

A young boy in a dark blue t-shirt and denim shorts is performing a handstand on a colorful synthetic playground surface. The surface is composed of large, irregular patches of purple, orange, and green. The boy is upside down, with his hands on the purple patch and his feet in the air. The background shows a grassy area and trees under a blue sky with some clouds.

nottssport<sup>®</sup>///:  
Synthetic Surfacing / ChildsPlay<sup>®</sup>

[www.nottssport.com](http://www.nottssport.com)



## Who we are...

Notts Sport® is a leading specialist in the design and supply of synthetic surfacing systems for children's playgrounds. The company has over 25 years' experience in providing non-turf technology in an amazing range of colourful, creative and exciting formats, including its innovative ChildsPlay® systems.

ChildsPlay® combines a tactile, vibrant artificial turf surface with a shock-absorbing base for added safety to meet requirements for equipment-linked or free play. Ideal for schools, nurseries and playgrounds, it is also cleaner, more visually appealing and offers greater wear and vandalism-resistance than many alternative surfaces available.

By choosing Notts Sport® for your project, you can also benefit from expert advice and assistance from the design stage to installation and aftercare. Our experienced ChildsPlay® team is here to offer a guiding hand to help turn your dream project into a reality.

*This handy brochure takes you through the unique features of ChildsPlay®, and you can browse a selection of our projects on the enclosed CD.*

## How we can help...

If you are considering installing a new play area – or refurbishing an existing one – Notts Sport® will be happy to visit your site to provide a free, no obligation quote, assist you in securing funding for your project, and design a facility that is specific to your needs.

Notts Sport® offers a complete Design & Advisory Service at no cost to the customer. This service is a foundation of the Notts Sport® ethos and is included to ensure its products are always installed to the highest standards and that every project is a success.

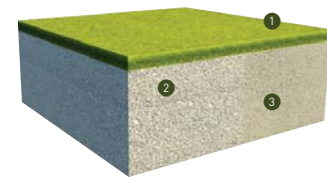
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## ChildsPlay® Systems

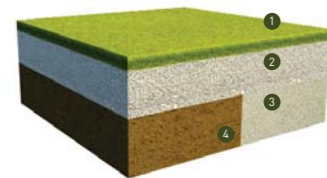
ChildsPlay® is a versatile surfacing system that can be installed over existing asphalt, concrete, soil or stone. The system suits a range of environments, from a mud-free recreational area through to a surfacing that's ideal under climbing frames, swings and other equipment and offers critical fall height protection of up to 3.0 metres.

Each variant of the ChildsPlay® system is topped by VHAF® NottsSward® artificial turf, and so where a single scheme may use a combination of bases to meet different uses and safety requirements, to the child's eye the ChildsPlay® area enjoys the same huge appeal from edge to edge.



### ChildsPlay® Recreation

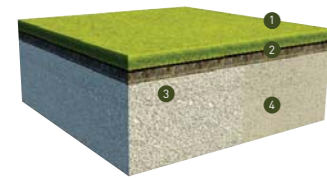
1. VHAF® NottsSward® 1150
2. Clean Stone
3. Concrete / Asphalt



### ChildsPlay® 60

Critical fall height upto 60cm

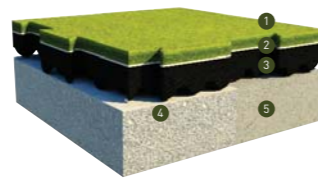
1. VHAF® NottsSward® 1150
2. Min 50mm of 10-6mm clean angular stone
3. Concrete / Asphalt
4. Existing ground



### ChildsPlay® 90/120

Critical fall height upto 90/120cm

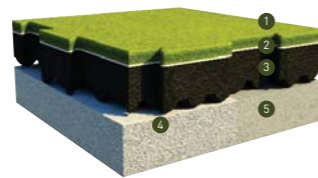
1. VHAF® NottsSward® 1150
2. VHAF® Underlay + 4kgm² Rubber Crumb
3. Min 50mm of 10-6mm clean angular stone (ChildsPlay® 120)
4. Concrete / Asphalt (ChildsPlay® 90)



