

Play Streets Aotearoa Toolkit

Frequently Asked Questions

Why can't tamariki just play at the park?

While parents/caregivers are encouraged to give tamariki regular opportunities to play outside, including going to the park, we have seen in recent research:

- there is fear of young people going to the park alone
- younger children need adult supervision
- parents need to make the time to take tamariki to the park, and have conflicting priorities.

A Play Street not only promotes play, it also promotes neighbourhood connection and community resilience. It provides an opportunity for neighbours to meet each other, including people who may live alone, or those who are less likely to find it easy or suitable to play in a park.

For more on this, check out this post from [Playing Out](#).

Are we teaching children that they can play on the street anytime?

'Playing Out UK' research showed that young children can understand the difference between an event with a road closure and normal circumstance, through for example seeing road cones and adults wearing high-vis vests.

A Play Street is an opportunity for parents to talk to children about road safety and the danger of traffic, and an opportunity for adults to take responsibility of driving behaviours on neighbourhood streets.

What is the point of difference from a Play Street and a pop-up play at the local park event

A Play Street:

- Majority of people who attend will live on the street. Residents may include parents, children, elderly, people who live alone or no children.
- It is not a publicly promoted event
- It is held outside people's houses
- Some sort of traffic restriction will be required.

Play event at local park:

- Mix of people who live in the community but likely to be mainly families including grandparents.
- Some families might be travelling from outside the neighbourhood
- Promoted via social media channels, newspapers etc, school or preschool community.

I don't have children, why would I want to take part?

You don't need children to take part. A Play Street is an opportunity to catch up or meet new neighbours on the street. This could be an opportunity to get involved and be a marshal or just relax, enjoy the atmosphere, or share your own play memories with neighbours.

What if a resident doesn't agree to a Play Street?

It is their choice about engaging with the Play Street. Councils may set a benchmark for how many residents need to support the Play Street before it can go ahead (for example, 80%).

If a resident doesn't want to engage in the Play Street, they could:

- stay inside at home
- make plans to be away for the duration of the Play Street
- still leave and come back to their street, understanding their car will be guided through the restriction area
- move their car outside of the restriction area before the Play Street begins, so they can go about their business.

What if residents are concerned about damage to cars or property?

To alleviate any concerns, ensure residents are reminded about the time and date of the Play Street so they can ensure their cars are put in their garages or parked further away from the Play Street.

Carefully consider the types of play activities being provided. For example, for street cricket use a tennis ball instead of a hard ball.

What if there is an emergency at a resident's house or they are having food delivered?

Emergency services will have access during a Play Street. A process will be in place for marshals to safely guide the emergency vehicle through the play area.

Visitors or delivery people are recommended to walk into the street from outside the Play Street closure area. There will be some situations where they will be able to drive up, once play is cleared.

Where can I find technical guidance on traffic management?

[Waka Kotahi's Play Street Guidelines](#) provide technical guidance for councils on traffic management processes and policies to support Play Streets.