



Basingstoke
and Deane

Eastrop Community Centre Play Area Consultation

Summary of Results

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council undertook a public consultation to inform the proposed redesign of the Eastrop Community Centre 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.

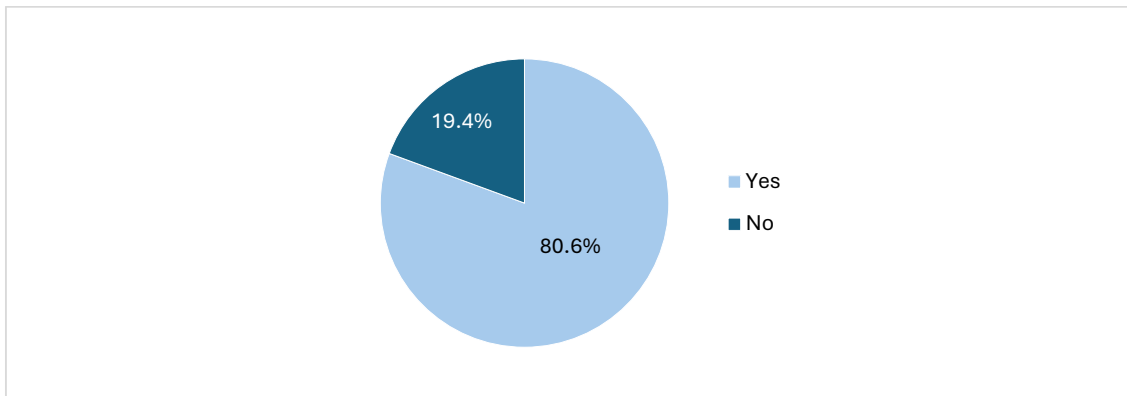
Current Usage Levels (Question 1 to 3)

When asked, 80.6% of respondents stated that they or their family currently use the play area at Eastrop Community Centre, with 19.4% of respondents reporting that they do not use the play area.

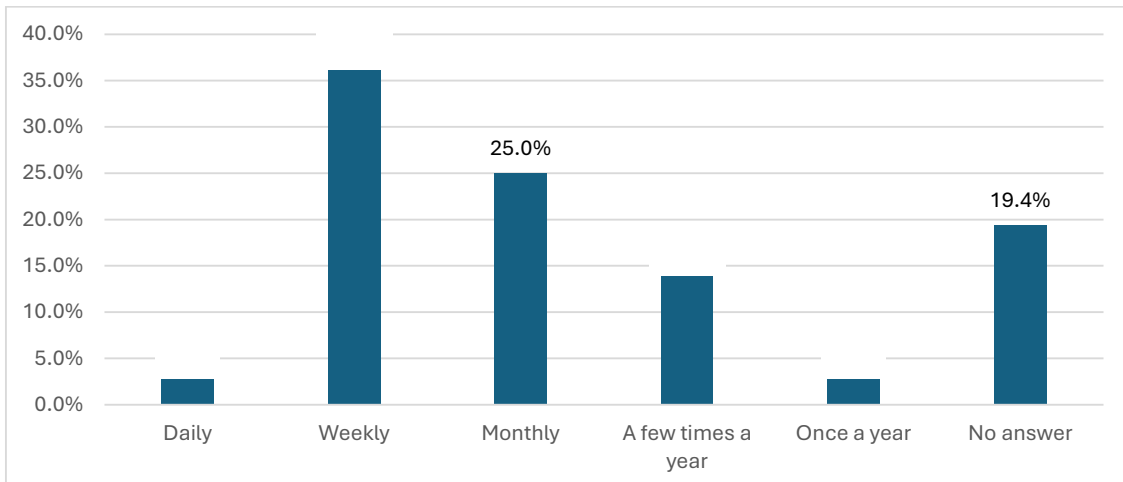
Among the respondents, 36.1% said that they visit the play area weekly and 25.0% visit monthly. This indicates that the play area is an asset often in use.

