



Basingstoke  
and Deane

## **Warblington Close Play Area Consultation**

### **Summary of Results**

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council undertook a public consultation to inform the proposed redesign of the Warblington Close Play Area as part of the Council's wider Play Refurbishment Programme. The consultation aimed to gather feedback from local residents, families, and play area users to help shape a new, modern play space that better meets the needs of the local community.

As part of our Play Refurbishment Programme, we are looking at how the existing play area can be redesigned to benefit the site and local community, and we welcomed your views on how the play area could be improved.

This consultation was a great opportunity for local people, particularly parents/carers and children themselves, to identify potential improvements and help shape the future of the play area for children and young people.

Due to the nature of the site, please note that sand and water play will not be possible. The existing play area is not fenced, so we would look to provide fencing around the perimeter of a new scheme.

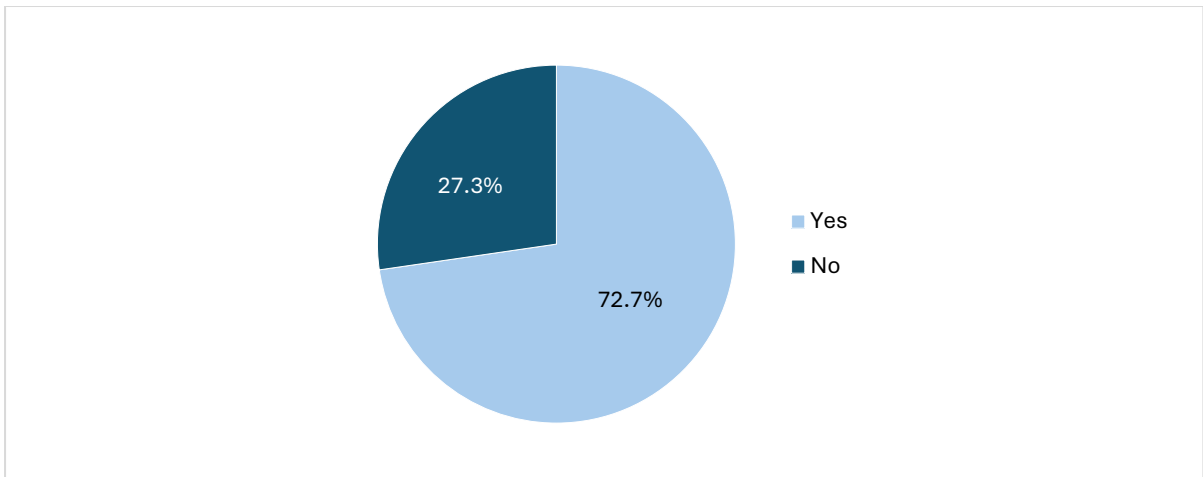
**Current Usage Levels (Question 1 to 3)**

When asked, 72.7% of respondents reported that they or their family currently use the play area at Warblington Close, with 27.3% of respondents reporting that they currently do not use the play area.

