



Children are undoubtedly the catalyst for play streets. 'Pollinators' of communities, they bring adults together as they chalk, cycle and flit between neighbours' homes.

But play streets cannot just be about children. To thrive in the long term, they need to appeal to everyone on the street - from young professionals to older residents and everyone in between. The most successful play streets have something for everyone. How do you do that? Read on....

Cup of tea?
Bring a couple of chairs out onto the street with a pot of tea or coffee and some cups - and invite your neighbours to sit and have a chat while the children play. It's the simple things that often work best and being able to sit down makes people more relaxed.

Who's got the greenest fingers?
Planting bulbs or seedlings is a great activity to bring people - of all ages, backgrounds and cultures - together. Councils often have small pots of money to give residents for environmental projects and in some cases provide bulbs and planter boxes. Find out if yours does!

Celebrate!
Mark birthdays, holidays or other celebrations for a special flavour on the street. For example carol singing, Diwali lights, Easter egg hunts or an Eid feast.

Get creative
Bring out some art materials - clay or paint or old boxes or bits of material - and see if you have a shy Picasso in your midst.

Exchange table
Get neighbours to bring out unwanted items such as gardening tools, kitchen equipment or books; and do a swap.

Have a skill swap
Maybe one of your neighbours would be happy to babysit in return for some help in the garden or a bit of DIY. Why not use the play street as a chance to swop skills?

Tasks for t(w)eens
Offer older children the chance to take on responsibility. They can help out with stewarding or run games with the littlies.

Bake Off - or just eat
Have a barbecue on the street and invite people to bring something to put on it. Or you could all agree to bring a plate of food from your country or culture, or just something you would enjoy sharing.

NEED HELP? CALL US ON 0203 384 8510; EMAIL INFO@LONDONPLAY.ORG.UK OR VISIT WWW.LONDONPLAY.ORG.UK