

Once again the Office of Social Welfare and Youth Services have brought DIVERESPAI to Formentera, kicking off the Christmas holiday season with a very special set of activities for boys and girls from 3 to 12 years old.

The Formentera Diverespai will begin its 2013 run next Saturday and will remain open until 19 December, with hours of operation from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm and 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The mornings of the 17th, 18th and 19th use will be reserved for island schools, who have all scheduled visits.

The idea is for each of Formentera's educational centres to be able to take advantage of Diverespai during classtime hours, thus ensuring that the island's population of children is, in its near entirety, able to enjoy the installation. Every year roughly 700 boys and girls visit Diverespai.

The installation consists of an ensemble of activities and inflatable toys located in the gymnasium portion of IES Marc Ferrer, and play is supervised by different day counsellors.

At Diverespai children will find inflatable castles, animals and an assortment of stairs, nets and other obstacles to overcome. They will also have the possibility to take part in different themed-workshops and craft activities led by counsellors. If we take play as a tool in integration, one that promotes healthy socialization and teamwork, Diverespai serves as an excellent way to kick off the Christmas holiday.

Entertainment and safety at the play space will be overseen by a team of 12 counsellors, coordinated by the S'Espurna after-school play centre. Counsellors are on hand to accompany participating children in a space where they can learn to play, have fun, and develop their imagination and creativity with games. The event had a budget of 26 thousand euros, a sum that included bus service; set-up, take-down and maintenance of facilities and hiring of personnel.

The inflatable toys at Diverespai include:
Koala Play Zone
Panama Canal
The Great Slide
Basketball Court
Happy Whale
Rubber Beds
Sumo Circuit
Mighty Mouse

Workshops offered:
Face-painting
Fischer Tips (play material made from Potato Starch and coloured with food dye that sticks to surfaces with a little bit of water)
Christmas (Christmas cards, decorations, etc.)
Videogames