



## International playwork resources launched

Two new websites have been launched to support the child's right to play all over the world.

The website of The International Council for Children's Play (ICCP) offers play and playwork students, academics and playwork practitioners a wealth of information and conference papers to help them to demonstrate the need for children to play. It also gives details of the next ICCP world conference which will be held in Lisbon next year.

The International Playwork Forum (IPF) is a new on-line discussion forum for anybody who works in playwork or uses playwork as part of their role in working with children. Members can share ideas and information with playwork people both in their own countries and with colleagues all over the world.

Shelly Newstead, Managing Director of Common Threads and Board Member of ICCP, said, "There is increasing evidence that children's play as playworkers understand it – a process that is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated - is disappearing in many countries around the world. These two new resources will not only raise the profile of play but also offer practical support to people around the world who want to protect the child's right to play."

**ENDS**

### Notes for Editors

- ◆ The International Council for Children's Play (ICCP) has existed since 1959 and its chief aim is to promote research on play and toys. It currently has eight board members from various countries and its President is Dr Jan van Gils, Director Research Centre Childhood and Society in Belgium.
- ◆ For more information on ICCP visit [www.iccp-play.org](http://www.iccp-play.org) or email Dr Van Gils [jvangils@k-s.be](mailto:jvangils@k-s.be).
- ◆ The International Playwork Forum (IPF) has been set up by Common Threads, a social enterprise which develops playwork-based training and publications both in the UK and abroad. The website address for the IPF is <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/internationalplayworkforum> and for more information contact Neil Bertram at Common Threads – [web@commonthreads.org.uk](mailto:web@commonthreads.org.uk).
- ◆ The definition of play used in Shelly Newstead's quote - is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated – appears in The Playwork Principles, the ethical guidelines for playwork practitioners in the UK. For more information on The Playwork Principles, see [www.playwales.org.uk](http://www.playwales.org.uk).
- ◆ We send out Press Releases in PDF format as a security precaution – if you would like this in any other format (plain text, Word etc) please contact us.

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