

## Playday 2009 opinion poll summary

### Play in schools data

- 94% of parents (91% of adults) think that it is important to allocate time for children to play during school hours.  
(Weighted base=1037 adults and 310 parents)
- 90% of parents (87% of adults) recognise that having time to play at school helps children to concentrate in lessons. 79% of children report that having time to play at school helps them to concentrate in lessons.  
(Base=1030 children aged 7-14. Weighted base = 1037 adults, and 310 parents)
- 88% of parents (85% of adults) and 80% of children think that children are better behaved in lessons if they are allowed to play at break time. This rises to 99% for parents of 5-6 year olds.  
(Base=1030 children aged 7-14. Weighted base = 1037 adults, and 310 parents)
- 73% of children say that school is the main chance they have to spend time playing with their friends. This is particularly true for younger children, with the figure rising to 82% of 7-8 year olds.  
(Base = 1030 children aged 7-14)
- 84% of parents are against school break times being shortened so that children can have more time for lessons.  
(Weighted base = 310 parents)
- 43% of adults and more than a third of parents (36%) would like more designated play time at school.  
(Weighted base=1037 adults and 310 parents)
- 55% of children report that they sometimes rush their lunch at school so they have time to play. This is particularly true for boys (61%) more than girls (50%).  
(Base = 1030 children aged 7-14. 505 boys and 525 girls)

Play England  
September 2009

---

#### Notes:

1. This research was commissioned to support the Playday 2009 Make time! campaign.

2. ICM Research interviewed a random sample of 1037 adults aged 18 + by telephone between 24 – 25 June 2009. Interviews were conducted across the UK and the results have been weighted to the profile of all adults. They also interviewed a random sample of 1030 children and young people aged 7 – 14 across the UK by telephone between 19 June – 30 July 2009. ICM is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules. Further information at [www.icmresearch.co.uk](http://www.icmresearch.co.uk).
3. Further research commissioned to support the *Make time!* campaign is available from the Playday website [www.playday.org.uk](http://www.playday.org.uk) or by request:
  - Review of published literature on children's time to play
  - Qualitative research from focus groups with children and young people
4. For more information about Playday and the *Make time!* campaign, visit [www.playday.org.uk](http://www.playday.org.uk) or contact **Clare Quarrell on 020 7843 6044 or email [cquarrell@ncb.org.uk](mailto:cquarrell@ncb.org.uk)** for press enquiries.
5. Playday is the annual celebration of children's right to play. The campaign is coordinated by Play England working in partnership with PlayBoard Northern Ireland, Play Scotland and Play Wales. On Playday and throughout the summer of 2009, children, young people and communities will get out and play at hundreds of locally organised events across the UK. This year's Playday campaign theme, *Make time!* highlights that all children have the right to play and need time and space to play. The campaign is calling on everyone, including parents, carers, teachers, policy makers and planners, to think about what they can do to ensure children can play.
6. Play England promotes excellent free play opportunities for all children and young people. Play England provides advice and support to promote good practice, and works to ensure that the importance of play is recognised by policy makers, planners and the public. Play England is part of NCB and is funded by the Big Lottery Fund. For further information visit [www.playengland.org.uk](http://www.playengland.org.uk)
7. NCB promotes the voices, interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives. As a membership and infrastructure support agency for the children's sector in England and Northern Ireland, NCB provides essential information on policy, research and best practice for our members and the members of our wide range of partnership bodies which operate under our charitable status and are based in our London headquarters. For further information visit [www.ncb.org.uk](http://www.ncb.org.uk)
8. Play England convenes the Play in Schools group which aims to improve play provision within schools, childcare, extended services and in children's centres. The group consists of national and regional agencies and local authority representatives who all have an interest in improving play provision in those settings. Play England's recommendations for play provision in schools are published in '[Play in schools and integrated settings: A position statement](#)'. Play England has also produced a [short film](#) that explores how high-quality play facilities in primary schools can help to improve children's academic performance and enjoyment of school.