

Short Breaks for Disabled Children – Children and Young People’s questionnaire summary

Introduction

Short Breaks are part of a continuum of services which support children in need and their families. They include the provision of day, overnight and weekend activities for the child or young person, and can take place in the child’s own home, the home of an approved carer, or in a residential or community setting. *Short Breaks: Statutory Guidance on how to safeguard and promote the welfare of disabled children using short breaks (Department for Children, Schools and Families, 2010)*

The local authority has a vital role in ensuring sufficient and appropriate short breaks are commissioned in the local area. In doing this, it is essential that we adopt a participatory approach and involve children, young people and families at every stage in the decision making process (Section 19 Children and Families Act 2014 requires regard to the views, wishes and feelings of children, young people and parents in decisions that affect them).

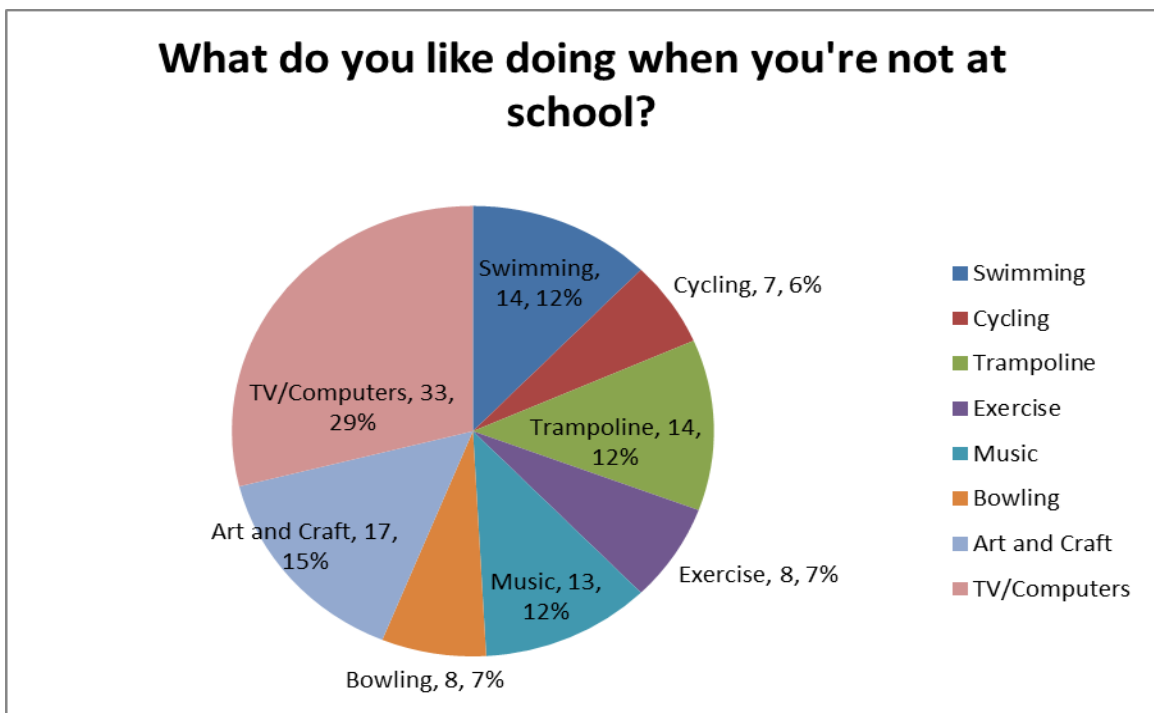
To ensure that the voice of children and young people is heard during the recommission of short break services, the Council worked with Springfield School in Crewe, to develop a questionnaire aimed at children and young people across Cheshire East. This is to help us understand their views on the types of activities they enjoy and the types of activities they would like to participate in. The findings of this questionnaire will assist the Council in shaping future commissioned services to ensure children, young people and their families needs are met in the most efficient and cost effective way.