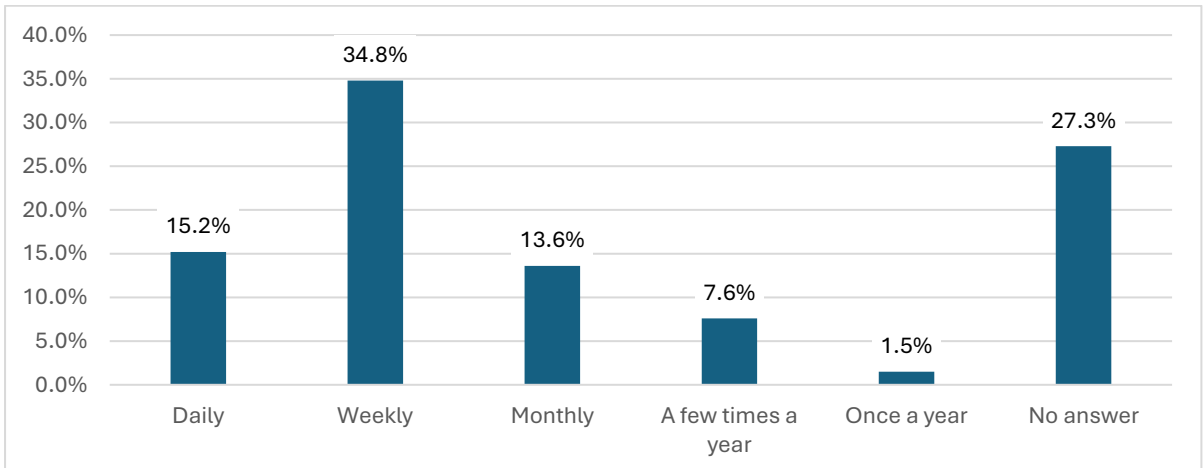
Among the respondents, 34.8% reported that they visit the play area weekly, 15.2% daily and 13.6% monthly. This indicates that the play area is a regularly used local asset for many.

Respondents reported usage of Warblington Close play area across a broad range of times. Most respondents reported they visit the play area during weekends (81.3% of respondents) and afternoons (72.9% of respondents). The least popular time to visit the play area is during the evenings (29.2% of respondents).

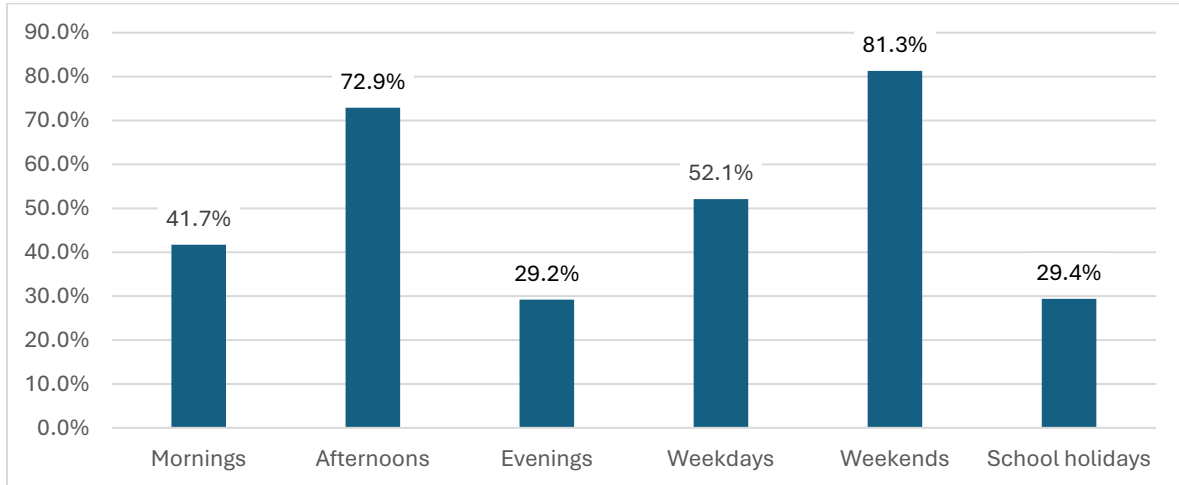
*Q1. Do you and your family use the play area at Warblington Close?*



