

## Language Activity **Answer Sheet:**

Use the underlined linking words and expressions from the text above to complete this exercise. In some cases there is more than one possible answer.

Every local government should ensure that there are enough safe outdoor spaces for children to play [as, because] outdoor activities play a vital part in childhood development. Playgrounds [not only] provide vital space for children to socialise, [but also] a safe environment for physical exercise away from the dangers of traffic. [However] local governments often prioritise other interests such as parking spaces [as, because] they are financially more viable [despite, in spite of] overwhelming evidence that shows the benefit of social spaces to society. [Thus/Therefore] there tends to be a lack of playgrounds, especially in larger cities where space is at a premium. In the country, [on the other hand], there is considerably more space available. [However] lower population density and less government income mean that there is [also] often a lack of playgrounds in the country [despite, in spite of] the availability of space. There is a common misconception that the country is a much safer place for children to play [and] that [thus/therefore] formal playgrounds are unnecessary. [On the contrary] due to the increasingly industrialised farming operations [and] dangers from the natural environment, safe playgrounds are as important in the country as they are in big cities. Not all parents are able to provide safe outdoor play areas for their children [so] it is the government's responsibility to fund playgrounds regardless of the area.