



# OUR APPROACH TO PLAY



The Play in the Park project provides a programme of free creative play activities for children, young people and their families. This is a 2-year project funded by the London Marathon Foundation running from August 2024 – September 2026.

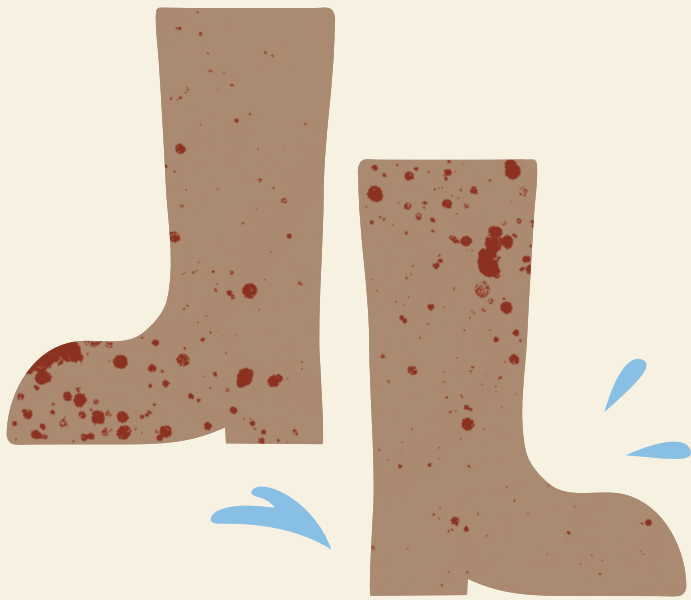
We believe that co-designing play activities with community groups is essential. This collaborative approach ensures the creation of sessions that resonate more deeply with children, young people, and families, fostering greater engagement and enhancing their autonomy over their experiences. Ultimately, this aligns with our long-term goal of building a strong, ongoing relationship between community groups and the park.

## WHAT DOES CO-CREATION LOOK LIKE?

While the delivery of play is the core of our project, we prioritise collaborating closely with community groups. We aim to take the time to understand your needs and preferences through a series of consultative meetings. Initially, we will hold introductory meetings to get acquainted, followed by inception meetings to brainstorm and generate ideas tailored to your community's interests.

Together, we will outline the structure of outreach and play sessions for the upcoming months. This collaborative planning will involve regular check-ins and adopting a flexible, adaptable approach. We recognise that learning is an ongoing process, and we will continuously review and refine the program to better meet the community's evolving needs.





## PRINCIPLES OF PLAY

- **Nature and outdoor play** – Uses the natural materials of the park and is kind to the environment. This can involve twigs, sticks, leaves and play equipment that is sustainable.
- **Play can be anything** – We've received feedback that some young adults with additional needs really enjoy litter picking! We take this as an example that play can be anything a community wants and still encourage connection to nature and joy..
- **Play is non-conditional** – Regardless of the weather, on the condition that it is safe, there is no reason to not play. Autumn for example provides wonderful opportunities for outdoor play such as puddle splashing and jumping in a pile of leaves.
- **Easily replicable and empowering play activities** – We want to create positive experiences in nature that are replicable at home, or in your local park, or wherever you decide!

## WHAT CAN WE OFFER?

We'll work with you to create a programme of tailored and personal play activities that best suit the needs and wants of your community group through a variety of sessions:

- **Outreach sessions** – Defined by us coming to you. We can deliver play activities with your community group in your space or local greenspace.
- **Play sessions** – These are sessions that happen in or around Kensington Gardens, usually lasting between 90 minutes and 2 hours.
- **Play events** – These are public play events where anyone is welcome to drop in and attend. Invite family, friends, and share with your community networks. Everyone is welcome!

## NOT JUST PLAY...

We're really interested in working with community groups holistically, so if there are ways you've identified that we can further support your community groups, please let us know and we'd be happy to have a conversation.

To join in with the fun or find out more, email Hadeel on [helshak@royalpark.org.uk](mailto:helshak@royalpark.org.uk)



We are Hadeel and May and we make up 2/3 of the Access and Engagement Team.

