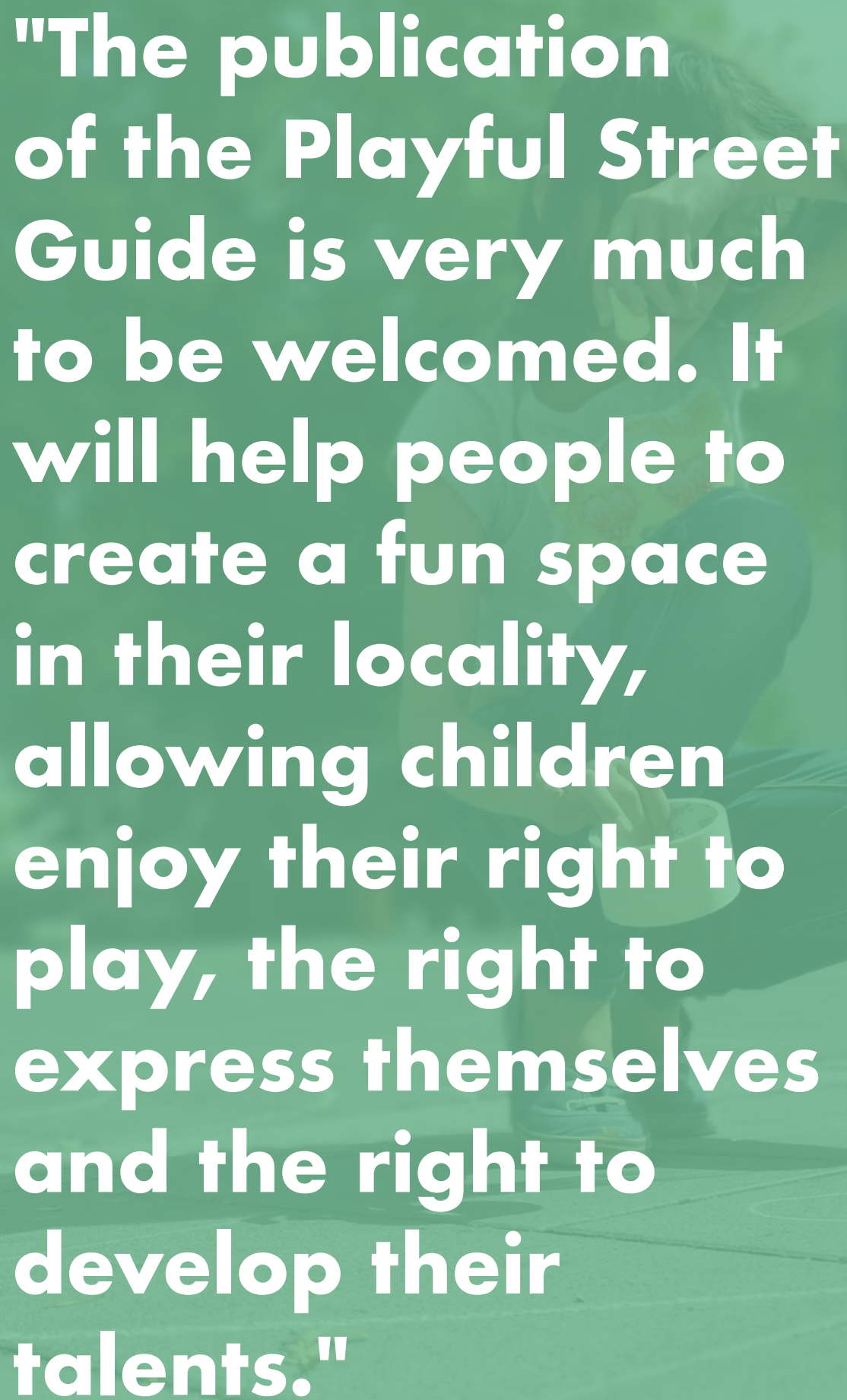


MAKE YOUR STREET

A Simple Guide To Getting Kids &
Community Playing On The Street

PLAYFUL STREET!





"The publication of the Playful Street Guide is very much to be welcomed. It will help people to create a fun space in their locality, allowing children enjoy their right to play, the right to express themselves and the right to develop their talents."

**Dr Niall Muldoon
Ombudsman for Children**

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**LET'S KEEP THIS
SIMPLE...
ALL YOU
REALLY NEED
TO DO IS OPEN
YOUR FRONT
DOOR & LET
YOUR KIDS
OUT TO PLAY!**

**But we understand that life can be a little more complicated
sometimes & that's why you have this simple guide:)**

WHAT'S A PLAYFUL CITY?

