

# Play Plan in Barcelona

## Background

The Play Plan in Barcelona is a pioneering initiative aimed at transforming the city's public spaces into inclusive, playful environments that support the well-being and development of all citizens, especially children. Coordinated by the Barcelona Institute of Childhood and Adolescence, the plan is rooted in the belief that play is a fundamental right and a key component of a healthy urban life.

The initiative emerged from a growing recognition that urban environments often lack safe, accessible, and stimulating spaces for children and families. The Play Plan addresses this by promoting a child-friendly city model that integrates play into everyday urban life. It involves a wide range of stakeholders, including municipal departments, urban planners, educators, social organisations, and local communities.

The plan is structured around principles of inclusivity, accessibility, and co-creation. It seeks to ensure that all children, regardless of ability, background, or neighbourhood, have access to quality play opportunities. The initiative also emphasises the importance of intergenerational interaction and the role of public space in fostering social cohesion.

## Key Activities

- Mapping and assessment of existing play spaces across the city.
- Co-design workshops with children, families, and community members.
- Redesign and creation of inclusive play areas in parks, plazas, and streets.
- Integration of play-friendly elements into urban planning and mobility strategies.
- Awareness campaigns to promote the value of play in urban life.

## Impact

- Increased number of inclusive and accessible play spaces throughout Barcelona.
- Greater civic engagement and participation in urban design processes.
- Enhanced visibility of children's needs in city planning.
- Strengthened community ties and intergenerational interaction.

## Challenges & Solutions

- **Challenge:** Balancing diverse needs in limited urban space.
- **Solution:** Adopted flexible, multifunctional design solutions and prioritised underserved areas.
- **Challenge:** Ensuring long-term maintenance and safety.
- **Solution:** Integrated play areas into municipal maintenance plans. Involved local communities in stewardship.



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## Tips for Similar Projects

- Involve children and families directly in the design process.
- Use play as a lens to rethink urban space for all ages.
- Collaborate across departments to embed play in broader urban policies.
- Monitor and evaluate the impact of interventions to guide future improvements.

## Identified Limitations/Weaknesses

Some cities may still lack sufficient space or resources for full implementation. Moreover, ongoing coordination across departments can be complex and time-consuming.

## Resources

- [Play Plan in Barcelona](#)

## Partners