*Q2. How often do you and your family use the play area?*



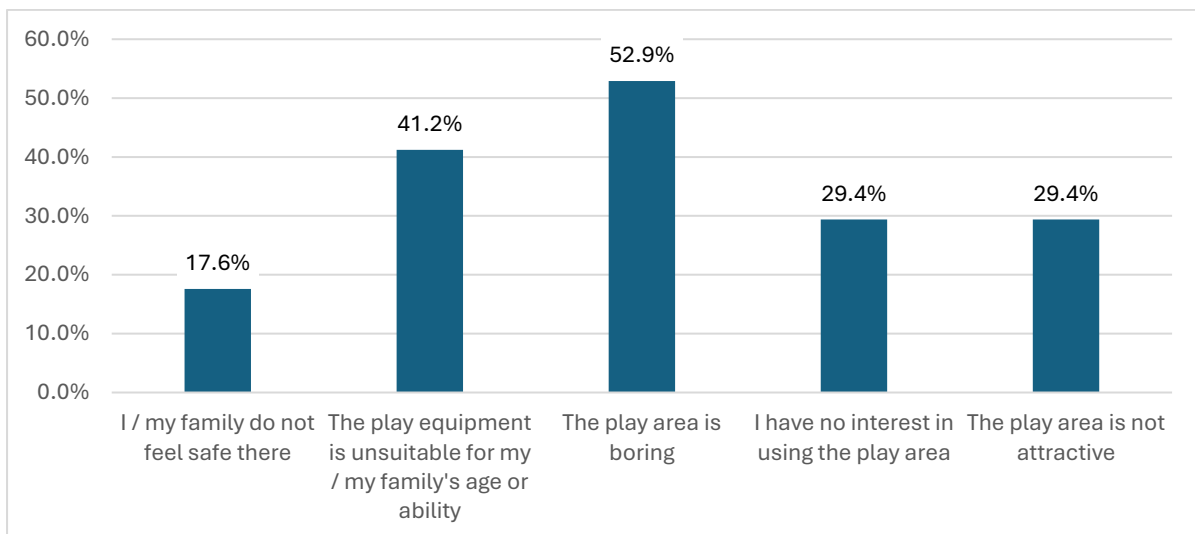
**Q3. At what times do you typically visit the play area? (select as many as apply)**



#### Barriers to Use (Question 4)

Most respondents who reported not using the play area put this down to the play area being boring (52.9% of respondents). The second most voted reason for not using the play area was because the equipment is unsuitable for their family's age or ability (41.2% of respondents). The least common response (17.6% of respondents) was the respondent / their family do not feel safe at the play area. The responses highlight that the current provision does not adequately meet the needs or expectations of users. One reason for this could be due to where the play area is located, along with its limited size.

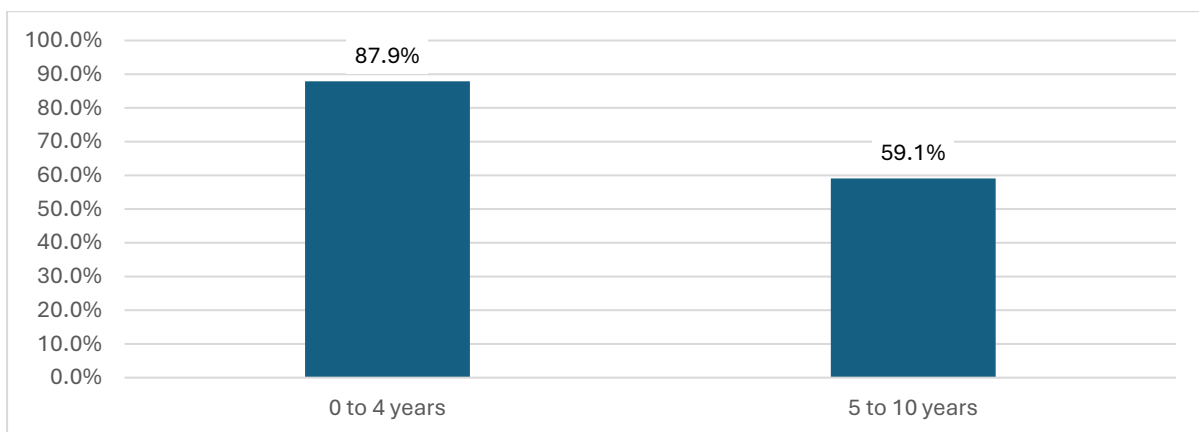
**Q4. If you do not use the play area, please tell us why (select as many as possible)**



### Preferred Age Ranges for Provision (Question 5)

Respondents were asked which age groups Warblington Close play area should cater for following refurbishment. Respondents were able to select both options if they felt this was appropriate. The results show strong support for a focus on early years play, with 87.9% of respondents voting for provision for ages 0 to 4 years. Over half of the respondents felt the play area should cater for younger primary-age children, with 59.1% of respondents voting for provision for ages 5 to 10 years. Overall, these results lean towards a play area for younger groups.