### ChildsPlay® 170

Critical fall height upto 170cm

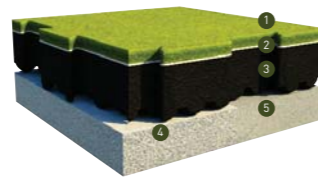
1. VHAF® NottsSward® 1150
2. NottsFilm® Stiff
3. NottsBase® EPP 40
4. Sub base stone under a geotextile layer
5. Concrete / Asphalt



### ChildsPlay® 210

Critical fall height upto 210cm

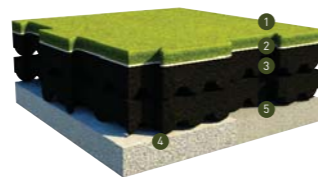
1. VHAF® NottsSward® 1150
2. NottsFilm® Stiff
3. NottsBase® EPP 55
4. Sub base stone under a geotextile layer
5. Concrete / Asphalt



### ChildsPlay® 250

Critical fall height upto 250cm

1. VHAF® NottsSward® 1150
2. NottsFilm® Stiff
3. NottsBase® EPP 65
4. Sub base stone under a geotextile layer
5. Concrete / Asphalt



### ChildsPlay® 300

Critical fall height upto 300cm

1. VHAF® NottsSward® 1150
2. NottsFilm® Stiff
3. 2 No. NottsBase® EPP 40
4. Sub base stone under a geotextile layer
5. Concrete / Asphalt



The unique hemispheres disperse energy on impact



EPP Tiles slot together easily for quick installation

## NottsBase® EPP Tile

NottsBase® EPP is a specialist base layer used in ChildsPlay® 170 through to ChildsPlay® 300 systems, which offers safety benefits for children – and cost benefits for play providers. EPP stands for expanded polypropylene, which is moulded into tiles complete with hemispheres underneath – a feature that is unique to ChildsPlay®.

The hemispheres create an air void through which energy is dispersed on impact ensuring enhanced performance over a traditional, flat EPP tile. NottsBase® EPP is used in three depths – 40mm, 55mm and 65mm – with a fourth system available through 40mm tiles stacked to double depth, providing a critical fall height protection of up to 3.0 metres.

This enables ChildsPlay® systems to employ different levels of critical fall height protection easily. For example, ChildsPlay® 170, which offers protection from falls up to 1.7m, is appropriate for surfaces surrounding low-level play equipment, such as roundabouts and toddler apparatus, and uses a single layer of NottsBase® EPP 40 tiles. Higher levels of NottsBase® EPP can be used for areas under climbing frames, swings and slides.

Because NottsBase® EPP tiles are lightweight and slot together in a simple dovetail formation, they can be installed quickly and easily, meaning facilities refurbished with ChildsPlay® won't be out of commission for long.





## Why choose ChildsPlay®?

ChildsPlay® is a tactile and vibrant surface solution that provides a wide range of benefits, including improved safety, low maintenance and, through a child's eyes, amazing opportunity for adventure! With plenty of scope for using different colours, markings and shapes, traditional grass, asphalt or bark-covered grounds can be transformed into an inspirational play area.

While perfect for new installations or to refurbish an existing play area, ChildsPlay® is also just as adept at covering mounds and slopes as it is over a flat surface or under play equipment.

Parents and teachers love ChildsPlay® because there is no mud or lingering puddles – just a soft, clean playground that stays in great condition in any weather. Play providers also benefit because the system offers high levels of durability and vandal-resistance and requires minimal maintenance over its long lifetime.

But more than anything else, ChildsPlay® is fun. Vibrant colours and designs set free imaginations, turning the surface into anything from a soaring spaceship to a sun-baked desert island or a ship at sea. And with traditional markings such as hopscotch and mazes, children can run and jump to their hearts' content.

We can offer expert advice on creating your area using our ready-made patterns and innovative playground designs, or you can see your own ideas brought to life using the latest computer technology.

