

This Saturday the Formentera Council's social welfare office welcomes Diverespai. A play space with activities and inflatable toys for children aged 3 to 12, Diverespai will be on the island December 15-19, Saturday to Wednesday, from 9.30am to 1.30pm and again from 4.00pm to 8.00pm. For three mornings starting December 17 the installation will be reserved for local schools.

Social welfare councillor Vanessa Parellada pointed out that every year "one of the best parts of the Christmas holiday comes right at the start".

Inflatables and crafts

Diverespai is set up in IES Marc Ferrer secondary school's sport module and is staffed by a team of 13 youth workers who supervise play. Giant blow-up castles, animals and shapes adorned with staircases, nets and obstacles are arrayed across the park while attendants propose guided play, face-painting and assorted arts and crafts.

Learn through play

"The idea is to fuse learning and fun—using play to fuel imaginations and creativity", said Parellada. She noted "children are conscious that playing together makes us better at living together" and concluded, "It's not a bad lesson for the start of the holiday season".