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**\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\***

**We would rather play outside say children.**

80 per cent of children in the UK prefer playing outside to playing indoors – but not all of them get the chance. Nearly three in four children (72 per cent) would like to play out more often, according to a new survey released for PlayDay 2006.

Yesterday thousands of youngsters flocked to Victoria Park E3 to be given the opportunity play outside all day for PlayDay.

The sun shone down on such a successful initiative, over thirty five community based projects showed their support by providing youngsters with equipment and a variety of games to play collectively or independently.

As the leading Sector Skills Council, SkillsActive supported the community by providing a wealth of free play apparatus and activities for children and young people to access and enjoy. Football, hula hoops and parachute games proved the most popular whilst others took the initiative to play tug the rope and skipping.

Joining in the fun on the day, director of playwork Paul Bonel said; “The survey clearly highlights that children & young people want more opportunities to play out, in stimulating natural spaces where they can have fun, be with their friends and their imagination. Yesterday’s event is a great way for them to enjoy themselves, I’m really glad SkillsActive had an opportunity to join in with all the fun.”

**-ENDS-**

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**NOTES TO EDITORS**

- I. SkillsActive is the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for Sport and Recreation, Health and Fitness, Playwork, The Outdoors and the Caravan industries.

2. SkillsActive's mission statement is: "To ensure best quality, best business and best value within the Sector to achieve its economic and social potential."
3. SSCs are employer-led organisations that aim to tackle the skills and productivity needs of their sector throughout the UK. SSCs provide employers with the opportunity to provide leadership to meet their sector's skills and business needs. In return they receive substantial public investment and greater dialogue with government departments across the UK.
4. For more information about SkillsActive, please visit our website @ [www.skillsactive.com](http://www.skillsactive.com)
5. SkillsActive is currently developing a Sector Skills Agreement for the Active Leisure and Learning Sector which will define the Sector's skills needs and ultimately form an agreement between employers, Government and funding partners to shape the workforce for the next ten years.
6. SkillsActive is *Shaping Skills for the Future*, through...
  - PEOPLE...  
...ensuring all people in the sector are appropriately trained and qualified.
  - PRODUCTIVITY...  
...ensuring better performance through the professional development of the sector.
  - PROVISION...  
...ensuring the sector has accessible, relevant and funded training across the UK.
  - PROMOTION...  
...ensuring the contributions of the sector are recognised at a governmental level.