A Playful City is Ireland's first not for profit focused on creating more playful, child friendly and inclusive spaces in our cities, with and for communities.

A Playful City is working with communities across Ireland to bring the Playful Streets initiative to life!

WHAT'S A PLAYFUL STREET?

Playful Streets are a low cost and easy way to create play spaces by temporarily closing streets to traffic, so children and neighbours can play outside — just like you did when you were young!

During your Playful Street, your street becomes a safer place to play and chat to neighbours - children can play hopscotch, ride bikes, play football or tip the can...

Playful Streets encourage children to play outside, making exercise fun and easy, while at the same time building stronger communities.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

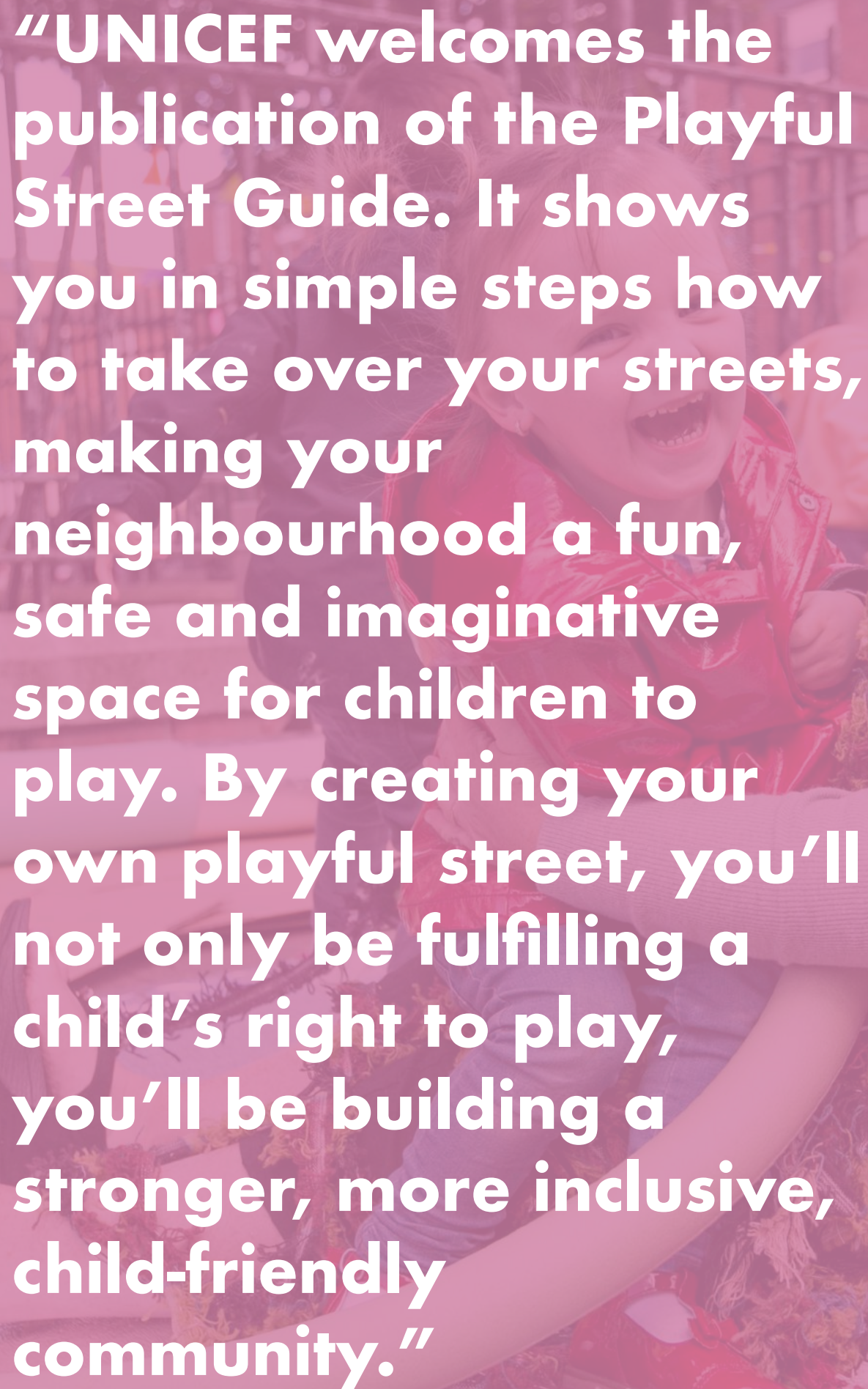
Playful Streets are meant to be simple, you'll find that using your common sense is what you'll need most.

Playful Streets offer children the chance to play freely and safely on local streets while offering the chance for neighbours to meet.

