

# Live 5210 Playbox

## How-To Guide

3<sup>rd</sup> Edition—updated 2021



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## Background

### Live 5-2-1-0

Live 5-2-1-0 is a simple, evidence-based message to help kids and families adopt healthy habits. We know that hearing a consistent message supported by a healthy community environment is important. By bringing community stakeholders together to share and support this common message, Live 5-2-1-0 helps build partnerships and create healthy environments where kids can eat well and be active every day.



Live 5-2-1-0 is an initiative of BC Children’s Hospital. The Live 5-2-1-0 Central Team partners with communities across the province to improve practices, policies, and environments so the healthy choice is the easy choice for kids and families. For more information visit [www.live5210.ca](http://www.live5210.ca)

### The Playbox Concept

Live 5-2-1-0 Playboxes are industrial metal jobsite boxes wrapped with colourful vinyl graphics that are installed in community parks and contain equipment for active play. The boxes are secured with combination locks with the access code freely accessible to families through local community websites and/or recreation centres.

The intention behind Live 5-2-1-0 Playboxes is to provide children and families with easier access to games and sports equipment in order to reduce barriers and encourage outdoor active play. Playboxes help to make environments healthier, foster social connectedness, and promote shared community ownership.

The Playbox concept originated in Abbotsford in 2014. The Healthy Abbotsford Partners Group (The City of Abbotsford, Fraser Health, Abbotsford School District, The Abbotsford News, the University of the Fraser Valley, Abbotsford Community Services and Pacific Sport Fraser Valley) were looking at ways to support local children and families in building healthy habits. After identifying a number of challenges families face when trying to live an active lifestyle including financial barriers, scheduling conflicts, ideas for how to play, and social isolation—they came up with the idea of a Playbox.



## Live 5-2-1-0 Playboxes are only one part of a larger prevention initiative

Many communities in BC have been very enthusiastic about the idea of Live 5-2-1-0 Playboxes—however, it is also critical to understand that they are simply one example of local action implementation as part of a wider whole-of-community Live 5-2-1-0 initiative. There is nothing to stop communities from only implementing Playboxes, but we do know that the Playboxes tend to be more successful in achieving the intention behind them when they're part of a broader multi-sectoral approach to support Live 5-2-1-0.

To help provide local partners with an overall understanding of the Live 5-2-1-0 initiative and how each sector of a community can play a role, download and share the Live 5-2-1-0 Overview two-page information sheet available here: [www.live5210.ca/scope](http://www.live5210.ca/scope). This is a quick summary that provides some background, as well as explanation of how communities are sharing and supporting Live 5-2-1-0 (including Playboxes) across different sectors.

### The Live 5-2-1-0 Playbox Network

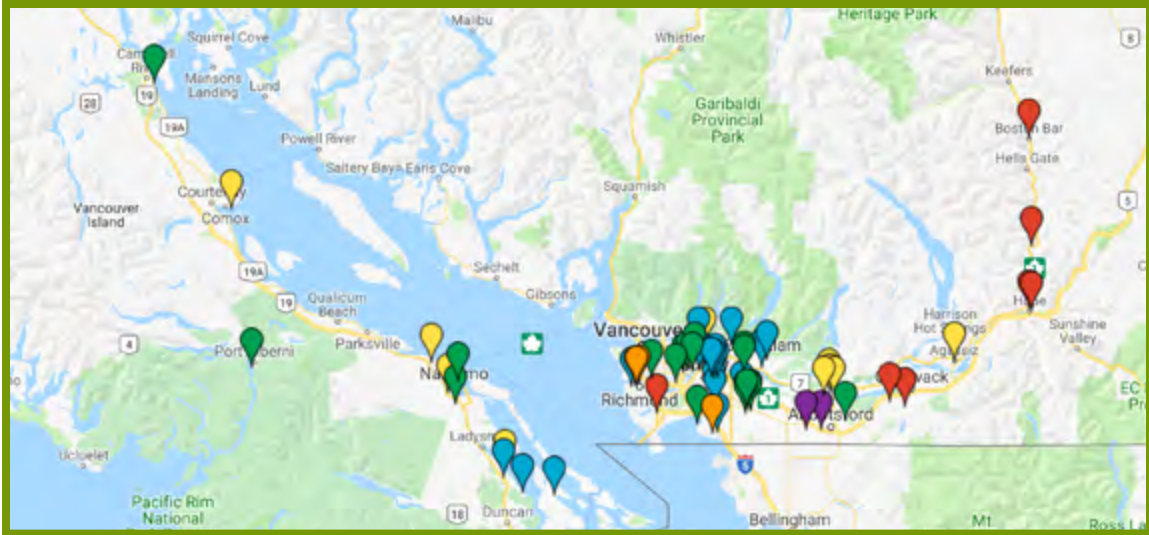
Since the installation of the first three Playboxes in Abbotsford, the Playbox concept has been cross implemented by communities around the province—today there are 69 Live 5-2-1-0 Playboxes in 29 BC communities!