This questionnaire was shared with a team of SENCO’s (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) across Cheshire East, Springfield School and Park Lane School. Children and young people were given the opportunity to complete the questionnaires during November – December 2019, accompanied by PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System) for children who are non verbal.

A total of 57 questionnaires were completed, with children and young people given the option of selecting multiple answers for each question, detailed within the below summary:

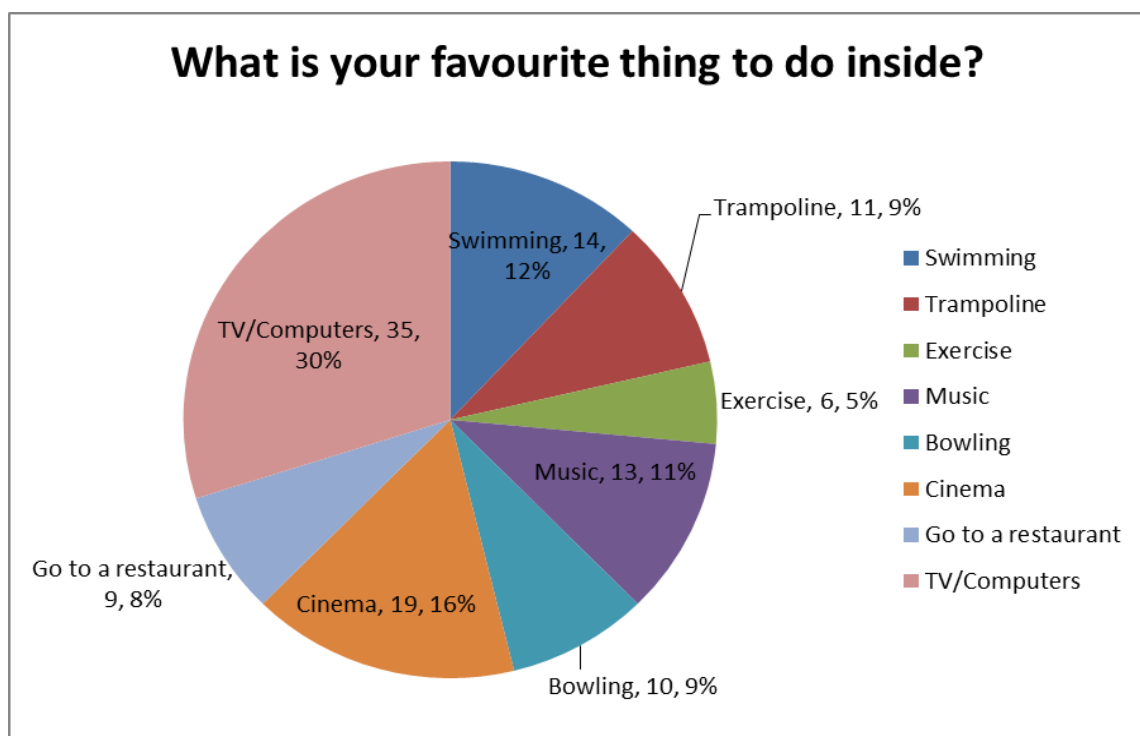
Summary

Question 1 - What do you like doing when you're not at school?