Playful Streets are big or small occasions. They can run for a couple of hours on any day of the week. They can be one-off or regular events ... whatever works for you and your neighbours.

You can watch videos about Playful Streets at aplayfulcity.com. Register your street with our charity partners at changex.org, and find useful resources and templates there too :)

Don't worry ! The first Playful Street might take a little more work, but after that it'll be smoooooooooooooth sailing as you'll have done it all before :)



“UNICEF welcomes the publication of the Playful Street Guide. It shows you in simple steps how to take over your streets, making your neighbourhood a fun, safe and imaginative space for children to play. By creating your own playful street, you’ll not only be fulfilling a child’s right to play, you’ll be building a stronger, more inclusive, child-friendly community.”

**Vivienne Parry
UNICEF Ireland**

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

In 2016 the Early Childhood Convention heard that two thirds of Irish children spend more time indoors than prisoners in maximum security prisons.

It's well documented that access to spontaneous free play, plays an essential role in developing children's physical, mental and emotional well being, the benefits of which remain throughout their lives.

On top of this, communities are becoming increasingly disconnected as they don't have the same opportunities to meet and mix as they once did.

Playful Streets give children the chance to play freely & safely outdoors and gives neighbours and friends the opportunity to connect.

In this sense, play can bridge gaps, your street feels safer and friendlier and children are more physically active.

WHO ARE PLAYFUL STREETS FOR?

Playful Streets are for everyone - with different generations mixing, teaching others the games they play or played and generally having fun.

Playful Streets can act as a reminder to everyone about how they played when they were young. Remember Red Rover, Red Rover? Tip the Can and Hopscotch?!

Playful Streets encourage people of all ages and abilities to come out and use streets for what we feel they are meant for - havin' the chats and play!



YOUR 5 STEP GUIDE

1. Get people on board - you can't do this alone!
2. Register your Playful Street - with our lovely partners at changex.org
3. Closing your street - with help from your neighbours, local Gardai and/or local council.
4. Tell everyone - sure it'll be no craic at all if no one knows about it!
5. PLAY!

This is only intended as a general guide— use your common sense to make sure your Playful Street is respectful to neighbours and safe for children :)

RESOURCE CHECKLIST

1. People to help!
2. Posters
3. Leaflets
4. Bunting
5. Whistles
6. Chalk
7. Balls
8. Skipping rope

A photograph of children playing on a residential street, overlaid with a semi-transparent yellow filter. The text is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the image.

**"GETTING
CHILDREN
OFF THEIR
DEVICES &
MAKING
CITIES MORE
PLAYFUL."**

-The Irish Times (on the Playful Street initiative)

1. Get People on Board

- Give yourself at least a few weeks to set up your first Playful Street.
- Make sure at least one other parent, neighbour or family is signed up to help out. It's always good to have a second pair of hands to help, so talk to your friends and neighbours to see who's interested.
- Call into your neighbours to let them know your idea. You could set up an online message group to decide which day and time would work best. Once that's agreed, keep messages to a minimum online and set up a smaller core team to run the event.
- Designate a play space on your street. Make sure it's reasonably traffic free, with few access points and will be welcoming to everyone.
- Set your dates, confirm people's roles and move on to step 2 :)

2. Register your Playful Street

Register your Playful Street with our partners at changex.org, you'll find templates & resources available to you. Keep up to date & share your event by following us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

3. Closing Your Street

Permission

- Did you know you can close your street, without charge, once you have the support of your local community Garda?
- Temporary road closures for minor events such as Playful Streets can be organised with the help of the local Gardai and are not processed by the Council.
- In the case of small events being undertaken by Community Groups and Residents Associations in a communal space the agreement of local residents is needed. In this instance an event plan may not be needed but is always beneficial for safe running of an event.
- If there are any questions, please feel free to put your local community Garda in touch with us !
- Alternatively, you'll need permission from your council to close a public road for a couple of hours. Your local council's website will have a form to fill in. Remember to apply well in advance.
- **You'll find a guide to closing your street on page 13 of this toolkit.**

Support

Playful Streets work best with the support of volunteers.

While parents remain responsible for their children, and should be reminded of that, cars moving on the street are the biggest concern for safe street play.

Two stewards should be positioned at points of access to cars (one to walk in front of cars and one to stay where they are).

The job of the steward is key for safe and enjoyable Playful Streets so be sure to talk to people directly about signing up and be satisfied that they are dependable & confident to deal with vehicles and their drivers coming onto the street.

There is more detail about briefing stewards, and a sign up sheet once you register your playful street with Change X.

4. Tell everyone!

Sure it'll be no craic at all if no one knows about it!

Here are some suggestions:

- Call into your neighbours to let them know about your Playful Street. Bring a flier.