The Live 5-2-1-0 Central Team coordinates the Playbox network, providing guidance and support to prospective and existing Playbox partners. Although the Playbox concept is consistent across the network, how each Playbox operates differs depending on the unique context of the community. The Live 5-2-1-0 Central Team uses an inter-community knowledge exchange platform to help connect Playbox coordinators so they're able to share ideas, resources, lessons learned and develop strategies to overcome challenges.

This Playbox How-To Guide is a compilation of knowledge exchanged on the platform over the past five years, as well as information collected through a recent survey sent to Playbox Coordinators. Twenty-three coordinators participated in the survey (92% response rate), sharing details of how their community's Playbox operates and their experience implementing and managing it (some coordinators manage multiple Playboxes within their own community and in neighbouring regions). We want to thank everyone who has shared their experience and contributed to our collective knowledge about implementing Live 5-2-1-0 Playboxes—this will have a positive impact on kids in communities across the Live 5-2-1-0 network for years to come!







## Planning & Management

### Local partners

Successful implementation of Live 5-2-1-0 Playboxes requires buy-in and collaboration from multiple community partners, who provide input, commitment and support for various aspects of the project. This can include participation in community assessments for location selection, in-kind and funding support for costs (initial and ongoing), donations of the box and equipment, hosting the sign-up registration process to distribute the access code to families, permission and operational support for physical installation of the boxes in parks, promotion of the boxes to families, and personnel support for ongoing maintenance.

Which partners need to be involved to ensure success? The support and participation of the local Parks & Recreation department is often necessary to allow Playboxes to be placed in municipal parks, as well as to help with physical installation of the boxes. Then, as mentioned above, it's beneficial to involve as many representatives from local sectors as possible to support costs and maintenance, as well as promote the boxes and support their use with kids and families. Having multiple partners closely involved is also important for long-term sustainability, as the capacity of partners to manage or contribute to the Playboxes will likely change over time. Examples of partners from existing Playbox communities include municipal governments, health authorities, schools and school districts, divisions of family practice, community associations, early years centres, libraries, and businesses.

This is where the overall Live 5-2-1-0 initiative comes in—the more that Live 5-2-1-0 is already integrated into the community in terms of there being a pre-existing multi-sector stakeholder group that is sharing and supporting the Live 5-2-1-0 message, the more successful these Playboxes are likely to be. If there are already multiple partners across different sectors that are sharing the message with families, are engaged in making supportive changes to their own practices, policies and environments, and are 'in the loop' as part of a coordinated community approach, then families see and hear a consistent and reinforced message in many places, and are also aware of the boxes and encouraged to make use of them by many partners (i.e. family physicians 'prescribing' physical activity using the boxes, community services promoting them to families who may struggle to access Rec Centre programs, etc).



## Location selection

Ideally, a community needs-assessment process would be carried out, involving engagement of relevant local partners such as community services, childcare facilities, child & youth committees, etc., to gather input on the best locations for potential Playboxes—to see where boxes would make the most difference to families and organizations that might use them. Input from the local Parks & Recreation department that would be installing the boxes in local parks (or, alternately, from whatever group is responsible for the grounds where boxes would be located) is important. It may also be prudent to reach out to organizations such as the local police or neighborhood watch groups to find out whether potential locations are particularly prone to vandalism and other problems.

