

# EXTRA EXTRA!

## READ ALL ABOUT IT

### Why children don't play out any more

This is an edited version of a story from  
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When *The Guardian* community desk asked "Do your children face problems playing outside" some of the hundreds of replies talked about officious warnings from councils or angry neighbours. But most focused on one thing – cars.

Emma Wreyford lives in Bristol with her daughter, who has just turned 11.

"It should be such a lovely age for that sort of outdoor play but it is almost impossible. Here the car is king and public space is there for the rights of the driver to use to store their cars.

"Children around here don't know each other because there are no front gardens and no safe places on the doorstep. I never see them outside unless they are going somewhere."

She tries to fight back by organising play streets when cars move to allow children out.

"They are so well received and not just by children. Older residents bring their chairs out and sit and chat, or join in the chalking on the roads. It's always such a joyful, community feel that then



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disappears as soon as the cars come whizzing back as the road opens again."

Like many parents she worries even more about where her child will play as she gets older. "Once they are 12 they are seen as yobs aren't they? There's nowhere for them to go."

Poppy is 49 and grew up in Brighton and is now bringing up her own son there. "I grew up in a suburban area on a fairly busy road. But we knew all the children within 100 metres including other roads nearby. We'd all play out on our bikes, pogo sticks, collecting insects and worms, all ages together until teatime.

"But now outside is the realm of cars. The pavement is narrow and boxed in by them, children can't play near them in case they get damaged."

Traffic on residential roads has increased more across the UK than it has on A and B roads in recent years. And the number of cars sold in the UK increased by 26% year on year in February.

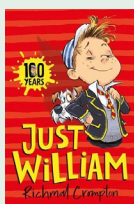
## TRUE OR FALSE?

**Not all news is based on truth. Do you think this story is based on true or false news?**

The Dutch government banned children from playing outside because it was too noisy.



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