- Social media is a great way to share info and get people excited about your Playful Street.
- Let your inner artist out and design your own invitations!
- We all have a neighbour who knows everyone - make sure they know about your Playful Street too!
- Poster & flier all the local schools, businesses, creches etc. Templates are available once you register your playful street with Change X.
- Let the kids on the street know, they'll tell their parents :)

And don't forget to tell us your story! Call us, write to us, tag us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram and tell us where and why you are doing your Playful Street.

5. PLAY!

Remember to brief your stewards before the session starts. (You'll find a stewards brief on our website).

Here are a few ideas to get you started;

- Chalk is always the answer!
- Remember Tip the Can, Red Rover Red Rover?! Show the kids the games you used to play... Hopscotch the whole way up the street!
- Encourage kids to bring out their bikes, balls, scooters, skipping ropes....favourite stick
- Stand back adults and take some time for yourself, kids are the play experts.
- For children, sometimes the game is figuring out the game. Leave them at it.
- Fancy dolling the place up? - bunting!

AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT ...

Capture and share all the special moments of your Playful Street !

Photos are a great way to look back and remember the good times, but they also help to get people excited about what you're doing and can inspire others to follow your lead. Use your social media savvy, share your pics and let others celebrate your day with you - & don't forget to link your

photos with A Playful City on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram so we can help inspire others too :)

A simple video of your Playful Street will also help to encourage neighbours to get involved the next time. Be sure to share your video with us!

Make sure you get permission!

Frequently Asked Questions

You'll find a guide to closing your street on page 13 of this toolkit. The following resources are available once you register your playful street with Change X.

- **Risk and safety plan**
- **Event Management Plan headings**
- **Leaflet to your neighbours**
- **Email/Letter to your Local Garda/Council**
- **Poster and flyer**
- **Information for stewards**
- **Insurance**
- **Useful links & resources**

HOW TO CLOSE YOUR STREET?

Did you know you can close your street, without charge, once you have the support of your local community Garda?

Temporary road closures for minor events such as Playful Streets can be organised with the help of the local Gardai and are not processed by the Council.

In the case of small events being undertaken by Community Groups and Residents Associations in a communal space the agreement of local residents is needed. In this instance an event plan may not be needed but is always beneficial for safe running of an event.

So, once you have your neighbours on board - contact your local Garda station and get support from your local community Garda to close the street for a couple of hours. Explain the session is just for an hour or two to allow children to play freely and safely on the street and that community Gardai are supporting this initiative elsewhere in Ireland.

Let your local community Garda know that parents/guardians are responsible for their own children, and volunteer stewards will monitor cars entering and exiting the street by;

1. Signalling the car to stop and explaining to the driver that there is a Playful Street taking place. Let the driver know that a steward will walk in front of the car so that the car is moving at walking speed in order to ensure the safety of the children on the street. (Ideally only residents will be allowed to drive onto the street, non -residents should be asked to use an alternative route or park elsewhere).
2. Before allowing cars to exit or enter, stewards will notify children (e.g by using whistles) to move onto the footpath as there is a car coming.
3. Walking in front of the car until it is safely off the street.

If there are any questions, please feel free to put your local community Garda in touch with us by asking them to email us at playfulcity@gmail.com

Acknowledgements

We can only do what we do because of all of the support we receive from our friends and family, who have lent us their ear and their expertise to help us shape what we do, and how we do it. Thank you x

From the get go we have had tremendous support across sectors, all of which helped to make this guide happen. A big thank you to An Garda Siochana Store Street, the Early Learning Initiative at National College of Ireland, University College Dublin (School of Geography), UNICEF Ireland, Waterways Ireland, Early Childhood Ireland, Sean Harrington Architects, Office of the Ombudsman for Children, The Science Gallery, Leave No Trace Ireland, Street Feast, Recreate, Joined Up, The North Wall Series, Outsider Magazine, University of Maynooth (School of Geography), National College of Art & Design (MA Interaction Design), Play Scotland and Change X.

Heartfelt thanks to the amazing community around Sheriff Street, Dublin for their enthusiasm and support for our first playful street events organised with them on their streets. Big hugs to Lisa Purcell and all the staff at Little Treasures Creche (North Wall CDP) and to all the staff and young people at Swan Youth Centre, Sheriff Street.

We would also like to acknowledge the inspiring work being carried out by Playing Out in the UK, we are so delighted to be a stepping stone for Ireland to also join the worldwide movement giving children back their freedom to play outside, on their streets.

Onwards, upwards and well... just get outside and play :)

Neasa Ni Bhriain, Naomi Murphy, Aaron Copeland & Marisa Denker
A Playful City Core Team

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