In some communities, a Playbox is installed on the property of a host organization and the staff of that organization lock and unlock the box each day, which can reduce potential challenges around monitoring and management.

Selecting a location that is out in the open and easily visible (i.e. away from bushes or trees), and in an area that is frequently populated is recommended to deter theft and vandalism. For example, the community of Trail strategically installed their Playbox beside the park concession building which is often bustling with people and also has video surveillance. After struggling with recurrent theft from one of their Playboxes, the City of Chilliwack moved their Playbox from a park onto the grounds of a school which generally has more eyes and ears on the property.

## Cost

Cost of a Live 5-2-1-0 Playbox depends a little on what is purchased to put into the box, but on average a box has tended to cost approximately \$1800-\$2200 each. That doesn't include the cost of installation, which in almost all cases has been covered in-kind by the local Parks department. In some communities, sponsorship from local businesses has been found to help through donations of the jobsite box and sports equipment. This sponsorship can be rewarded through inclusion of the sponsors' logos on the box wrap.

### Average cost breakdown per box usually looks something like the following:

- Box—\$450-700
- Heavy-duty combination lock—\$30-40
- Wrapping—\$400-500
- Equipment and toys—\$300 (initial stock)

### Additional costs that some communities have included are:

- Soft close struts for added safety (not including installation)—\$21
- Chain to weld the lock to the box—\$50
- Wood inserts to keep children from climbing into the box—\$250
- Cement pad—\$500

On average it costs \$150-\$350 annually to maintain a Playbox (i.e. Playbox maintenance, lock replacement, equipment restocking, etc.)



## Sponsorship & Grants

Many communities have been successful in securing sponsorship and grants to cover part of the cost of their Playbox and its ongoing operation. Example sources of these funds have included:

- BC Healthy Living Alliance—Active Communities Grant
- Canadian Tire Jumpstart Program (equipment)
- Divisions of Family Practice
- Early Childhood Development Committees
- Hospital Foundations
- Lions Club
- Local Health Authority
- KMS Tools (box)
- Pacific Blue Cross
- Parent Advisory Committees and District Parent Advisory Committees
- Rotary Club
- Unions (equipment)
- United Way

## Monitoring

Generally, Playboxes are monitored on a weekly or biweekly basis by rec staff, playground leaders and supervisors, public works staff, park rangers or volunteers. Many communities also rely on public reporting, asking users or nearby neighbours to either email or call if the Playbox requires attention.

Delta Gymnastics implemented a moveable Playbox on their site that allows staff to set the box outside in the morning and bring it back in during the evening. This allows for close monitoring and the regular restocking of equipment. The District of Kent (Agassiz) created a Mobile Playbox to better support their efforts in promoting healthy, active play anytime and anywhere. Families complete a brief application form through the city's recreation department and then are able to sign out the Mobile Playbox for birthday parties, barbeques, block parties or any other kid-friendly event.

### NOW 2 Ways to PLAY!

Play is an important part of a healthy, active and happy childhood. The Live 5210 Playboxes are filled with recreational equipment for sports, games and activities so children can have access to play. It's as easy as



#### New Mobile Playbox!



- 1 Become a registered user, visit the CRCC to fill out a brief application form.
- 2 Receive an access code for the numerical combination lock for the Playbox in Pioneer Park or sign out the Mobile Playbox from the CRCC to take play to go!
- 3 Access the Playbox with friends and family ANYTIME to benefit from play and now play ANYWHERE with the new Mobile Playbox.

#### The Playbox in Pioneer Park!



Many communities are exploring Playbox ambassador programs that would engage local residents to be stewards of the Playboxes. For example, Surrey is in the process of exploring an “Adopt-a-box” model that encourages individuals, businesses, schools, or community groups to adopt a Playbox and therefore take ownership of its maintenance and upkeep. Similarly, in the Tri-Cities two school community coordinators have stepped up and agreed to be stewards for Playboxes that are in close proximity to their schools.

## **Vandalism & Theft**

The majority of communities have reported vandalism of their Playboxes at one time or another, but generally this has not occurred to a degree that has undermined community commitment to continue maintaining them.

