



NEWS DETECTIVES

TODAY'S NEWS STORY

Most children never play on their own street

KEYWORDS

- ☐ **UN:** The United Nations, an international group that aims to help countries work together
- ☐ **Exercise:** Use
- ☐ **Reclaim:** Take back
- ☐ **Inquiry:** An investigation by the government

Campaigners are trying to remind the UK government and developers of the importance of outdoor play.

Too quiet

Not too long ago, a sunny day would see the streets bustling with children. Kids playing hopscotch, kids playing bulldog, kids skipping and singing and running.

But these days, the streets are quiet. You're more likely to hear the roar of passing cars than the roar of playing children.



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BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Some children's games, like hide-and-seek, have been played outdoors for at least 1,800 years, with records dating back to ancient Greece. But kids haven't always been able to play. In the 1800s, many children in Britain were at work for up to 14 hours a day.

A poll in 2023 found that 60% of UK kids had never played on their own street. Even though play is a human right according to the **UN**, not enough of us can **exercise** that right.

Playback

That's why people have decided it's time to **reclaim** the streets for play. Campaigns like Playing Out have tried to drive home the importance of having streets that are safe to play in.

In March this year, the

UK Parliament hosted an **inquiry** into how they can get kids back outside.

Everybody wins

According to Tim Gill, who used to run the Children's Play Council, the key to making outdoor play work isn't just playgrounds, it's being able to get around.

Easy and safe places to walk around aren't just great for children, they're great for adults too.

Everyone wins when you can play on the street.





INVESTIGATION OF THE DAY

WHERE ARE ALL THE CHILDREN?

WHAT
are you more likely to hear than children playing?

WHO
says that being able to go outside safely is key?

WHERE
was an inquiry held?

WHEN
was the inquiry held?

WHY
does everybody win when you play on the street?

HOW
many kids have never played on their own street?

1 TAKE ACTION

Protect your right to play by entering our planet play competition and taking action. Survey all your friends to find out how many people would like to set up a play street in your area. There is strength in numbers! Think about grown ups or teachers who might be open to helping you. Write a speech convincing them to visit www.playingout.net to find out more.



2 SHARE YOUR IDEAS

What have you found out in your investigation? Write, present or even record a piece that shows what playing out is like for children where you live. Share what you've learned with your family and friends. What do they think? We want to hear your ideas too! Your teacher can share your reports with us too by sending them to editorial@theday.co.uk.

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Build THE Change



COMPETITION TIME!

Because of traffic and poor town planning, 60% of 4 to 11 year olds never play outside on their own street. But research tells us that playing outside and connecting with nature is good for people and the planet. Did you know there's a brilliant solution to this problem? You can set up your own Play Street. Visit www.playingout.net to find out more.

STEP 1:

Reimagine a street near you as a wild and playful street, one where young people can safely play outside and interact with nature.

STEP 2: Share your vision with us by creating a drawing or a 3D model made from LEGO, craft bits, natural materials or recycled rubbish. Don't forget to explain your awesome ideas and take a photo of your build.

STEP 3: Write a letter persuading the adults around you to set up a wild play street in your community so that local people, wildlife, and our amazing planet can all thrive. Read to them and then send it to us, along with your designs or photos to be in with a shot of winning!



Enter the competition to win prizes!

Visit www.theday.co.uk/build-the-change-planet-play/ to find out how to enter the competition.

This worksheet is available every weekday at 6:30am London time from <https://theday.co.uk/resources/news-detectives>. For any feedback or help please contact buildthechange@theday.co.uk. Thank you.

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