – A treasure hunt trail providing fun for the whole family with rewards for successful treasure seekers!

**Magic Adventure** – A sensory experience for younger children and those with special needs taking place in 2009.



Supported by

**The National Lottery**<sup>®</sup>  
through the Big Lottery Fund