### **Steps that communities have taken to mitigate future vandalism include:**

- Increased monitoring
- Increased signage explaining what a Playbox is and how to properly use it
- Changing the locking system—trying a different brand/model of lock or experimenting with leaving the Playbox unlocked
- Relocating the Playbox—many communities have found that moving their Playbox to a different location has been helpful in this regard
- Closing down the Playbox during the wet winter season when it’s less likely to be used by families
- Advising the local RCMP of the box locations

Theft (intentional or unintentional) of toys and equipment from Playboxes is one of the biggest challenges communities face.

### **Strategies to deter theft include:**

- Label all of the equipment with ‘Live 5-2-1-0’ using a permanent marker
- Routinely reset the lock codes
- Weld a chain to the lock and the box to prevent the lock from getting lost
- Send out reminders to parents and families to please close and lock the Playbox after use
- Ask nearby neighbours/businesses to keep an eye on the box

Many coordinators have expressed that some level of theft is unavoidable and therefore should be factored in when planning. As the coordinator in Kimberley explains, “we assume that whoever took the equipment will use it which is a good thing. This is an expected part of the program.”

As Brenda Adams from Abbotsford, who led the original idea and implementation of 3 boxes there, points out, the average annual maintenance cost to replace equipment, broken locks, etc., has been about \$1500 per year across three boxes; compared to the annual operating cost of most year-round recreation programs that promote outdoor physical activity for kids, this is very good value. In addition, because of the joint community partnership needed for the boxes to be successful (and the great opportunity to showcase the support of those partners on the wrapping on the box), communities have had great success in gaining commitment from local partners to support the ongoing cost of equipment replenishment.





In Chilliwack one particular Playbox in the downtown core experienced repeated thefts that unfortunately led to the equipment being permanently removed. To ensure local kids still have the opportunity to play, a partnership was formed with the YMCA who host facilitated play nights. A YMCA staff member brings out the equipment, supervises the activities, and then re-collects everything at the end of the session for safekeeping. In addition, Chilliwack changed their locks to a model that had less space between the body and arm of the lock where equipment could be wedged in to pry it open—which seems to have helped prevent lock damage and break-ins.

## Safety

Safety concerns have been raised by community partners in relation to the Playboxes, specifically the risk of lids slamming shut on body parts and children being (intentionally or unintentionally) locked inside.

The newer Knaack Jobsite Box has hydraulic arms which provide lid support to prevent the lid from slamming down, which helps mitigate the risk of injuries. For communities with different model Playboxes, hydraulic arms can be welded in to have the same effect. Surrey purchased 8x94x304 stainless 30lb struts at a cost of approximately \$21 per box (plus installation) from Strut Wise Technical Services (Surrey) and had them installed in their Playboxes for added safety.

Fortunately, we have not heard of a child being locked inside any Live 5-2-1-0 Playbox however, this remains a valid concern. Pitt Meadows had reports from area residents that teens would attempt to lock kids inside their Playbox so they decided to remove the locks and add drilled air holes as a precaution. Other communities have added a wood insert that partitions the box to deter children from climbing inside. These compartments also have an added function of helping to keep the equipment organized within the Playbox.



The coordinator of the Playboxes in North Cowichan has sent all of the local fire departments the codes in case there is an emergency and they need to have access—this may be useful in case other responders arrive first who are not able to cut the locks.

## Operational Challenges

Inevitably, each community will face challenges on their journey to implement and/or sustain the operations of a Playbox. What these hurdles will be is very much dependent on the specific context of the community and the support network surrounding the initiative, however, a number of trends have been identified across the Playbox network:

- Maintaining stock—thrift, damage to equipment
- Time and human resources for regular monitoring and restocking (commitment from partners to step up when necessary if original lead partner's capacity changes)
- User accountability—getting people to put the toys back and relock after use
- Finding a good lock that is user-friendly but durable enough to withstand frequent use
- Vandalism
- Promotion—getting families to use it



## Materials & Implementation

### Box & Wrap

The box used in most Playbox installations has been the Knaack 48" Jobsite box, which can be bought through KMS Tools and other retailers. Other box brands that have been used include Lordco, International, and Magnum.