## Flexible & tactile

ChildsPlay® surfacing systems are flexible enough to enable variations in the surface form, elevation and markings, which challenge children to move through the space in a variety of ways, giving their own interpretation to the area. As well as energising minds and bodies this unique system promotes the enjoyment of a wide range of sensory experiences, including balance, touch, shape and movement.

While ChildsPlay® provides the potential for exploration and exhilaration through colourful surface designs, the tactile feel of the outdoor VHAF® NottsSward® carpet that surfaces every ChildsPlay® system can also persuade youngsters to relax – to sit and talk to friends, to roll down slopes and crawl about – all in a cleaner, safer environment.



## Disabled accessibility

ChildsPlay® promotes inclusive play, by giving children of different ages and abilities the chance to exercise, interact and have fun together. Designed to be inspirational without the need for play equipment, the surfacing system starts with the premise that children are already equipped with the essential tools for play – their imaginations.

Our research showed that for younger children and youngsters with disabilities, equipment-linked play can leave them feeling daunted or excluded. By making the play surface itself both mentally and physically stimulating, while remaining accessible to all levels of ability including wheelchair users, ChildsPlay® can increase the opportunity for exercise, social interaction and learning.

Ultimately, ChildsPlay® provides children with the means to create their own games and have fun, imaginative adventures together while developing their strength and capabilities.



## Landscaping

The benefits of using VHAF® NottsSward® synthetic grass stretch well beyond the playground, and this highly durable surface can be used to create paths and standing areas. Perfect for eliminating unsightly worn grass and mud, and for preventing soil erosion, it offers a softer and much smarter alternative to concrete, asphalt, loose bark or gravel.

With a wide range of colours to choose from, synthetic grass is ideal for municipal or rural environments, and because our VHAF® NottsSward® synthetic grass surfaces can be laid over flat ground, slopes and irregular mounds, they're great for surrounding the base of trees and laying along roadsides – locations where worn grass, watering or mowing is an issue.

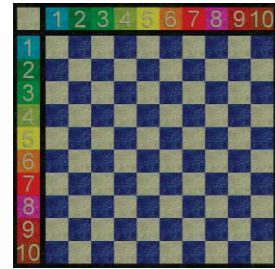
Parks, picnic sites, school grounds, shopping centres, sports clubs, golf and equestrian centres... the only limit to the landscape is your imagination!



## Use your imagination...

Children can see stories and possibilities where the adult mind doesn't, and so a mound becomes a desert island surrounded by water, and simple lines become a running track, a road to cross, or a den. The range of designs is infinite, so why not run a competition to let the children who will use your play area put forward their ideas too?

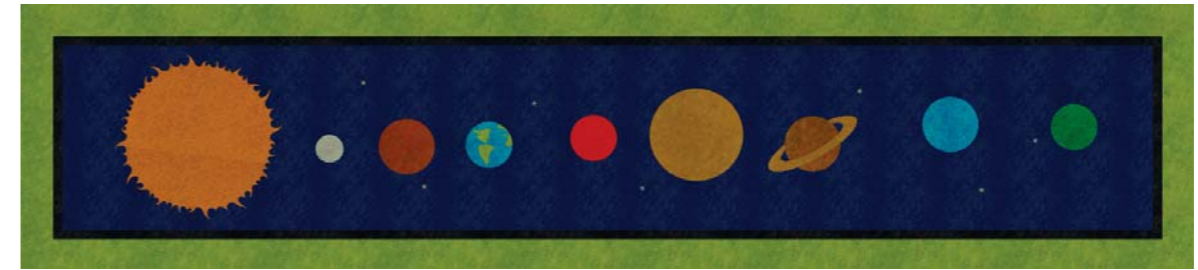
The VHAF® NottsSward® synthetic turf carpet is available in 15 colours, offering unlimited potential for patterns and games. Mounds, slopes and hollows can be incorporated into the design – and whatever colour or form it takes, the textured, tactile carpet remains durable against the rigours of the environment and children at play.