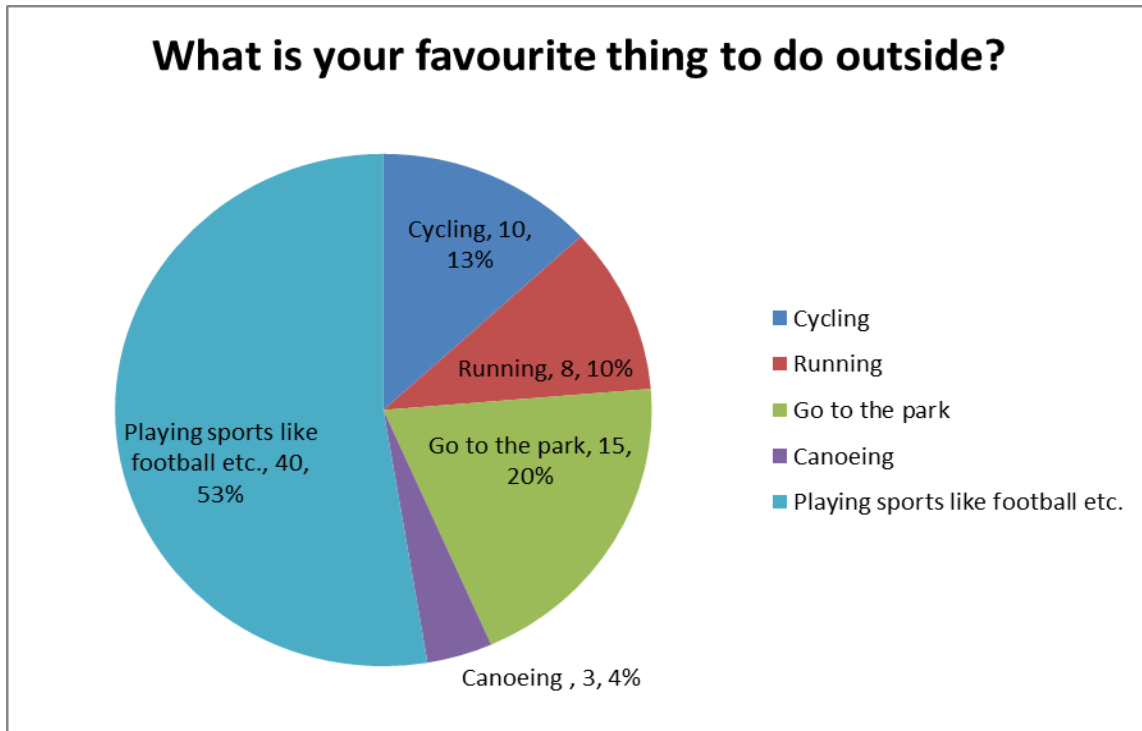
- There were 114 responses to this question
- TV/Computers was the most popular response with 29% (33 responses) followed by Art and Craft 15% (17 responses) and Swimming 12% (14 responses)
- Specific answers provided by children and young people include playing with Lego, playing on iPad, PlayStation/Xbox and playing with clay.

Question 2 - What is your favourite thing to do inside?



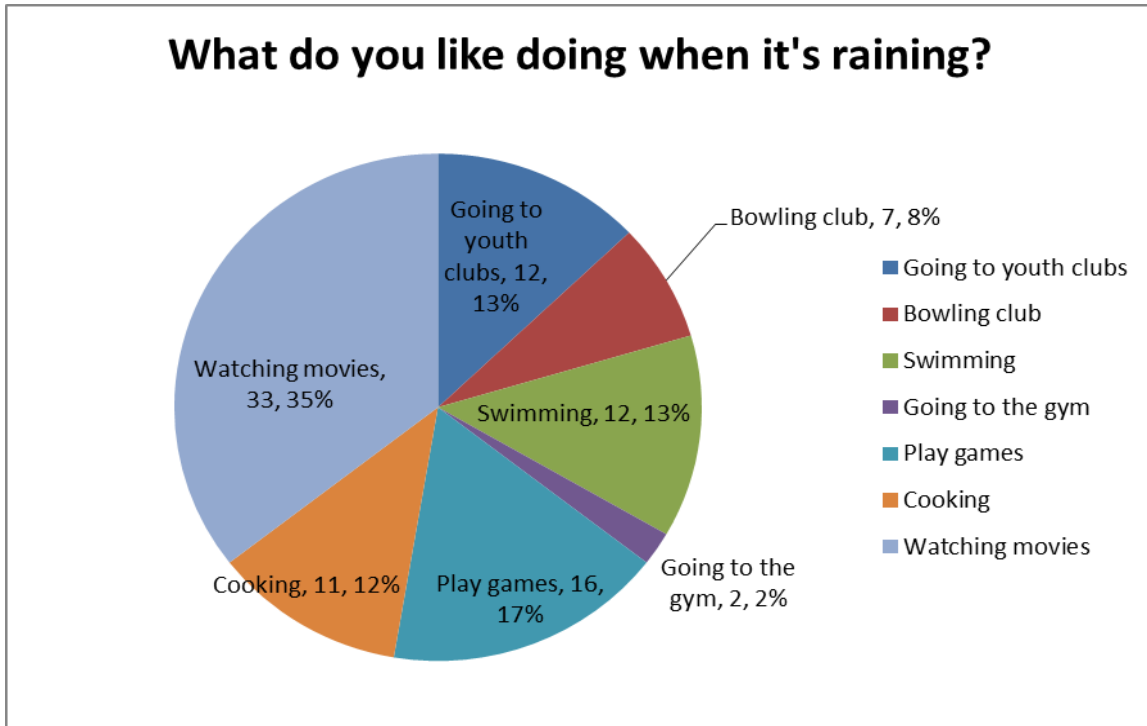
- There were 117 responses to this question
- TV/Computers was the most popular response with 30% (35 responses) followed by Cinema 16% (19 responses) and Swimming 12% (14 responses)
- Specific answers provided by children and young people include listening to music, watch YouTube. Cooking was also detailed as an activity children enjoy.