Respondents reported usage of Eastrop Community Centre play area across a broad range of times. Most respondents reported they visit the play area during afternoons (89.7% of respondents) and weekends (58.6% of respondents). School holidays are also a popular time to visit, according to 55.2% of respondents. The least popular time to visit the play area is during the evenings (24.1% of respondents).

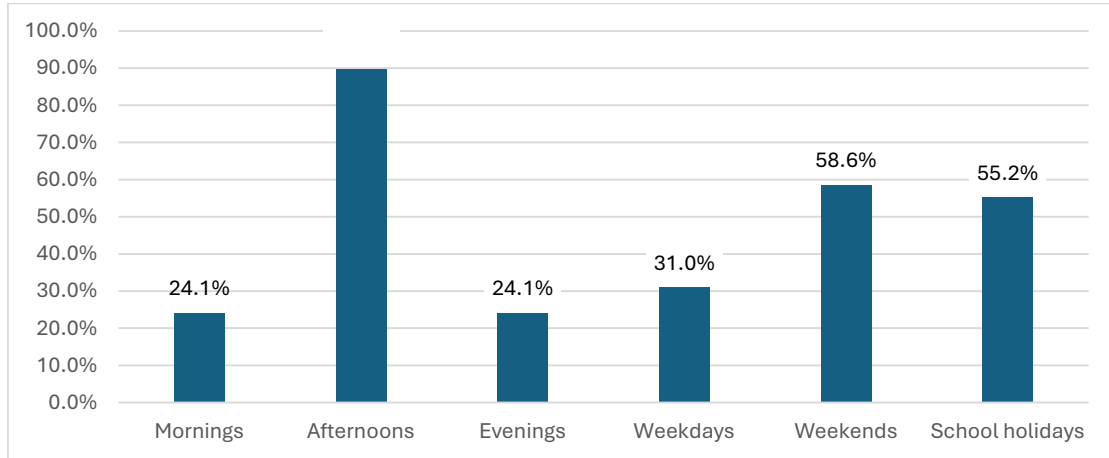
Q1. Do you and your family use the play area Eastrop Community Centre?



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



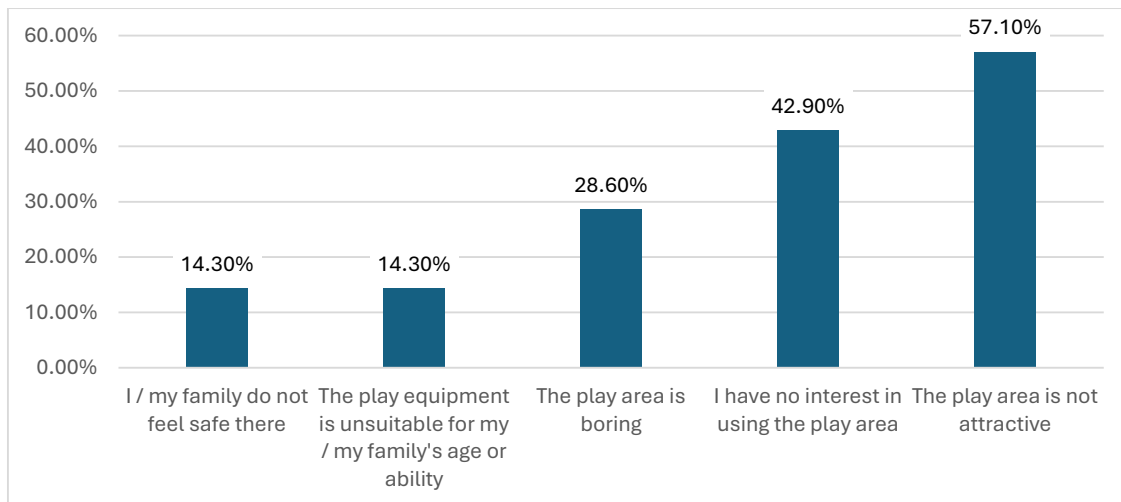
Q3. At what times do you typically visit the play area? (select as many as apply)



