

“Some children who are normally withdrawn were **participating fully** during the session”  
(Playworker, Afterschool)

“Children have **taken ownership of the play** within the playground considering the needs of the younger children as well”  
(Teacher P.2)

“The programme allowed children to be **more independent and have confidence** in directing their own play”  
(Community group)



“**Inventive, friendly and worthwhile,** it’s about changing mindsets – it was nice to see what the children were doing and their ideas”  
(Parent)

“The Playrangers opened the children’s ideas into how playtime could be more **fun, imaginative,** and **easily resourced**”  
(Day Nursery Manager)

## Contact us

If you would like further information on the Play Quest Programme please contact:

Play Quest Team  
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The Play Quest Programme can work with community, voluntary and statutory organisations who work with children aged from 0 -10 years; including schools, after schools, preschools, parent and toddler groups, school aged childcare providers, youth clubs, uniformed and church groups.

We have a particular interest in working with organisations in clusters within communities to help develop and sustain partnerships.



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# The Big Deal

A programme for children and young people



Awarding funds from  
The National Lottery®

## The Play Quest Programme



**The Play Quest Programme is the 0-10 strategy of The Big Deal and aims to increase children's involvement in decision making through play.**



**Through this innovative outreach play programme we provide opportunities for children and adults to experience play.**

The Big Deal is a Big Lottery funded initiative to help to extend effective practice in how children and young people are involved in decision-making about the things that matter to them. The Big Deal involves different agencies working with children and young people:

- Youthnet (lead partner & responsible for small grants programme)
- PlayBoard (0-10 delivery partner Play Quest programme)
- Northern Ireland Youth Forum (delivery partner) supported by the Education & Library Boards (11-16 and 17-25 Strategic Programmes)
- Youth Council for Northern Ireland (strategy and co-ordination partner)

Play Quest is delivered by PlayBoard's team of Play Rangers across a wide range of settings who cater for children aged 0 – 10 years. The programme supports children, parents and staff to achieve effective participation through play. Play Quest is a programme tailored to your settings needs and typically it involves an initial visit, observation of the play environment, delivery of the programme and a follow-up visit. Using innovative methods the programme is designed to involve children in meaningful participation and decision making through play.

Children are **competent to participate in decision making processes in their communities**



**By providing opportunities to play we trust children to follow their own instincts, ideas and interests, in their own way for their own reasons.**

We need to let children express their views in different ways and participate in different types of decision making.

Children have a right to be **listened to**, feel a **sense of belonging** and **express themselves** in the wider community

“Let us **make choices** and **speak our minds**”  
age 8



“It was **so much fun** at breaktime”  
age 5

“It's class – I **loved** playing with my friends”  
age 6

“Freedom to **go where you want to go**”  
age 8

“It's fun; you always have **someone to play with**”  
age 7