Question 3 - What is your favourite thing to do outside?



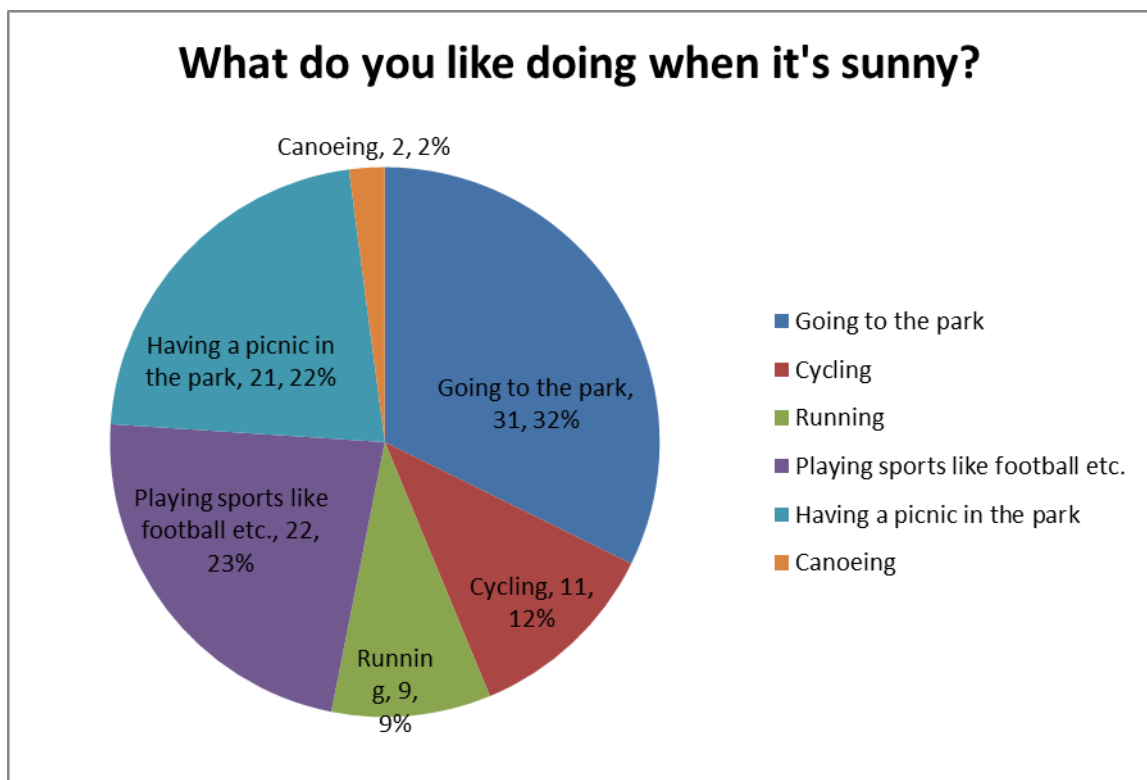
- There were 76 responses to this question
- Playing sports like football etc. was the most popular response with 53% (40 responses) followed by Going to the park 20% (15 responses) and Cycling 13% (10 responses)
- Specific responses provided by children and young people include Bushcraft, playing bowls and playing tennis.