Q5. As a local play area, what are ranges should it provide for? (select as many as apply)



### Appearance Style Preferences (Question 6 to 7)

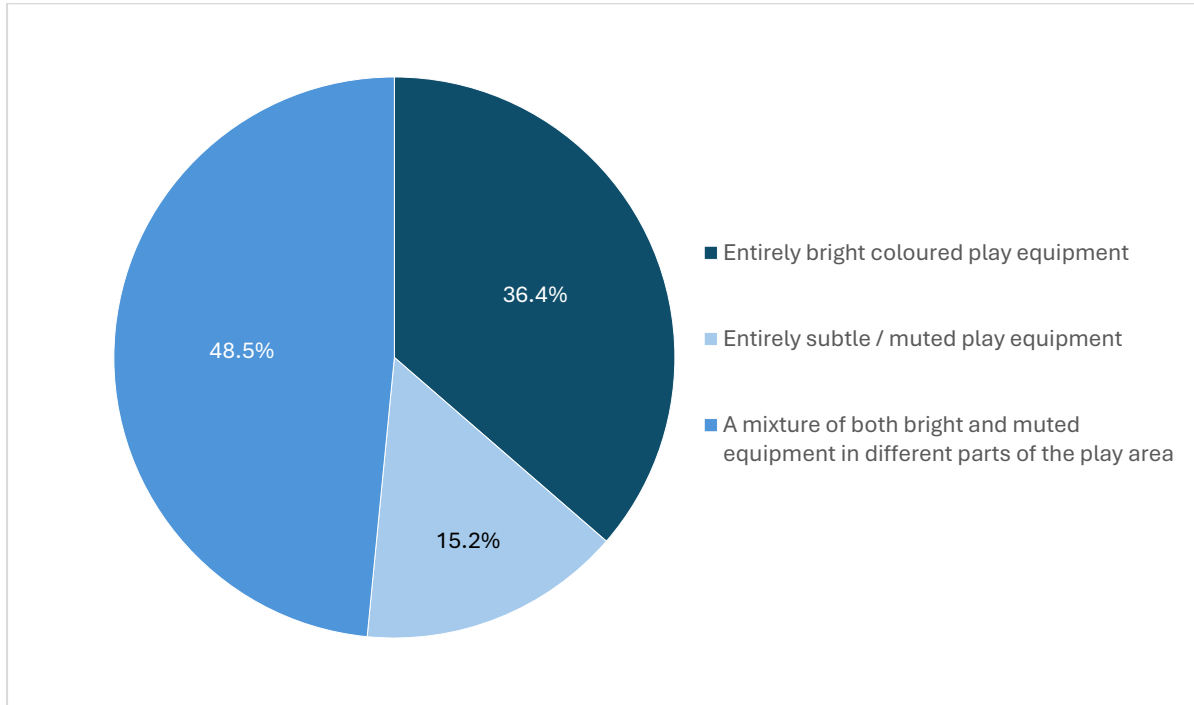
Feedback on the preferred appearance style of a refurbished Warblington Close play area shows a strong preference for a balanced look. Almost half of respondents (48.5%) said they would prefer a mix of bright and muted play equipment across different parts of the site. This could suggest that respondents value both visual interest for children and a design that fits well within the surrounding area. A further 36.4% of respondents favoured entirely brightly coloured equipment, while 15.2% of respondents preferred entirely subtle or muted play equipment.

Views on the rubber safety surfacing closely reflected these findings, with 42.4% of respondents again preferring a mix of bright and muted colours, followed by 31.8% of respondents voting for entirely muted tones and 24.2% of respondents favouring entirely bright surfacing throughout.