Barriers to Use (Question 4)

Most respondents who reported not using the play area put this down to the play area not being attractive (57.1% of respondents). The second most voted response (42.9% of respondents) was that the respondent has no interest in using the play area. The two least most common reasons were because the equipment is unsuitable for their family's age or ability (14.3% of respondents) and because they / their families do not feel safe there (also 14.3% of respondents). These responses highlight that the current provision is unattractive, resulting in many respondents having no interest in using Eastrop Community Centre play area.

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

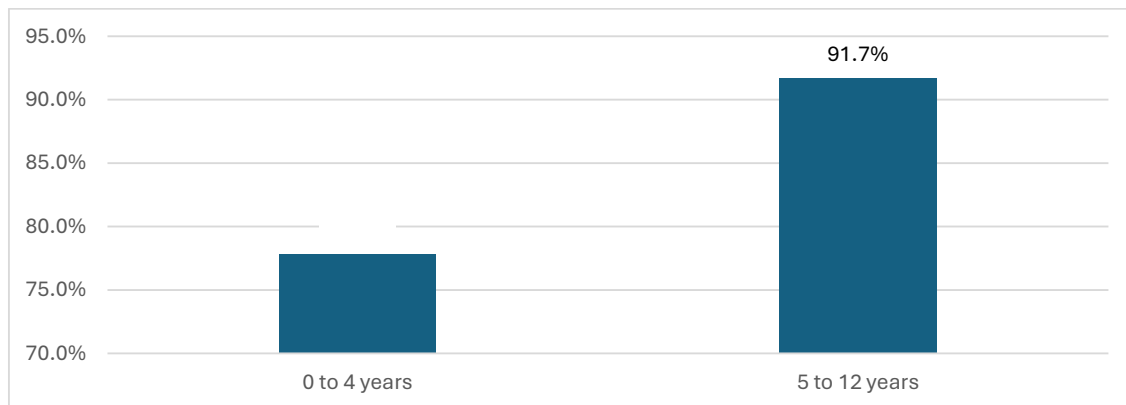


Preferred Age Ranges for Provision (Question 5)

Respondents were asked which age groups Eastrop Community Centre 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 the provisions for both age groups, with 77.8% of respondents supporting equipment for 0 to 4 years and 91.7% of respondents showing support for equipment for 5 to 12 years.

Due to the limited size of Eastrop Community Centre play area and its close proximity to the larger Eastrop Park, the designed-for age range of the refurbished play area will be for children aged 0-10. This approach continues to respond to the strong support for aged 5+ provision identified through the consultation, while ensuring equipment remains appropriate to the site's constraints, safe and accommodating for younger children.

