

# **The Big Ask: What we learned from children aged 4-5**

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June 2022

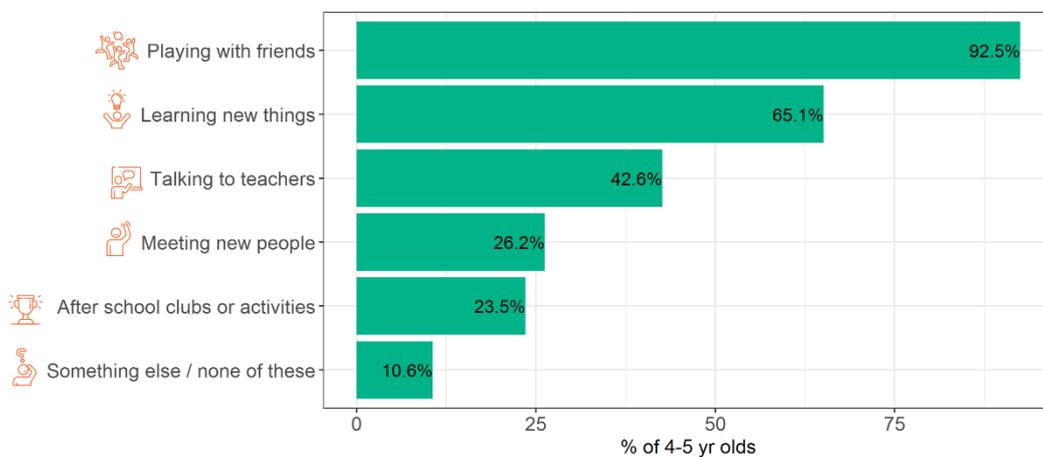
## The Big Ask: What we learned from children aged 4-5

The Big Ask is the biggest ever survey of children, with over half a million responses. The survey was open to any child in England aged 4-17 and the Children's Commissioner launched this survey online between April and May 2021, running for six weeks. It was a publicly available survey and children's participation was anonymous and voluntary, to ensure that as many children could be reached as possible, and they could feel comfortable speaking freely. The Big Answer summarises the responses from children aged 6-17.<sup>1</sup>

We received 12,359 responses from children aged 4-5, who were asked different questions than children aged 6-17. This is the largest survey of 4- and 5-year-olds that we're aware of. Children aged 4-5 were asked to choose up to 3 pictures for a series of 3 questions: what they most liked at school, what they most liked at home and what they wanted to do more of. The results are unweighted but there is an even split between gender and the responses are geographically disperse, as shown in Table 1 and Table 2 in the Annex.

When asked what children most liked to do at school, the most popular response was playing with friends (93%), followed by learning new things (65%).

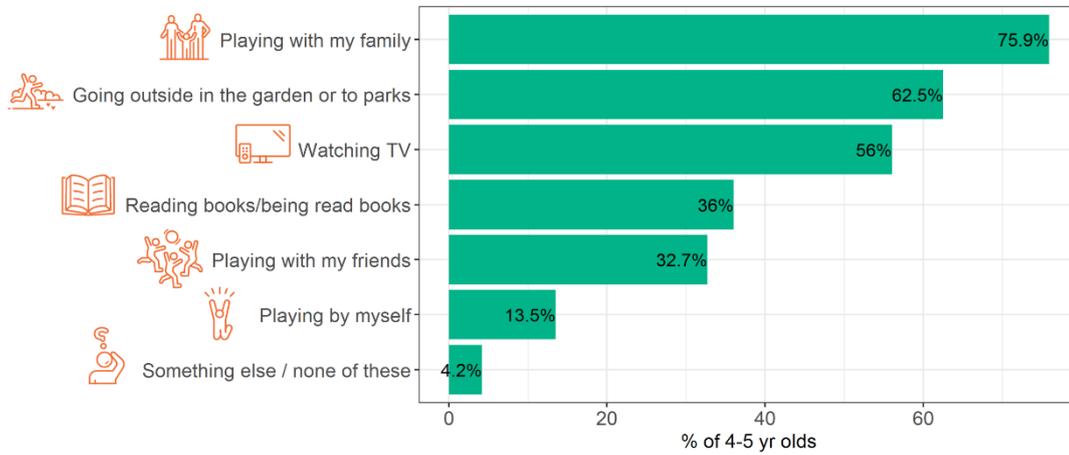
### What would children aged 4-5 most like to do at school?



When asked what children most liked to do at home, the most popular response was playing with their family (76%), followed by going outside (63%).

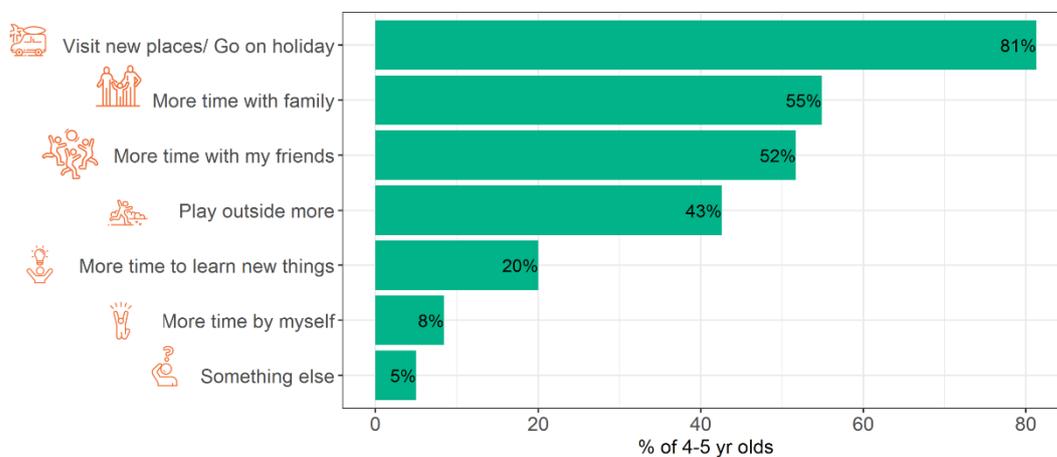
<sup>1</sup> Children's Commissioner, The Big Answer, available at: [https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/occ\\_the\\_big\\_ask\\_the\\_big\\_answer\\_2021.pdf](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/occ_the_big_ask_the_big_answer_2021.pdf)

### What would children aged 4-5 most like to do at home?



When asked what children would like to do more of, the most popular response was visiting new places/ going on holiday (81%), followed by spending more time with family (55%).

### What would children aged 4-5 like to do more of?



**Annex**
**Table 1: Number and share of respondents by region**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
South East	2,086	17
East of England	1,746	14
London	1,449	12
West Midlands	1,411	11
North West	1,281	10
Region unknown	1,263	10
East Midlands	957	8
Yorkshire and The Humber	895	7
South West	882	7
North East	389	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,359</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 2: Number and share of respondents by gender**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Female	5,952	48
Male	5,937	48
Prefer not to say	470	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,359</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 3: Number and share of respondents by age**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
4 years old	3,900	32
5 years old	7,911	64
Prefer not to say	548	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,359</b>	<b>100</b>



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