## Educational...

Alongside freeform or equipment-linked patterns, markings for more conventional games such as chess and hopscotch, or distance markers, letters or numbers can be added, providing the opportunity for children to challenge themselves individually, or in groups.

Alternatively, why not include a map of the world or even the entire solar system? Notts Sport® can offer expert advice on creating your area using our ready-made patterns and innovative playground designs, or you can see your own ideas brought to life using the latest computer technology.



In the space of a single playtime adventurous children can go planet-hopping...



...or explore what lies in far-off lands



## Resistant to vandalism

VHAF® NottsSward® artificial turf feels soft to the touch, but it's a force to be reckoned with for vandals. The sand infill held within the random pile of the surface makes it resistant to fire, containing damage to a small area which can be easily repaired or replaced at minimal cost.

The sand infill also makes it extremely difficult to cut into the carpet, even with a sharp knife. And unlike 'plastic' artificial grass, if graffiti is sprayed onto VHAF® NottsSward®, paint can be removed using a firm bristle brush. By choosing ChildsPlay®, you can rely on Notts Sport's expert aftercare service for advice on any maintenance issues.



Resistant to fire - damage is limited

Graffiti - paint can be brushed away

Vandalism - the sand infill protects the system

## Thermal stability

Unlike rubber wet-pour or tile surfacing the VHAF® NottsSward® surface used in the ChildsPlay® systems is a thermally stable product. This stability means that the ChildsPlay® systems do not contract in cold weather and expand in hot weather. This gives our ChildsPlay® systems a distinct advantage over rubber surfaces which can react to the changes in temperature.

This often leads to the rubber surface moving away from the original edges of a play area, causing a small gap to appear at the perimeter. Once spotted by some of those using the play area this gap will usually get bigger and bigger, until you end up with the kind of damage shown in the photos.

The benefits to the play provider of using ChildsPlay®, in terms of the savings to be made in repair costs and time lost whilst the play area is closed, are there for all to see.



## Advantages over loose-fill

VHAF® NottsSward® offers a far smarter and more visually appealing alternative to loose-fill playground surfaces and, because it's a clean and quick-draining surface option, will greatly reduce the amount of playtime lost in wet weather. Loose-fill surfaces can hide broken glass and dog waste, but on VHAF® NottsSward® these dangers are easier to spot - and clear away.



## Tufted v's Needlepunched

VHAF® NottsSward® synthetic carpet features a random needlepunched pile of vertical, horizontal and angular fibres (VHAF). This is unique to Notts Sport® surfaces, offers improved drainage and can reduce maintenance costs when compared with tufted grass. The random structure of the fibres keeps the sand infill stable, which in turn prevents the flattening or hardening of the fibres over time.

The random pile and stabilised sand infill also protects the seams of the VHAF® NottsSward® carpet, reducing the risk of splitting and improving the overall lifespan of the surface.



VHAF® NottsSward®



Typical tufted grass - loose sand





## Value for money & peace of mind

ChildsPlay® is a cost-effective solution favoured by many multi-facility providers, such as local authorities, for refurbishing existing play parks or for creating new facilities. While sand and bark can be the cheapest short-term choices, even at the five-year stage a ChildsPlay® system compares favourably for those on a tight budget. By its tenth anniversary, a ChildsPlay® system reveals itself to be better value for money than any of the listed alternatives.

A ChildsPlay® system has a typical lifespan of around 8-10+ years, and after that time it is usually only the VHAF® NottsSward® carpet that will need replacing, not the base. This cuts maintenance costs and the time a facility is out of action.