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



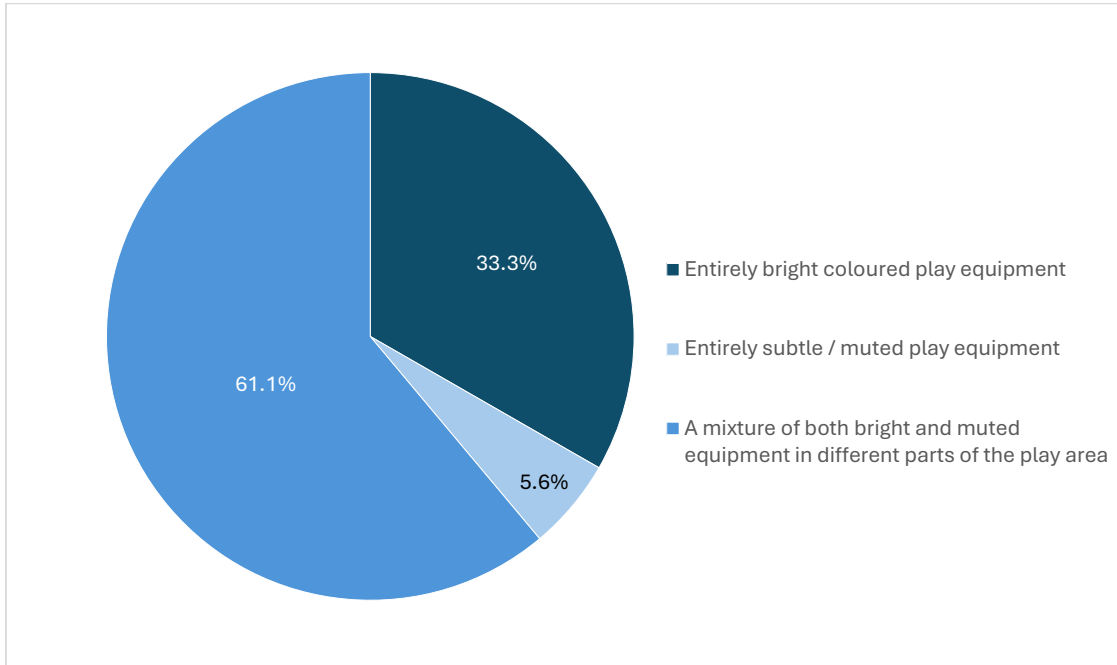
Appearance Style Preferences (Question 6 to 7)

Feedback on the preferred appearance style of a refurbished Eastrop Community Centre play area shows a strong preference for a balanced and varied look. Over half of respondents (61.1%) said they would prefer a mixture of both bright and muted equipment in different parts of the site. A further 33.3% of respondents voted for entirely brightly coloured play equipment and just 5.6% of respondents voted for entirely subtle / muted coloured play equipment. This could suggest that respondents value a play area with strong visual interest for children.

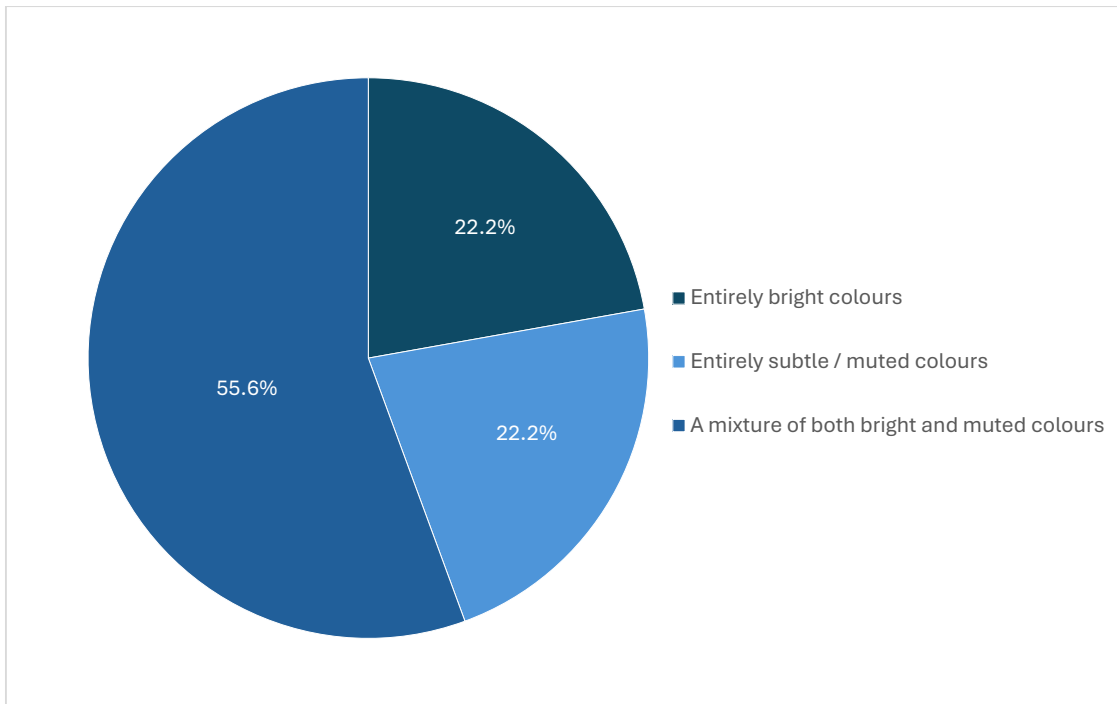
Views on the rubber safety surfacing also show a preference for a mixture of both bright and muted colours (55.6% of respondents). There was equal support for entirely bright colours (22.2%) and entirely subtle / muted colours (22.2%).