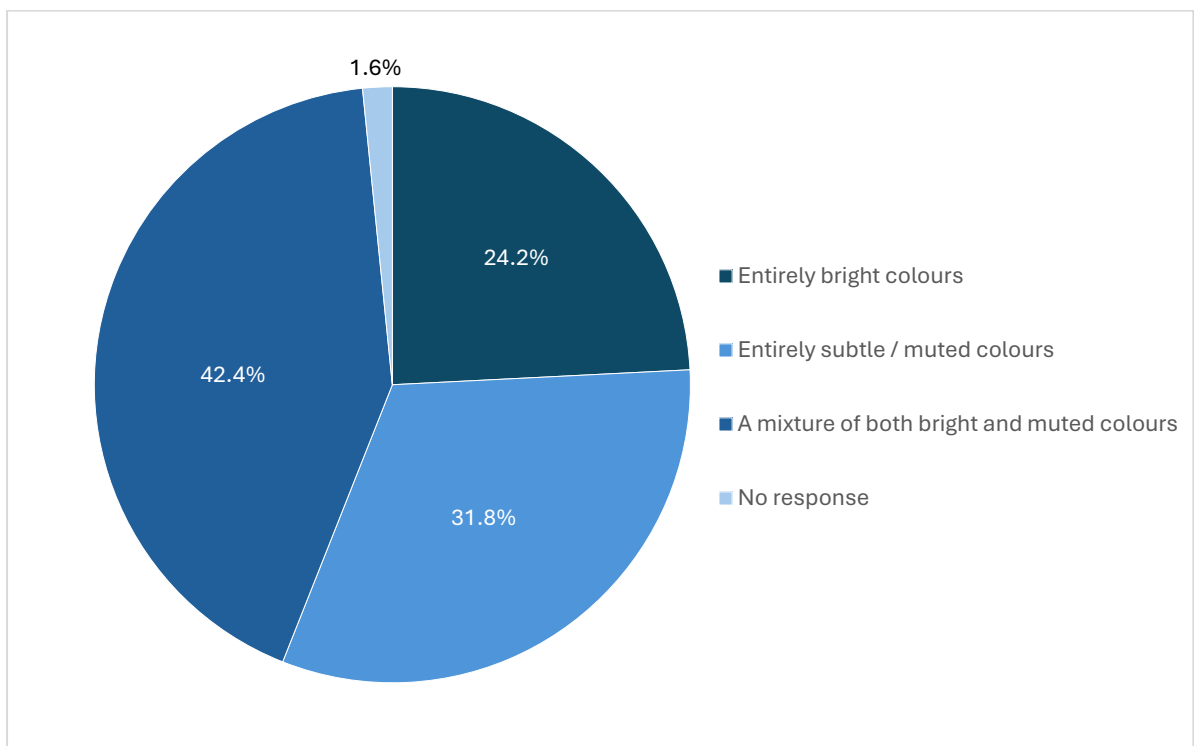
Overall, responses suggest that most people would like a play area that feels attractive to children, without being overly bold.



Q6. What appearance style would you prefer the new play equipment to have?



Q7. What appearance style would you prefer the rubber safety surfaces have?



