GET OUT NEWSLETTER 01

20 NOVEMBER 2026

Making room for outdoor play

A special edition for World Children's Day



What did you love playing outdoors when you were a child? Perhaps you invented a game with friends, built a shelter from whatever you could find, or followed a trail simply to see where it went. You had a say in what happened next.

On World Children's Day, 20 November, we are introducing GET OUT, an Erasmus+ project that aims to help schools and families make room for these experiences in children's everyday lives. Our starting point is the child's right to play, and a practical question: how can we make that right easier to enjoy?

Children have a right to play

Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child recognises children's right to rest, leisure and play. Giving that right a place in school life means making time available and creating welcoming spaces where children can choose what to do.

Outdoor play gives children opportunities to move, imagine and negotiate their own games with others. An ordinary schoolyard can also offer encounters with nature: changing shadows, leaves to collect, insects to observe. Adults help by making the space accessible, addressing hazards and supporting children without directing every moment.

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Introducing GET OUT

GET OUT focuses on Community Play Hubs for Wellbeing and Environmental Awareness in Schools.

Running from September 2026 to August 2028, the project brings together seven partner organisations in Cyprus, Greece and Italy, coordinated by the University of Nicosia.

We will work with schools, families and local communities to develop Community Play Hubs. These bring people together around a shared purpose: creating regular opportunities for children to enjoy outdoor play that they help shape themselves.

How schools and families will take part

Three pilot schools will develop the approach through staff learning, school action plans and improvements to their outdoor environments. Parent learning activities and Family Play Days will connect this work with family life. Later, the pilot schools will mentor nine additional schools, while a shared DIY Toolkit will help other communities explore the approach.



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Start by listening to children

A useful first step is to ask children about the places where they already play. Which parts of the schoolyard do they enjoy? Where do they feel left out? What would they change if they could? Their answers can help adults notice barriers that might otherwise remain invisible.

Listening also means offering different ways to contribute. A child may prefer to draw a favourite place, show it during a walk, or talk with a trusted adult. Children need opportunities to play that respond to different interests and abilities, and a real say in decisions about those opportunities.

One invitation for 20 November

This World Children's Day, invite children to show you one place where they would like more opportunities to play. Ask what would make it work better for them. Together, choose one manageable change, try it, and return to the children to hear what difference it made.

It could mean protecting a little more time for outdoor play, making a quieter area available, or improving access to a favourite part of the school grounds. The next step should grow from what children tell us.

Follow GET OUT through our partner organisations as we develop the Community Play Hubs and share ways to bring more outdoor play into everyday school and family life.

UNIVERSITY of NICOSIA

1ο ΔΗΜΟΤΙΚΟ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟ ΡΑΦΗΝΑΣ

Agios Antonios Primary School

Amari-Roncalli-Ferrara

INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT N. CHARALAMBOUS

LAND impresa Sociale

Playing

FOLLOW US

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