Question 4 - What do you like doing when it's raining?



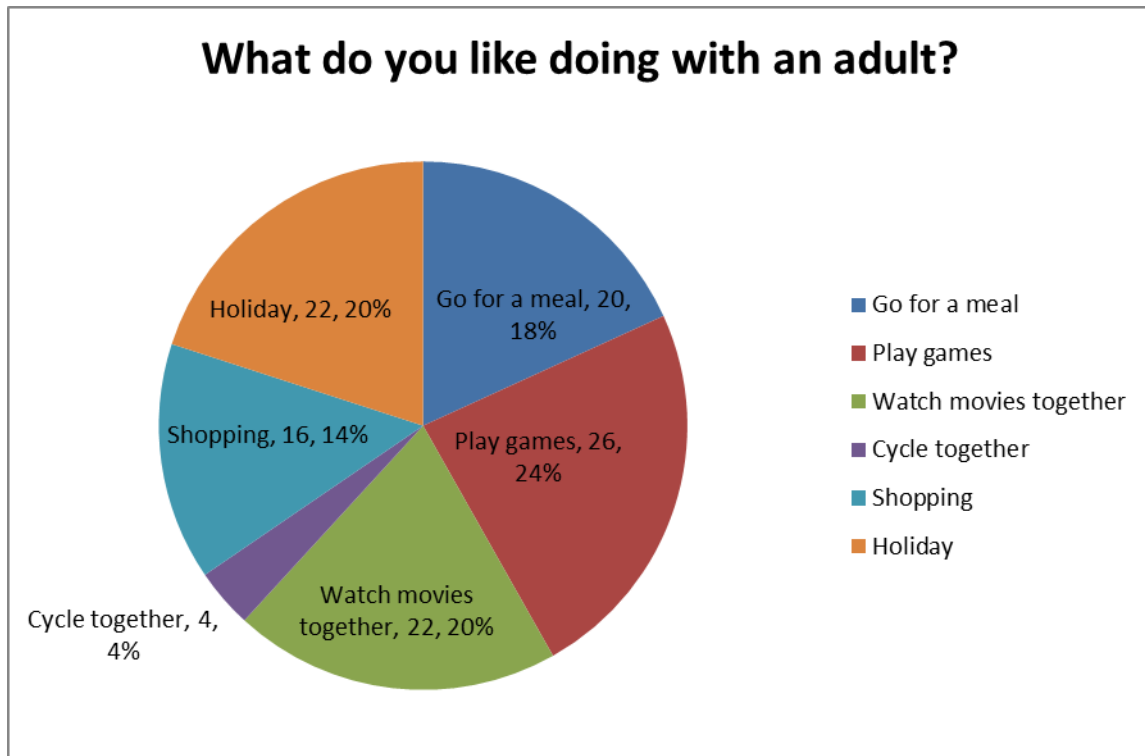
- There were 93 responses to this question
- Watching movies was the most popular response with 35% (33 responses) followed by Playing games 17% (16 responses) and Going to youth clubs and Swimming 13% (12 responses)
- Specific responses provided by children and young people include going to a playbarn/indoor playground, play on computers/IPad etc.

Question 5 - What do you like doing when it's sunny?