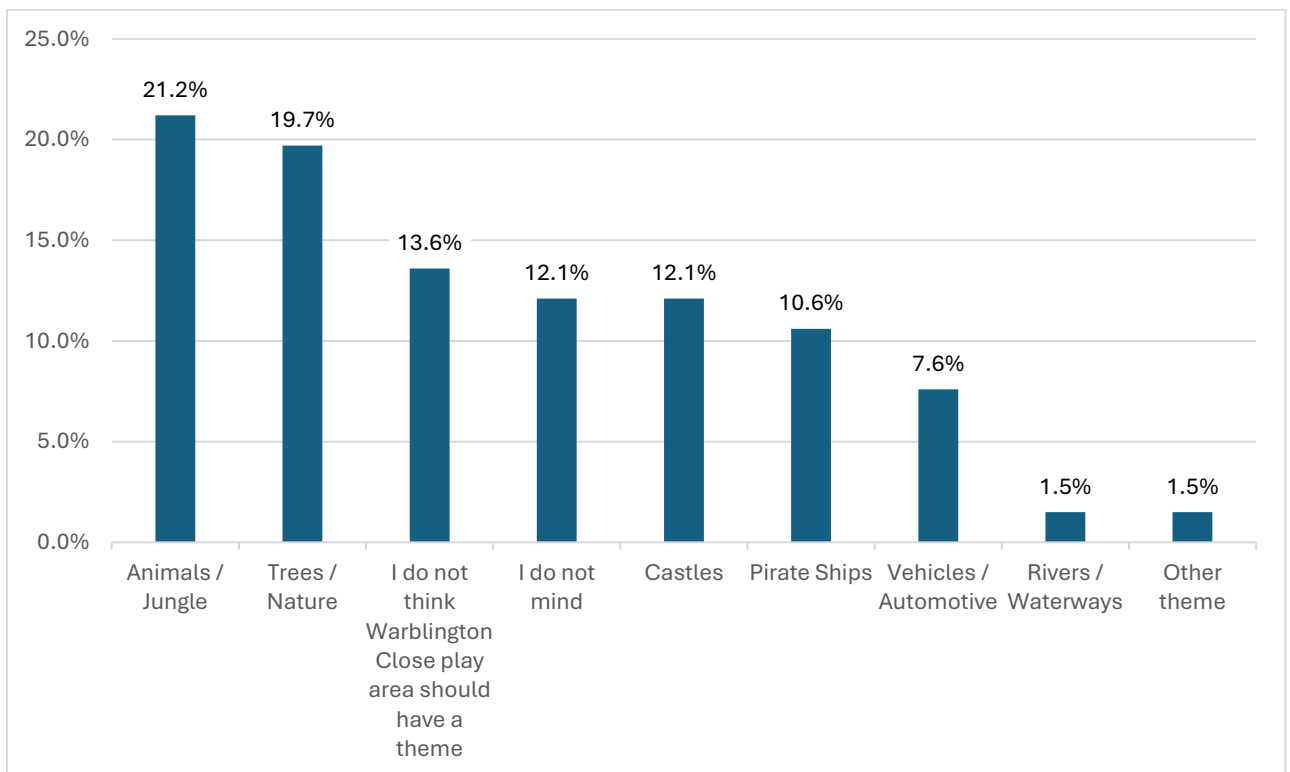
**Play Area Themes (Question 8)**

Views on whether the play area should include a theme were strong, with 72.7% of respondents selecting a theme, suggesting that theming is supported by the majority of those who responded. 12.1% of respondents voted to say they didn't mind what theme Warblington Close play area were to have, while 13.6% of respondents felt that the play area shouldn't have a theme.

The most popular theme options were 'Animal / Jungle' (21.2% of respondents) and 'Trees / Nature' (19.7% of respondents), suggesting a general preference for more natural or wildlife-inspired play environments. Other themes such as 'Castles' (voted for by 12.1% of respondents) and 'Pirate Ships' (voted for by 10.6% of respondents) also received a reasonable level of support.

One respondent used the 'other theme' option, however this was used to state that CCTV should be installed on the play area, as opposed to being used to suggest a theme. Please note that due to the nature of the site, this will not be possible.

*Q8. We are considering adding a theme to the new play area to help stimulate the imagination of children. Which of the following themes do you think the play area should have? If you answered 'Other theme' please specify.*



### **Play Activity Preferences (Question 9 to 10)**

Respondents were asked which activity types they would most like to see incorporated into the new play area to support both toddler and junior aged children, with up to five options selectable for each age range.