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?

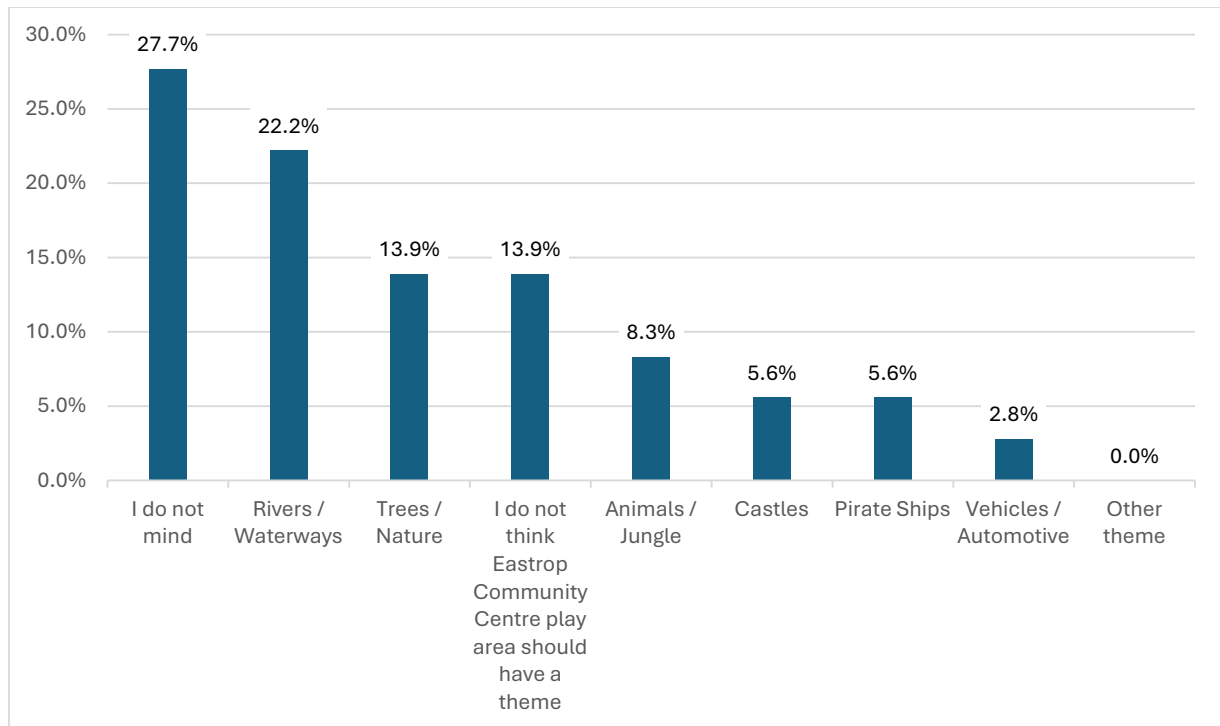


Play Area Themes (Question 8)