### 5 Year Study – Typical Play Area with CFH of 2.4m (approx. 360m<sup>2</sup>)

Surface Type	Capital Cost	Maintenance / Repair Costs over 5 years	Disposal / Land-fill Costs	Total Life Costs
Play Sand	£8,500	£15,800		£24,300
Play Bark	£9,100	£16,600		£25,700
Wet-pour (black)	£34,000	£1,000	£4,000	£39,000
Wet-pour (colours)	£42,500	£1,000	£4,000	£47,500
Tiles (black)	£38,250	£3,000	£4,000	£45,250
Tiles (colours)	£48,000	£3,000	£4,000	£55,000
<b>ChildsPlay®</b>	<b>£30,750</b>	<b>£2,000</b>	<b>£2,000</b>	<b>£34,750</b>

### 10 Year Study – Typical Play Area with CFH of 2.4m (approx. 360m<sup>2</sup>)

Surface Type	Capital Cost	Maintenance / Repair Costs over 10 years	Disposal / Land-fill Costs	Total Life Costs
Play Sand	£8,500	£31,600		£40,100
Play Bark	£9,100	£33,200		£42,300
Wet-pour (black)	£34,000	£2,000	£4,000	£40,000
Wet-pour (colours)	£42,500	£2,000	£4,000	£48,500
Tiles (black)	£38,250	£6,000	£4,000	£48,250
Tiles (colours)	£48,000	£6,000	£4,000	£58,000
<b>ChildsPlay®</b>	<b>£30,750</b>	<b>£4,000</b>	<b>£2,000</b>	<b>£36,750</b>

## Funding information

Notts Sport's ChildsPlay® team will not only provide a detailed cost analysis of your play project, but can also assist you to find additional funding to help turn the dream into a reality.

Notts Sport® works with a number of UK and European sports and play organisations, including the UK's Association of Play Industries (API), to enhance and develop children's opportunities to take part in inclusive and healthy activities.

In addition to funding options, you can also generate income through a sponsor's logo, which can be inserted into the play surface.



## Installation

Notts Sport® only chooses installation companies with high levels of expertise in non-turf systems, and each has undergone the specialist training required to become an Authorised Installer of ChildsPlay® systems.

By managing the installation of your system, Notts Sport® and its Authorised Installers ensure the ChildsPlay® systems are always installed to the highest standards and that your project is a complete success.



## Service & Maintenance

We don't envisage your ChildsPlay® system needing much maintenance over its lifetime, but should you require aftercare assistance, Notts Sport® is here to help. We offer free advice on caring for a VHAF® NottsSward® surface, and can put you in touch with specialists in your area to carry out annual or ad hoc maintenance to keep your play area in tip-top condition.

If you have an existing play or recreation facility – whether it was designed by Notts Sport® or by another company – you can receive a free condition check. Our experts will provide a professional evaluation of your current facility, plus advice on future maintenance, refurbishment or upgrade options.

As part of the free condition check, any action appropriate to your installation will be outlined, including costs and timescales. Notts Sport® can also advise on the potential to upgrade your facility to improve its performance, or to cater for new activities.

## We're here to help...

Creating a play area is a fun and exciting project, and that's why Notts Sport® lets you stay in control of your project, while being on-hand to guide you through each step so that you achieve the very best results.

The ChildsPlay® team is here to advise on feasibility, location and budget, to help you choose an inspirational design, and to assist you in finding potential funding, an expert installation team, and to make sure aftercare and advice is there when you need it.

Please take a look at the frequently asked questions to find out more about our ChildsPlay® systems, or get in touch with us today.

### Frequently asked questions

**Q. Why do we say that the VHAF® NottsSward® surface & ChildsPlay® systems are vandal-resistant?**

A. The sand that inundates the pile of the VHAF® NottsSward® is the key. When somebody tries to cut the material using a knife it will be as though they are trying to cut through a bed of sand; extremely difficult for them to cause any damage. The sand within the pile of the VHAF® NottsSward® also ensures that there is very little oxygen within the pile for any fire to spread, therefore should a vandal manage to start a fire on the surface it will quickly burn itself out and the damage will be localised. If graffiti is a problem then once again the sand is the key to vandal-resistance as a large proportion of the paint sprayed onto the surface will end up not on the fibres of the VHAF® NottsSward® but rather on the sand itself. The affected sand can then be brushed out of the VHAF® NottsSward®, leaving the surface looking like it hasn't been subject to graffiti.