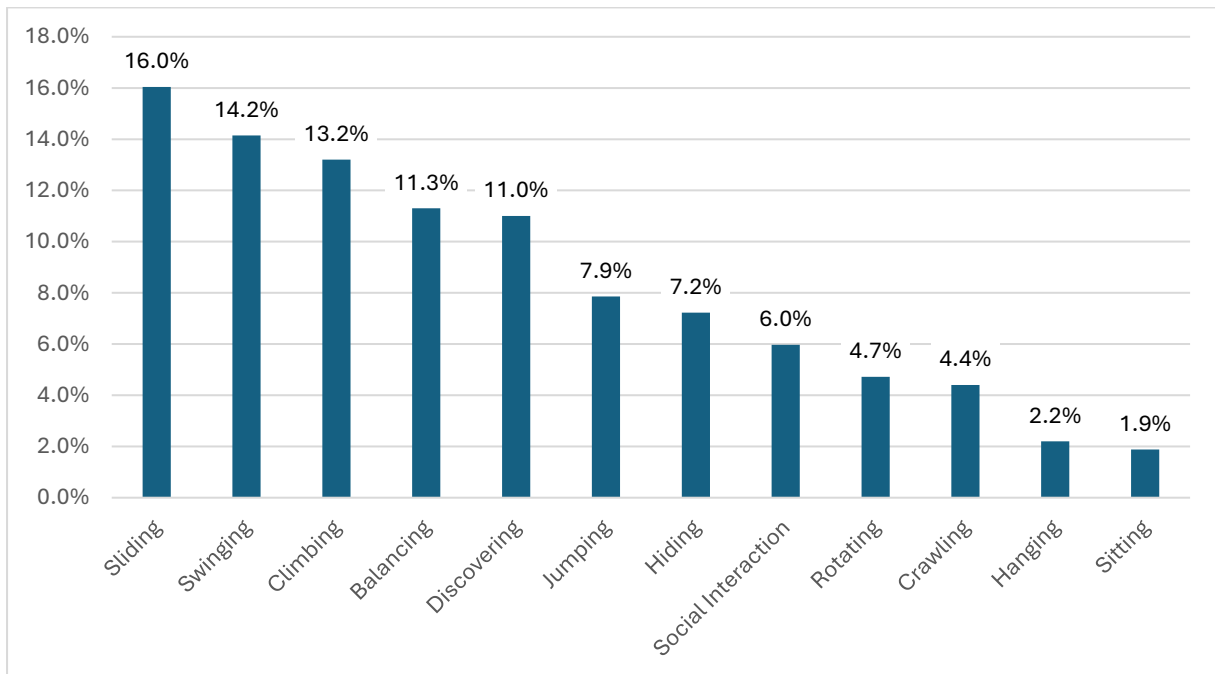
For the toddler age range, the highest levels of support were for sliding (16%), swinging (14.2%) and climbing (13.2%), closely followed by balancing (11.3%) and discovering (11%), indicating clear demand for play opportunities that support early movement, coordination and exploration. Low levels of support were shown for activities such as rotating (4.7%), crawling (4.4%), hanging (2.2%) and sitting (1.9%).

For the junior age range, respondents expressed a stronger preference for more physically challenging activities, with climbing (16.5%) and swinging (14%) again receiving the highest levels of support. This was followed by hanging (12.1%), balancing (11.4%) and jumping (10.5%). Activities such as hiding (2.5%), crawling (1.9%) and sitting (1.3%) were selected the least.

Overall, the results highlight consistent support across both age groups for play provision that encourages physical activity and skill development. However, the five play activities most commonly identified by respondents would be difficult to accommodate within the current play area due to its location and limited space. To ensure the play provision aligns with the needs and preferences of local residents, we are therefore exploring potential options for how these activities could be delivered. This may include considering whether changes to the current location or scale of the play area could support a larger and improved facility.



**Q9. Please select the 5 activity types you would most like to see catered for in the new toddler area of the play space.**



**Q10. Please select the 5 activity types you would most like to see catered for in the new junior area of the play space.**