Recently, the design of the Knaack 48" box seems to have been slightly altered—grooves and handles are placed slightly differently than they had been previously, and a small hydraulic arm has been added to aid in opening and closing the lid. These changes are important to determine the measurements for the design template for the wrap, to make sure logos and designs are correctly placed in relation to grooves and handles; it is also preferable to buy the new model with the hydraulic arm under the lid for safety considerations.

The boxes are wrapped with colourful signage that is designed to incorporate the Live 5-2-1-0 logo and icons in a way that is bright and fun. Local partner logos are also included on each wrap, as well as information on how families can obtain the access code. The vinyl wrap material is similar to what is often used on local hydro boxes, and should be weather and tamper resistant.



The Live 5-2-1-0 Central Office can assist with the development of Playbox wraps. We have a template for the graphic design file for the wraps and can work with new communities to add their local logos and information to it. Contact us at [info@live5210.ca](mailto:info@live5210.ca) if you would like to use Live 5-2-1-0 branded wraps for your Playboxes.

#### The information that needs to be gathered for the wraps includes:

- Local partner logos in vector file format (EPS, PDF, AI or similar—not JPG)
- Local website URL or phone number where people can register for the code to unlock the box
- Confirmation of box model and measurements, including indentations and handle placement.

Some communities have pre-existing branding and logos or graphic design elements for their local recreation programs, and have wanted to include this branding on their Live 5-2-1-0 Playbox wraps. In these cases, such as with the Maple Ridge wraps (pictured right), we have worked in partnership to develop custom wrap designs that include both the community branding as well as the Live 5-2-1-0 logo.



## Installation

In most communities, the local Parks & Recreation department has provided the in-kind contribution of transporting and installing the boxes. Boxes have been installed by bolting them to pre-existing concrete areas within parks, or pouring concrete pads as needed.

## Locking mechanism

Playboxes are usually kept locked with heavy-duty combination locks. There hasn't been a specific model of lock that has exceeded the rest in terms of durability and longevity—most communities report having gone through a trial and error process to find a lock that suits their Playbox and its environmental conditions, though Master Lock is the most commonly used brand. Locks with numbers on the bottom seem to stand up better to weather exposure, however, the numbers still tend to get rubbed off due to constant use so regular replacement is often necessary. Locks that allow for the combination to be changed are advisable.

Originally in Abbotsford, two locks were used on the recessed lock mechanisms that are part of the box; however, it was found that these were difficult for users to access. Subsequent versions of the Playboxes in different communities tried other locking approaches, and one of the popular solutions (developed by the community of Hope) is to bolt a hasp directly to the center of the lid/box (pictured right). Several communities have also welded the lock to a chain that is then welded to the box to ensure the lock itself is not misplaced.

Many communities have experienced problems with Playboxes being left open; this often occurs when multiple people are using the Playbox at once so no one locks it when they're done, "When you open it and there are a bunch of different kids/families there it makes it a bit awkward when you're leaving to know how to tell people you opened the box so they either will need to ensure everything is put back when we've left or that we'll need to collect the things now" (Playbox User—Surrey). Additional signage can also help to prevent this issue (more on signage below).

A few communities have therefore chosen to leave their Playbox unlocked either all of the time, or for some locations the box is unlocked during the day with a local partner/business providing oversight and locking the boxes up each night. These communities report no noted difference in equipment theft or vandalism since switching to an unlocked model, however keeping the Playboxes stocked with equipment still remains a challenge.



## Equipment

The sports equipment and play items placed in the boxes varies between communities and over time as contents are replenished. Local partners can also contribute valuable ideas for equipment and games that would be suitable for local environments and populations. Each box within a community can have slightly different contents, and often contents are changed periodically (and sometimes surprise seasonal pieces are added) to keep up the excitement and interest in the boxes.



Selection of equipment depends greatly on pieces being water resistant and durable, the cost of items, what in-kind donations are available through community partners, and the features of the park—for example:

- Large, open grass areas: soccer balls and small pop-up nets, frisbees, capture the flag flags, baseball gloves, scoops and balls, mini pylons, kites, bocce
- Basketball court: basketballs, street hockey, pickleball nets
- Smaller park areas: hula hoops, skipping ropes, playground balls, bubbles, chalk, badminton rackets and birdies
- Ping pong paddles and balls for parks with tables
- Beach parks: buckets & sand toys, frisbees, hula hoops, footballs



Labelling the equipment clearly with 'Live 5-2-1-0' in large letters using a permanent marker may help to deter theft.

