

**The Scottish Play Commission will examine the state of Play through a series of conversations and events throughout Scotland, supported by leading Academics and Practitioners in Play from around the world.**

“Children need wilder places to play where they can take risks” RoSPA

“More space must be given over to allow “free play”, where children create their own games, and activities without the direction of adults”  
Dr Roger Hart

### **Did you know?**

1 in 6 children in Scotland have no access to outdoor space /facilities to play

A survey by the Home Office revealed that as many as 25% of 8-10 year olds have never played outside without adult supervision

One in five children in P7 was estimated to be obese in 2004-05 and the research has estimated the growing problem costs Scotland £17M per year.

One third of children never play outside.

51% of children and young people have at some point been told to stop playing in the street or area near their home.



## **Scottish Play Commission**

Supported by  
 **The National Lottery**<sup>®</sup>  
through the Big Lottery Fund



### **Play Scotland**

Midlothian Innovation Centre  
Pentlandsfield  
Roslin  
EH25 9RE

Tel: 0131 440 9070  
Fax: 0131 440 9071  
Email: [sharonforrester@playscotland.org](mailto:sharonforrester@playscotland.org)  
[www.playscotland.org](http://www.playscotland.org)

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## Why a Play Commission for Scotland

The Scottish Play Commission is being established to examine the state of Play in Scotland and make key recommendations to the Scottish Government to support the development of a National Play Strategy for Scotland.

The Scottish Play Commission will gather a wide range of views and recommendations on the state of Play in Scotland in 2008. A full report and summary of recommendations will be published in May 2008.

## Who is involved

The Scottish Play Commission is being funded by the Big Lottery Fund in partnership with Play Scotland. It will be Chaired by Sue Palmer, Author of Toxic Childhood and formally launched by the Minister for Children and Early Years, Adam Ingram, MSP and Kathleen Marshall Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People. Contributions from leading figures and supporters of children's Play throughout the world will provoke and stimulate debate to assist us to formulate innovative ways to improve children's play experiences in Scotland.

## Your role

Your contribution and participation in the Scottish Play Commission is vital.

From January 08, an online discussion board will be available for you to contribute your news and views. This will be divided into various topics on play and there will be a section to post thoughts on what the key recommendations to Government should be. Visit [www.playscotland.org](http://www.playscotland.org) and follow the link 'discussion board'

*"Play is a child's first claim on the community"*

*David Lloyd George*

*"We have become hyper-vigilant about children's safety  
but also hyper-vigilant about how they learn.  
We do not even trust children to play anymore"*

*Dr Roger Hart*

## The Scottish Play Commission is coming to you.

### 'Kick start' Event

**Monday 19th November 2007, Roslin**

Key Speakers: Dr Roger Hart of the University of New York; Dr John McKendrick of Glasgow Caledonian University; Sheila Dobie OBE and Andy Dalziel from the Institute of the Neuro-Physiological Psychology (Scotland)

### Formal Launch

**Thursday 13th December 2007, Scottish Parliament**

Chaired by Sue Palmer, Author of Toxic Childhood and launched by Adam Ingram, MSP, Minister for Children and Early Years and Kathleen Marshall, Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People. This event is being sponsored by John Scott, MSP.

### Scottish Play Commission Convention

**Friday 29th February 2008, The Royal Highland Hotel, Inverness**

Key Speakers: Arthur Battram and Tim Gill. Further details will be available on the Play Scotland website. [www.playscotland.org](http://www.playscotland.org)

### Commission Hearings

Local Commission hearings will be advertised via the Play Scotland website and organised in Schools, Leisure and Community Centres and Town Halls in March 2008.

### Final Consultation Event

This will be held in April 2008 in Glasgow.  
Watch the Play Scotland website for details.

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

*Prof R Mackett*

*"Children hop, skip, run, jump and climb as naturally as breathing"*

*A Voce*