



Become a PlayLeader!



What is ParkPlay?

ParkPlay is a national charity providing communities with the opportunity to experience the life-changing power of play.

We set up individual ParkPlays in parks up and down the country. Each ParkPlay is a free weekly play session in local parks, full of fun and active games. And most importantly, we are there for everyone (big or small, young or old) to play together.

We are on a mission to launch 450 different ParkPlays by 2026 that will be in parks forever, so that thousands of people can get back to playing, be more active and gain a sense of belonging.

At ParkPlay we believe that playing together can build stronger communities and help us become a more active nation. We also believe that it is amazing people who care deeply about their communities, that will make that happen... and that's where you come in.

Each individual ParkPlay is run by a PlayLeader who delivers sessions every Saturday morning, and drives the growth of that ParkPlay and that community forward.

Be part of the team, join the movement, Be a PlayLeader!



So what exactly is a PlayLeader?

A PlayLeader is the person who takes responsibility for making a ParkPlay happen in their local park, week in, week out. That doesn't mean being in the park 52 weeks a year, but it does mean stepping up and making sure everything is in place for ParkPlay to happen on a Saturday morning.

A PlayLeader is the person that represents ParkPlay in a local park. They wear the ParkPlay jacket, give ParkPlayers a warm welcome, keep everyone safe, brief the team and bring the buzz to a Saturday morning of play.

They are the person that takes the lead, inspires people to play their way and facilitates the space for them to do just that!

They are also the one that checks in with regular ParkPlayers, spotting the child that needs a special mission to capture their playful imagination, doing a quick litter pick of the park and serving hot chocolates to ParkPlayers on a chilly January morning after some great play.



Where does a PlayLeader fit into the big picture?



So what exactly does a PlayLeader do?



Experience

Run a buzzing ParkPlay that gives everyone the chance to play and be active in whatever way works for them!




Promotion

Engage with the local community so that everyone within 500m knows what ParkPlay is and feels like it is for them.



Team


Find and develop a team of volunteers who can support, run, deliver and grow your ParkPlay.



Plan the session with your team of volunteers

Post a few times a week on your local ParkPlay Facebook page

Maybe visit a school to promote ParkPlay to local families

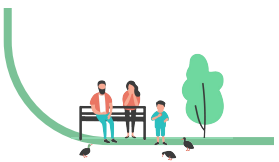


Check in with your Area Coordinator about any support you may need

What a typical week looks like...

Deliver a great experience on a Saturday morning

Chat to some of the other PlayLeaders in your region to gain some ideas and share any learnings



Chat to a regular ParkPlayer adult, a friend or a family member about maybe joining your team of volunteers

Reach out to someone from the local council or local community centre to ask for their support in promoting ParkPlay



Don't take our word for it, hear
from some of our PlayLeaders
about what they get up to...



PlayLeader Case Study - Chris Reeder

1. What made you want to be a PlayLeader?

I chose to be a PlayLeader as I wanted to help develop an area near to where I live. ParkPlay seemed perfect for the neighborhood close to me and the people there.

2. What do you get out of it?

I love seeing the enjoyment that it brings to people, and I also like to see people's confidence improve, to the point where we are able to offer young people the opportunity to support deliver ParkPlay alongside me. The vibe on Saturday mornings is fantastic.

3. What impact does it have on your community?

I feel having ParkPlay at Cluny square has definitely helped bring the community together. The children and adults all play with each other and engage with one another in a really friendly way. We have also built a great relationship with a local cafe who provide us with food for the children.

Who makes a great PlayLeader?

PlayLeaders come from all walks of life: pediatric nurses to community liaison officers and from teachers and coaches to security guards. There is no one right way to be a PlayLeader. That said, here are few things though that we have learnt being a PlayLeader requires:



Connected to the community:

Being someone who loves their community, has great links in and around that community and wants to make a positive impact on the place they live.

On the front foot: Being someone who is able to take the initiative, do things on their own steam and is willing to try new things.



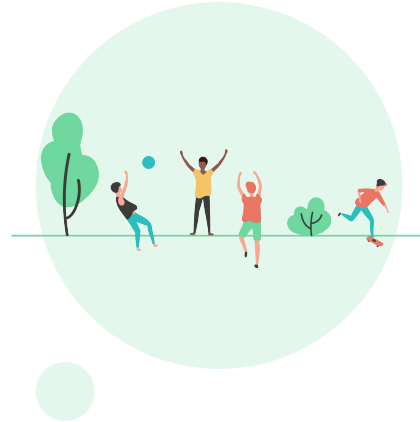
Inspiring: Being someone who is comfortable in front of a group of people, able to inject energy into a play session, capture the imaginations of ParkPlayers and inspire a whole community to get out there and play together!

A conductor, not a coach: Being someone who is not there to coach anyone, but instead wants to give everyone the best possible experience of playing in their park, with minimal rules and maximum fun!