In-kind donations of Playbox equipment can be helpful in cutting down costs. Donations often come from local businesses (ex. sporting stores), from families whose children may have outgrown certain items, and from the local recreation department or school when they upgrade their equipment.

In addition to play equipment, it's helpful to provide families with game ideas to get kids moving and having fun. Many communities have printed and laminated copies of the [Live 5-2-1-0 Outdoor Games Booklet](#) and the [Live 5-2-1-0 Around the World Outdoor Games Booklet](#) in their Playboxes for families to use. Each booklet contains instructions for over twenty games and can be downloaded from the Live 5-2-1-0 Resource Hub here: <https://live5210.ca/resources>

## Maintenance & Restocking

The protocol for restocking Playbox toys and equipment tends to be either on an as-needed basis (if toys are old/damaged or go missing) or on a set schedule (once a month, seasonally, etc.). The condition of a Playbox and its contents leaves an impression on families. In a Playbox user survey distributed in the summer of 2017, the regular replenishment and maintenance of equipment was one of the most frequent responses for how Playboxes could be improved; "Have someone check them regularly. Every time we have been to use one, the toys have been damaged, balls were flat, and very few things were usable."





### **Abbotsford's suggested Playbox Maintenance Kit (all in a Rubbermaid bin):**

- Scissors (to cut the packing off any replacement items that may be bought)
- Ball pump
- BIG permanent markers for marking all the equipment
- Babywipes for cleaning the inside/outside of the box
- Small equipment—Frisbees, sidewalk chalk, skipping ropes, bubbles etc.
- Extra lock (If locks are welded on with a chain this may not be needed)
- Any flyers/handouts that we want to put in the boxes
- Extra needles for the ball pump (they tend to break easily)
- Couple of plastic bags in case there is garbage in the box that needs to be taken away
- Small hand broom/dustpan for sweeping the inside of the box (they get pretty dirty sometimes)

To aid in thorough cleaning of the Playboxes, a tip from the coordinator from North Cowichan is to remove the rubber plugs in the bottom of the boxes for better drainage.

### **Access**

Instructions for how families can access the Playbox is included on the exterior wrapping of the Playbox. The access code for the combination lock is commonly shared through one of the following methods:

- Families must call or come into the nearby community centre
- Families must send an email to a designated email address (which can have an automatic auto-reply with the code and any additional information)
- The code is shared on the host organization's website or social media (many communities have created a special page with information on Live 5-2-1-0 and their local Playboxes)

A few communities require registrants to provide basic information in exchange for the code—mainly their name and email address. Collecting email addresses of registrants allows coordinators to provide updates on changes to the lock code, as well as upcoming community events or news about the Playboxes. It also facilitates obtaining periodic feedback on the Playboxes through online surveys.

An updated list of all Live 5-2-1-0 Playbox locations with links to community registration pages can be found at: [www.live5210.ca/playboxes](http://www.live5210.ca/playboxes)



## Signs

It's important to have signs inside and/or outside the box to explain to children and families what a Playbox is and how to properly use it.

Chilliwack has experimented with different signs and found its best to include one large laminated sign on the inside lid of the Playbox with these simple, clear instructions:

Here's how to use this box:

1. Sign up for free at (URL link) to receive code and Playbox updates
2. Play with the toys and RETURN them when you're done...don't forget to LOCK the box!
3. Help keep this program running by donating good condition, age-appropriate equipment
4. Let us know if this box needs attention by emailing (email address)
5. Have fun!

In Kimberley they had problems with toys being left out in the park and nearby sandbox so they are in the process of installing two signs in these areas to remind users to please return the toys and follow instructions for closing/locking the Playbox.