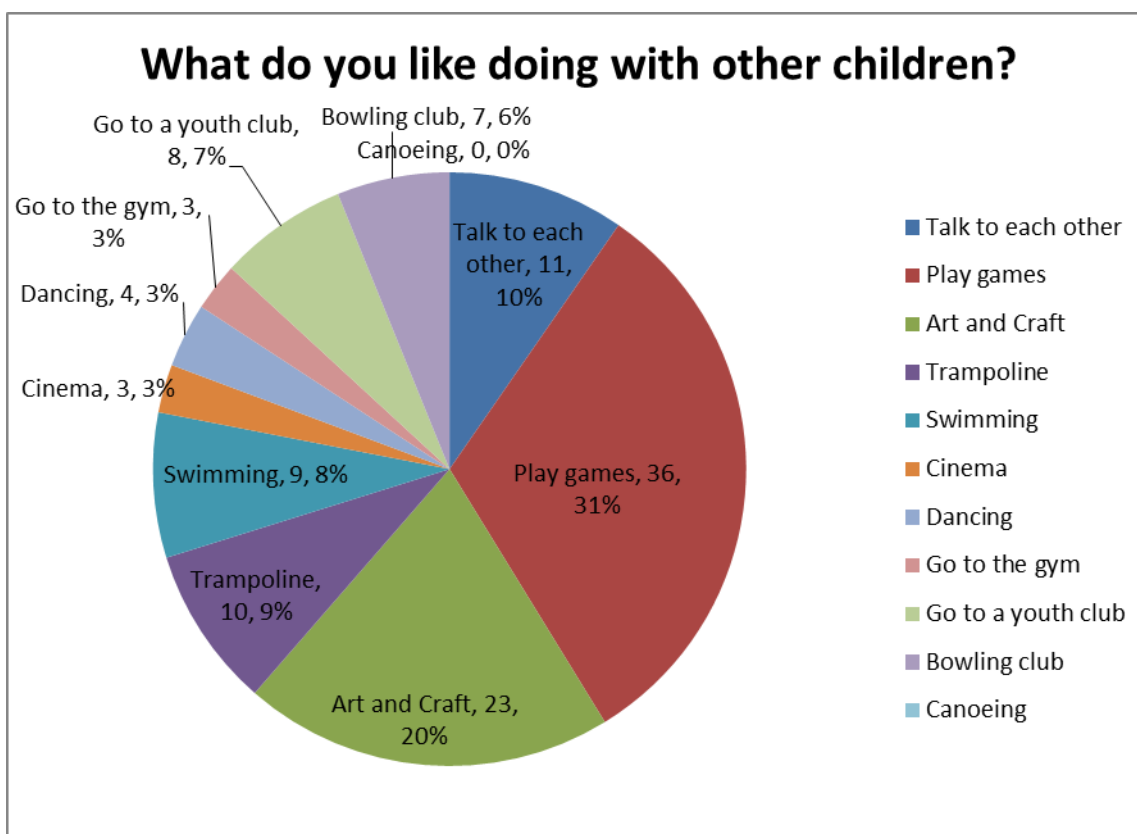
- There were 96 responses to this question
- Going to the park was the most popular response with 32% (31 responses) followed by Playing sports like football etc. 23% (22 responses) and Having a picnic in the park 22% (21 responses)
- Specific responses provided by children and young people include trampolining, playing with friends.

Question 6 - What do you like doing with an adult?



- There were 110 responses to this question
- Play games was the most popular response with 24% (26 responses) followed by Watch movies and Holiday 20% (22 responses)
- Specific responses provided by children and young people include playing board games and playing with Lego.

Question 7 - What do you like doing with other children?



- There were 114 responses to this question
- Play games was the most popular response with 31% (36 responses) followed by Art and Craft 20% (23 responses) and Talking to each other 10% (11 responses)
- Specific responses provided by children and young people include playing sports e.g. football, playing computer games on Xbox/PlayStation and cooking.