Empathetic: Being someone who can be sensitive to how different people would experience ParkPlay and tries their best to make the play work for everyone.

A people person: Being someone who is warm, likeable and approachable and is willing to invest in and care about their ParkPlayers.



A team player: Being someone who is willing to support everyone around their ParkPlay and cares about everyone in the PlayLeader network.

Here's why it's good for you...

Develop and grow your skills: You'll develop leadership skills, new tools to re-engage and build communities with as well as grow your confidence in delivering sessions!

Impact your community: You'll gain the training, the tools and the support you need to inspire your community to be more active and come together to play.

Be part of a movement, feeling part of a team: You'll feel part of an ever-growing team of PlayLeaders from across the country, creating something special that will become a positive part of hundreds of communities and impact thousands of people.

Play with the people you know from the place that your from: You'll make new friends and reconnect with old ones from where you live, and get to have fun with them every Saturday morning!

Connect with your community and with like-minded people regionally and nationally: Through the PlayLeader network and being a part of ParkPlay, you'll get to know so many people within your community, as well as meeting people from your area and across the UK that are as passionate about free, fun, and active play as you are!

Know your hard work is changing lives!: You'll know that your effort and your work is giving potentially hundreds of people from where you live the chance to experience the power of play and being active.



PlayLeader Case Study - Laura Leigh



We asked the current PlayLeaders why they love being a PlayLeader, here is what they said...



“I love being a PlayLeader because you are in your community helping people get active whilst having fun.”

Lynn at Askam



“I love being a playleader because ParkPlay has created a real community and from that I have gained dozens of new friendships.”

Stu at Vange



Our Commitment to You

To guide and inspire you to deliver ParkPlay for the benefit of your local community, we will:



Resources

Provide you with all the resources, training and support you need



Freedom

Give you the freedom to make ParkPlay the best it can be for your local community



Sharing

Share our learnings and successes so we can all improve



Collaboration

Help you work with other local people and organisations so we can have the greatest impact

FAQs

Is there room for me to grow at ParkPlay?

ParkPlay is all about people growing and developing. As ParkPlay grows we will need more and more hands on deck as new roles and functions appear at each stage of our growth as a charity.

How much time does taking a PlayLeader take up a week?

Roughly three hours on a Saturday morning, and then if you take on the surrounding bits of the role we ask for 3 hours work in the week as well.

What exactly am I committing to?

Being a PlayLeader is about being responsible for making ParkPlay happen every week on a Saturday morning in your local park (this doesn't necessarily mean deliver it every single week). We ask you to do three things on top of making sure it runs every week, commit to delivering a buzzing session, develop a team of volunteers around you and promote ParkPlay in your community.

What support will I get?

As a PlayLeader we'll make sure there is loads of support around you. Volunteers to be part of your team week to week, regional support from the Coordinator and other PlayLeaders in your area, as well as promotion support and train from the central team.

What are ParkPlay's plans for growth?

We are growing in our existing regions, and we're going to some new regions across the country as well. We're hoping that there will be hundreds of ParkPlays active by 2026.

Do I get paid as a PlayLeader?

We do indeed pay PlayLeaders, exactly how much depends on how much of the role you can commit to. However, the minimum is £3640 annually for delivering a session every Saturday.

I haven't delivered sessions to big groups of people before, can I still be a PlayLeader?

Absolutely, being a great PlayLeader is as much about building relationships with ParkPlayers and engaging your community to come together and play together as it is about being a confident deliverer. We can train you and support you develop all the skills you need to deliver a buzzing session on a Saturday morning.

How long do I have to commit for?

Initially for a year at least. In that year we'll work with you to develop a team of volunteers around you who could eventually take over from you or you can keep being a PlayLeader for years if you want to!

Do I have to go out in the rain?

Whatever the weather we raise the flag! Unless it is lightning or extremely high winds we always run ParkPlay. We believe in the power of turning up week in week out whatever the weather for our communities.

I have a friend or family member who I would like to share the role with, is that possible?

Yes! If you want to run a ParkPlay as a team, great. Success is a team sport and we can chat to you about how to make that work.

Is running a ParkPlay session just like coaching any other multi-sports session?

No. There is no coaching to be done at ParkPlay, being a PlayLeader is all about conducting a playful environment where there is minimal rules and maximum fun!

Want to discuss being a PlayLeader with us?

If you like the look of being a PlayLeader but want to find out a little bit more, contact the right coordinator for your area and they'll be in touch to chat:

North East - Ben - Ben@Park-Play.com

North West - Laura - Laura@Park-Play.com

West London - Sophie - Sophie@Park-Play.com

Essex - Amber - Amber@Park-Play.com

Cornwall - Abbie - Abbie@park-play.com

Don't see your region on the list? Email hello@Park-play.com and we'll get back to you.