## Marketing & Promotion

**Communities promote their Playboxes a number of different ways:**

- social media
- flyers and rack cards for distribution at community centres, swimming pools, libraries, in rec programs, etc.
- ads in newsletters and rec & leisure guides
- organization or city website
- ads in local newspaper
- email blasts to local community and social service providers
- community events (i.e. Welcome to Kindergarten, Ready, Set Learn!)
- radio ads
- word of mouth

To promote their Live 5-2-1-0 Playboxes, Maple Ridge Parks, Recreation, & Culture created colourful bookmarks in partnership with the Maple Ridge Public Library. Using graphics that match their Playbox wraps, the bookmarks and postcards provide kids and families with information on what a Playbox is, where they are located, and how to register to gain access. The bookmarks were distributed to over 200 children participating in the library's summer reading program.

Similarly, the City of Surrey created rack cards with information and locations of their seven Playboxes that are distributed in their recreation centres. These cards have the added value of also allowing for public recognition of Playbox sponsors.





Recreation and leisure guides are an important local resource for connecting families with programs and services that promote active, healthy living, which makes them a great place to promote Playboxes! The Live 5-2-1-0 Central Team has created an adaptable ad template (pictured above) for communities to use to promote their local Live 5-2-1-0 Playbox(es). The ad is available for download here: [www.live5210.ca/rec](http://www.live5210.ca/rec)

Please email [info@live5210.ca](mailto:info@live5210.ca) to let us know once your Playbox has launched so we can add its location to the Live 5-2-1-0 website and promote it through our social media.

### Launch events

Launch events can help to increase the public's awareness of a Playbox and also allow for community partners to come together and celebrate the result of their collective efforts. Engaging community partners to contribute and participate in a Playbox launch is a great way to increase awareness and promotion of the event. Local businesses and organizations may also be able to provide in-kind items (i.e. balloons, flyer printing, non sugar-sweetened beverages) to further support the success of the launch.

It can be beneficial to coincide a Playbox launch with another family-friendly event happening nearby (i.e. farmer's market, neighbourhood block party, fall fair) to increase attendance and to support cross-promotion of community initiatives. Many communities have also found it helpful to have a core group of kids confirmed to attend the event (i.e. school class, daycare group, etc.)—this also makes a great photo opportunity for any media people who may be attending.



## Evaluation

The Live 5-2-1-0 Central Team partnered with the communities of Abbotsford, Agassiz, Chilliwack, Maple Ridge, North Cowichan, Surrey, and the Tri-Cities in the summer of 2017 to send out a simple, short online survey to all families who had registered for the code to their Playboxes (as each registrant must provide an email when registering). Information collected through the survey included frequency and location of use, what respondents liked best about the Playboxes, and what they would like changed. Pictured right is a summary infographic of the collective findings from this evaluation.

If your community is interested in conducting an evaluation of your Live 5-2-1-0 Playbox please connect with us!

## Advice from Playbox Coordinators

In our recent survey, we asked Playbox Coordinators "what advice would you give to someone interested in implementing a new Playbox?" Here is what they said...

