



**Playing out sessions are temporary road closures to let children play safely and freely in their street.**

Neighbours discuss the idea first and then apply to their local council, consulting with everybody living in the street. Some streets apply for permission to do a one-off playing out session for a couple of hours. Others do it weekly or monthly if their council allows.

On the day, the organisers close the road using 'Road Closed' signs. People living in the street can still drive in and out, guided by neighbours volunteering as stewards. Through traffic is redirected. Parents and carers are responsible for their children as on any other day. For more information or for support getting this started in your street, please contact:

**[www.playingout.net](http://www.playingout.net)**

## **10 Good Reasons for Street Play**

1. Children need and have a right to play. It is vital for their **physical, emotional and social development**.
2. Children need to experience **free play**, when they follow their own ideas and interests.
3. Children like to play **near home** where they don't need to rely on adults to take them anywhere.
4. Children need space to play **energetically**. City gardens are usually too small and many children don't have **independent access** to parks.
5. Playing in the street increases **community cohesion** and a sense of **collective responsibility** for children's wellbeing and safety.
6. Children develop **friendships** outside school and across age groups.
7. Through dealing with situations independently, children can learn valuable **social skills**.
8. Playing in the street allows for '**semi-supervised**' play while parents get on with their normal life.
9. The street is the "starting point for all journeys" (Tim Gill, 2007) and street play is a step towards greater **independent mobility** – to visit friends, go to the park or walk to school.
10. Streets constitute the vast majority of **public space** in the city and should be for everyone, not just cars.