**Q. Why is sand brushed into the pile of the VHAF® NottsSward® surface?**

A. Apart from the reasons listed immediately above it also has the added benefit of protecting the fibres of the VHAF® NottsSward®. Thus the sand will add to the longevity of the surface.

**Q. How long will a VHAF® NottsSward® surface last?**

A. It is impossible to give an exact figure. However we indicate to potential customers that should they maintain the surface on a regular basis then the surface should last between 8-10 years. Many of our clients have had surfacing which has lasted a lot longer. There are many examples in the UK of ChildsPlay areas within public parks lasting for over 15 years.

**Q. How is VHAF® NottsSward® 'stuck down'?**

A. The material is not 'stuck down' to an existing surface. The previously mentioned sand is brushed into the VHAF® NottsSward® at a rate of between 18-20kg per metre and this is sufficient weight to hold it in place without having to stick it down. The VHAF® NottsSward® surface will also be tensioned and secured at the edges during installation, and this also helps keep the surface 'in place'.

**Q. How are different pieces of VHAF® NottsSward® stuck together?**

A. There are a number of scenarios where you will need to join two pieces of VHAF® NottsSward® together: when you come to adjacent rolls, where you have had to make a cut in the material so as to fit it around some play equipment or where you have different coloured pieces. Where such a scenario is encountered then a carrier tape with glue impregnated into it is evenly placed under both pieces of VHAF® NottsSward®. By means of a 150mm wide seaming iron the impregnated glue within the carrier tape is heated up. While the glue in the tape is still hot and before it cures, the VHAF® NottsSward® is placed over the carrier tape and the two pieces of VHAF® NottsSward® are bonded together instantly. The Hot Melt glue method is the most commonly used, but where that is not appropriate then cold glue may be used.



**Q. How is VHAF® NottsSward® secured at the edge of an area?**

A. There are two methods that are most commonly used. One is used on grass areas and the other on hard surface areas such as asphalt or concrete. We will deal with the grass one first:

**GRASS**

- When the area to be surfaced has been defined then a timber frame is constructed around the perimeter of the area. The timber frame is set 5mm below the proposed finished level of the surface.
- When the VHAF® NottsSward® is due to be laid then the Authorised Installer will overlap the material by 100mm past the edge of the area to be surfaced.
- A deep channel of turf is cut out around the timber frame thus exposing the back of the timber framework.
- The 100mm overlap of VHAF® NottsSward® is then laid over the exposed timber and secured to the timber using 25mm galvanised nails.
- The channel of turf is then put back in place.
- The customer is left with a surface that leads straight onto the surrounding grass and one that is secured below the ground, making it virtually impossible to pick away at from the edges.

**ASPHALT/CONCRETE**

- The Authorised Installer will cut a groove into the asphalt/concrete at the perimeter of the area to be surfaced. The groove should be approx. 12mm in width and 50-75mm deep.
- When it gets to the point where the VHAF® NottsSward® is due to be laid then the Authorised Installer will overlap the material by 50-75mm past the edge of the area to be surfaced.
- Using a hammer and bolster they will then tuck the overlapped VHAF® NottsSward® into the groove created earlier.
- The VHAF® NottsSward® doubles up in the groove to create a tight fit that will remain.

**Q. What kind of surface can VHAF® NottsSward® be laid onto?**

A. VHAF® NottsSward® can be laid onto any kind of surface, as long as the surface that it is being laid onto is 'level, porous & firm'. So if you have a soil area that is level and porous but not firm then we recommend adding a stone base onto soil to aid drainage and suppress weed growth. If you have a concrete area that is firm and porous but not level then you would have to apply some form of levelling medium to the area etc.



### Get in touch...

To find out more about how you can benefit from Notts Sport's range of synthetic surfacing solutions – and gain expert advice and assistance to plan, manage and complete your project – simply call us on 01455 883 730, email [info@nottssport.com](mailto:info@nottssport.com) or visit the web site at [www.nottssport.com](http://www.nottssport.com)

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