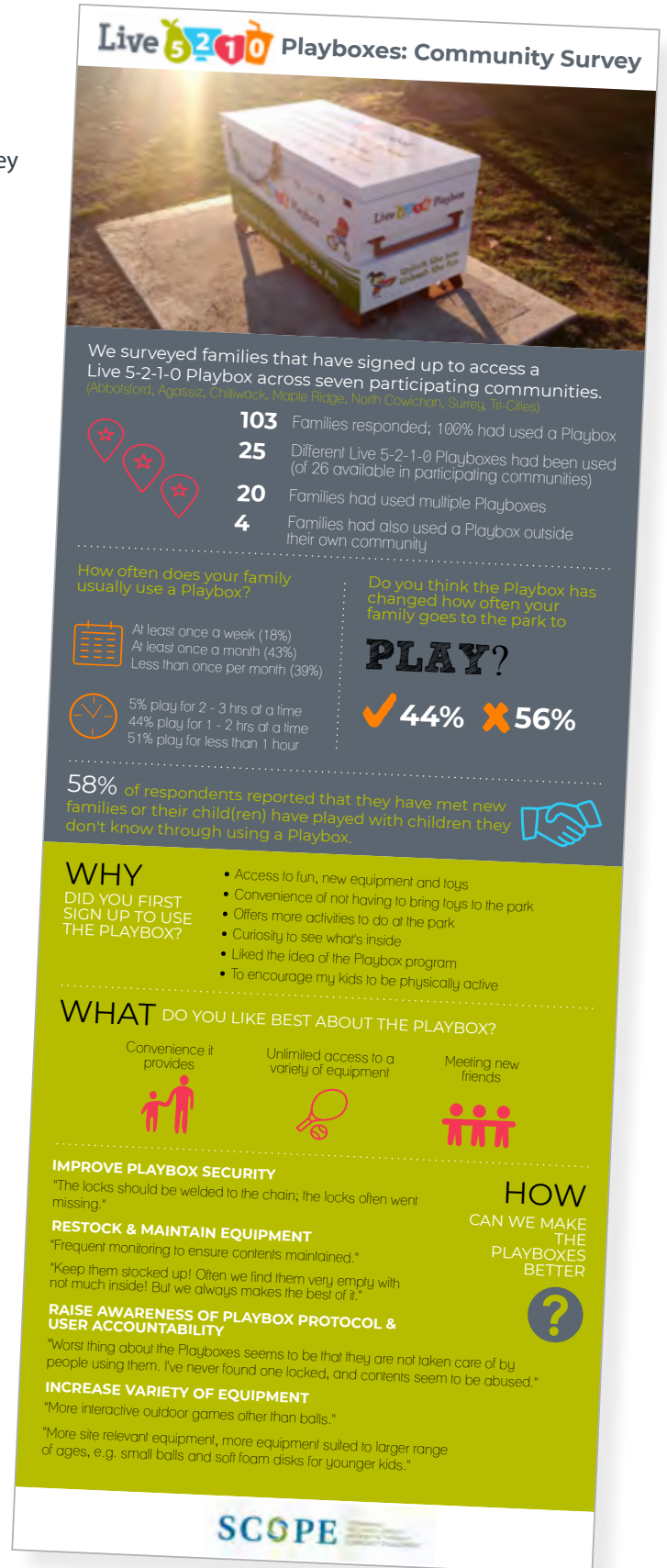
*Try to get your local municipality parks department to take on the maintenance as they are already in the parks on a regular basis. Assure you have a lock that can be welded or bolted to the box itself to avoid it going missing.*

*Check it regularly.*

*Possibly partner up with a school or organization that can have better eyes on the box. Vandalism and theft is a big problem. Safety is a new concern that has recently come to the forefront.*

*I've seen successful 5210 Playbox programs when the box is connected to a community centre or business. This is a model that allows for daily monitoring and locking/unlocking of boxes, if required. In stand-alone parks (where we have our boxes currently), we have greater successes with very basic, small, community donation toy boxes.*

*It's a great idea and concept. It's just difficult to manage on a daily basis which I think is required in order for this to be truly successful. With lost toys on a regular basis, this is a costly project. Not sure how to fix that.*





*Do not install a playbox in a community park that has a lot of transient users. Put it in a neighbourhood park. Have a schedule for checking and maintaining the box.*

*Do it! But plan for having someone monitor contents from the outset.*

*Implement more than one.*

*To make sure that there's an operation budget for equipment replacement and to have their parks department help with looking out for the boxes.*

*Ensure adequate staff support.*

*This is a great idea for families, youth and older adults out playing. For how much it costs it is a great investment for the community.*

*Ensure that there is ongoing funding source for equipment replacement and really promote for registered users.*

*Do it!*

*Install a non-locking playbox that is smaller in depth and offers easier access for overall accessibility. The current Playbox size is overall not very accessible. It is too hard to reach in to a deep box, someone is always climbing in to reach items or we often see a parent hold their child over the box or place them inside to get some of the equipment. As well, the box is in general not wheelchair friendly. A box that is shallower would be better. A shallower box would also be better for organization into sections and reduce the opportunity to have someone hide inside the box. In general, most preferred toys and equipment are smaller in size and we don't need large inventory kept inside.*

*Locks were unsuccessful for us. They only work if the boxes are eventually relocked by a user and they never wanted to lock the box because toys were still in use. So they were always left unlocked. Balls go flat overnight in the cold. Printing and laminating playbooks is expensive but worth it.*

*Be particular of your locations to minimize theft and vandalism.*