Views on whether the play area should include a theme were strong, with 58.4% of respondents selecting a theme and 27.7% not minding if a theme was used or what that theme was. This suggests that theming is supported by the majority of those who responded. The most popular theme was 'Rivers / Waterways' (22.2%), followed by 'Trees / Nature' (13.9%), suggesting a reference for more natural or wildlife-inspired play environments. This is likely due to the site's close proximity to the River Loddon, which runs through the larger Eastrop Park. 13.9% of respondents selected that they do not think Eastrop Community Centre should have a theme. Other themes such as 'Animals / Jungle' (voted for by 8.3% of respondents), 'Castles' (voted for by 5.6% of respondents), 'Pirate Ships' (voted for by 5.6% of respondents) and 'Vehicles / Automotive' (voted for by 2.8% of respondents) received minimal levels of support in comparison.

The 'other theme' option was not used by any respondents.

Q8. Would you like to see this play area have a specific theme? If you answered 'Other theme' please specify.



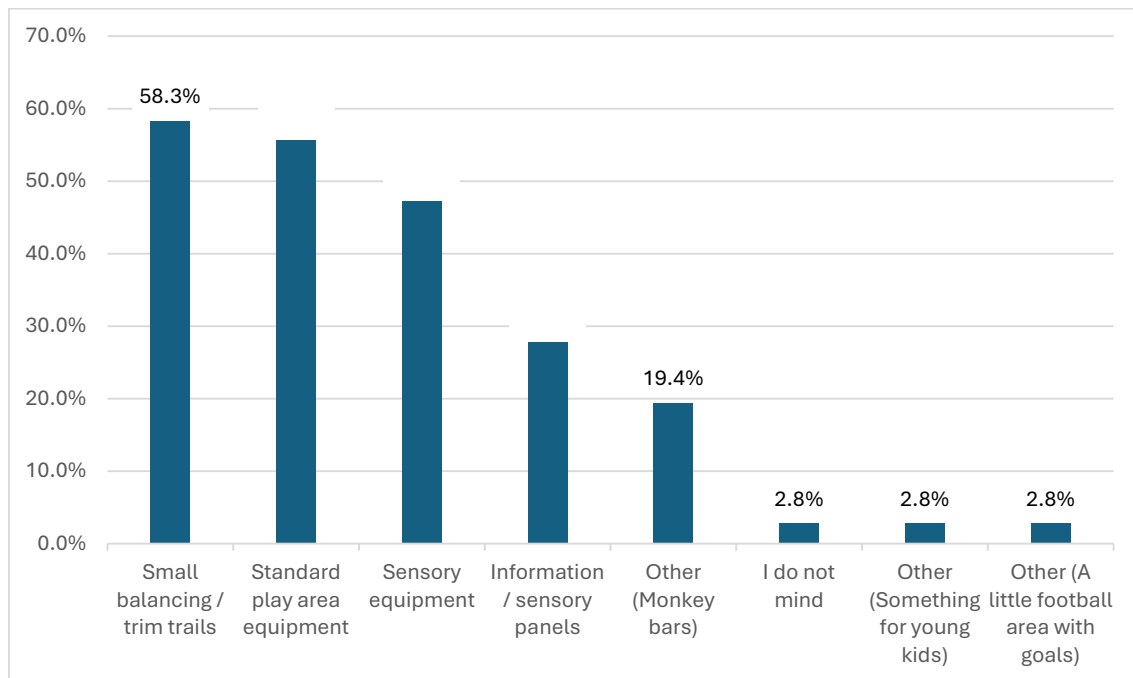
Opportunity for Unique Play Offerings (Question 9)

Respondents were asked what types of play offering(s) they would like to see at Eastrop Community Centre play area, taking into account its close proximity to Eastrop Park, with multiple responses per respondent allowed.

The results show a clear preference for complementary and lower-key play experiences, rather than duplicating large-scale park provision. The most popular option was 'small balancing equipment and trim trails' (58.3%), followed closely by 'standard play area equipment' (55.6%), 'sensory equipment' (47.2%) and 'Information / sensory panels' (27.8%). This indicates strong support for inclusive and development-focused play which would complement the wider facilities already available nearby.

