



## Background

Playday is the annual celebration of the children's right to play and this year it takes place on Wednesday 6 August.

On Playday thousands of children and young people throughout the UK will get out and celebrate the importance of play.

Events can be held on or before the official date and these can be big or small, public or private. If you work with children and young people why not allocate a day for Playday and you can celebrate this in your own settings. It's not too late to register your event and we ask that you get involved and help us promote the importance of play and risk in a child's development.

## Theme

This year's theme is **Give us a go!** which promotes the benefits of allowing children to manage their own risks whilst playing and aims to counter the risk-averse 'cotton-wool' culture that is today limiting children's play experiences.

We will be calling for children and young people to be allowed challenging and adventurous play opportunities as enjoyed by previous generations before them.

The title also highlights:

- Giving children and young people the same challenging play opportunities that us adults had when we were growing up.
- Children and young people's voice asking adults to give them a chance to make their own judgements.
- Evokes an exciting play opportunity with children keen to have a go.
- Children's voice, what they would say to each other whilst playing.
- Positive message.

Do you remember when you were young and you used to lie on your back in the grass with your pals and guess what shape the clouds were; ride your bikes with flip flops on; build dams; play footy without the help of an adult to make up the 'rules'; rake about on building sites for some 'safe' items to play with and all your decision making was made by 'eeny-meeny-miney-mo'?

*"Letting children go out to play is one of the best things that parents can do for their health"*

*Prof R Mackett*



*"Children need  
wilder places to  
play where they  
can take risks"*

*RoSPA."*



As risk in Play is essential to a child's development we are asking that all children and young people be allowed challenging and adventurous play opportunities as enjoyed by previous generations before them.

## ***We took risks and we turned out GREAT!!!***

The Playday 2008 *Get Organised!* Guide is available from the Playday website [www.playday.org.uk](http://www.playday.org.uk) which will give you all the tips and assistance required for your event.

We would also ask you to ensure that you register your event at:  
[http://www.playday.org.uk/playday\\_events/register\\_your\\_event1.aspx](http://www.playday.org.uk/playday_events/register_your_event1.aspx)

The website is packed full on information on Playday.

## ***SUPPORTERS***

Each year we achieve high profile nationwide media coverage and we expect 2008 to be bigger and better than ever. In 2007 we received ministerial support for Playday and an invitation from the Government to discuss our campaign research findings further. Playday forms the backbone of a wider campaign by play organisations to move play up the local and national agendas.

Becoming a Playday supporter could mean as little or as much involvement in the campaign as you can give. We'd be delighted if you would simply lend your name as a supporter but you may also be interested to work in partnership to a greater degree as our organisations have common messages.

We are currently putting together the supporter's page of the Playday website. We will be adding supporter organisations, a brief description, logos and a link to supporters' websites. We would also appreciate a reciprocal link on supporters' websites, where possible.

If you would like to support this campaign, please contact [sharonforrester@playscotland.org](mailto:sharonforrester@playscotland.org) giving your name/organisation brief description of your organisation, a jpeg of your logo and your web address (if applicable).

## **RESEARCH**

A comprehensive body of UK research has been conducted to support this years' Playday. Play Providers were consulted to explore the benefits and challenges of enabling children to manage their risk while playing.

Information on this will be released in time for this year event.

This years' Playday campaign also coincides with the new guidance publication on managing risk from the Play Safety Forum. The PSF is a group of national agencies, including Play Scotland, who are involved in play safety.

## **Get involved**

For further information visit:

[www.playday.org.uk](http://www.playday.org.uk)

or contact Sharon Forrester at Play Scotland

email: [sharonforrester@playscotland.org](mailto:sharonforrester@playscotland.org)

web: [www.playscotland.org](http://www.playscotland.org)

Tel: 0131 440 9070

Further information on the Play Safety Forum can be found at:  
[www.ncb.org.uk](http://www.ncb.org.uk)