19.8% of respondents used the 'Other' option to offer 'monkey bars' as suggestions. There were also mentions of something for kids (2.8% of respondents), which will be covered within the general provision and 'a little football area with goals' (2.8% of respondents), which will not be possible due to the limited space within the site.

Q9. Given how closely Eastrop Community Centre play area is located to Eastrop Park, what type of play offerings(s) would you like to see at Eastrop Community Centre play area? (select as many as apply). If 'Other' please specify.



Play Activity Preferences (Question 10 to 11)

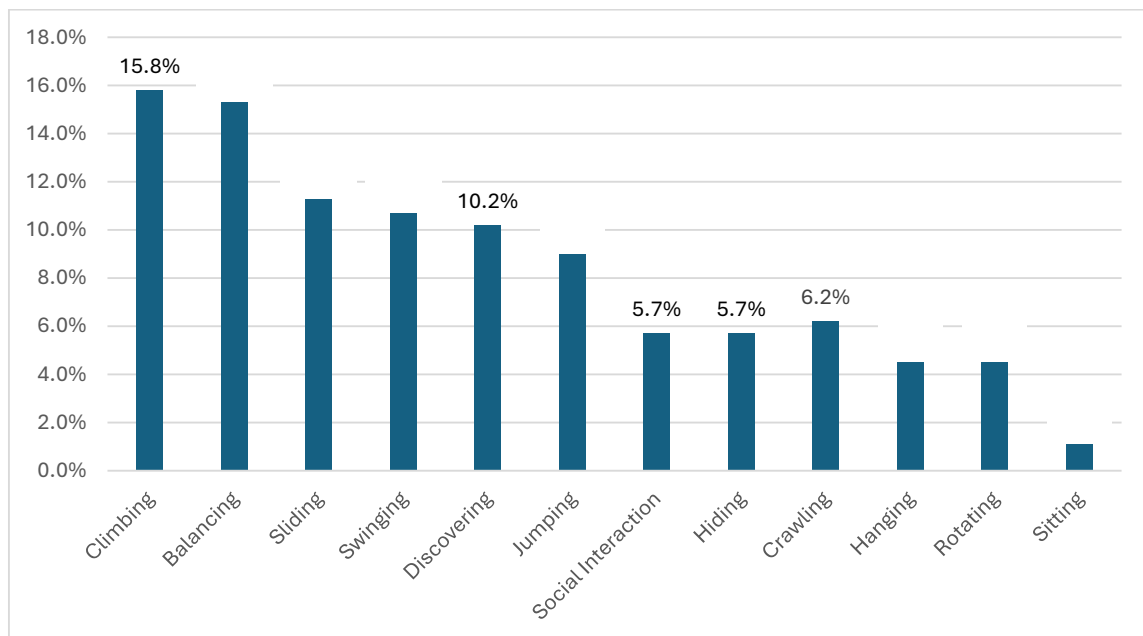
Respondents were asked which activity types they would most like to see catered for within the new play area to support both toddler and junior aged children, with respondents able to select up to five options for each age group.

For the toddler age range, the highest levels of support were for climbing (15.8%) and balancing (15.3%), closely followed by sliding (11.3%), swinging (10.7%) and discovering (10.2%), indicating clear demand for play opportunities that support early movement, coordination and exploration. Lower levels of support were shown for activities such as hanging (4.5%), rotating (4.5%) and sitting (1.1%).

For the junior age range, respondents expressed high levels of support for similar activities. Climbing (18.1%), hanging (14.7%), balancing (13.0%), jumping (12.4%) and swinging (9.6%) receiving the highest levels of support. The lowest levels of support were for hiding (2.8%), crawling (2.3%) and sitting (1.1%).

Overall, the results highlight consistent support for play provision that encourages physical activity and skill development, which supports the results from the previous question 9.

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





Q11. Please select the 5 activity types you would most like to see catered for in the new junior area of the play space.

