

Did you know

1 in 6 children in Scotland do not have access to outdoor space for play

'Letting children go out to play is one of the best things that parents can do for their health' (Prof R Mackett, UCL)

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

There are 11,210 playworkers in Scotland working in after school clubs, holiday playschemes, parks, adventure playgrounds, playbuses and breakfast clubs

'Without this playing with fantasy, no creative work has ever yet come to birth. The debt we owe to the play of imagination is incalculable' (Carl Jung)

85% of children in Scotland say they do not spend enough time engaged in 'free play'. 76% said that this was due to poor quality of play spaces available.



Children burn more calories "just playing" than they do in PE or sport

'Children need wilder places to play where they can take risks' (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents)



free to play

"The right to play is the child's first claim on the community. Play is nature's training for life. No community can infringe that right without doing enduring harm to the minds and bodies of its citizens."
(David Lloyd George)

Play Scotland

Midlothian Innovation Centre
Pentlandsfield
Roslin
EH25 9RE

Charity Number: SC029167

Tel: 0131 440 9070
Fax: 0131 440 9071
Email: info@playscotland.org
www.playscotland.org

Who are we

Play Scotland was formed in 1998 to work towards a Scotland in which the right to play is a reality for all children and young people, and its work is underpinned by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) Article 31:

'State parties recognise the right of every child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.'

Play Scotland supports National and International Play perspectives.

Membership organisation and registered charity funded by the Scottish Government.

'Play is freely chosen, personally directed, intrinsically motivated behaviour that actively engages the child. Play can be fun or serious. Through play children explore social, material and imaginary worlds and their relationship with them, elaborating all the while a flexible range of responses to the challenges they encounter. By playing, children learn and develop as individuals, and as members of the community.'

(Best Play: What play provision should do for children, 2000, NPFA/CPC/Playlink)

Many children experience barriers to play including traffic, attitudes in the community towards 'playing out', risk aversion in adults and a lack of suitable space.

Priorities for Play Scotland

Political lobbying for a Play Policy and a Strategic Approach to Play in Scotland

Developing Resources to support the Play Sector throughout Scotland

Workforce Development of the Playwork Sector

Research into Play Provision in Scotland (space to play, time to play, funding for play, best practice in play)

Play Scotland activities and services include...

Lobbying and responding to Scottish Government consultations.
Website with up to date information on play and playwork.
Annual conference.
National Play Forum.

Scottish Play Policy Forum.
Scottish Play Commission.
Research into play.
UK Playday campaign.
Play Inclusive Training.

For detailed information on all activities visit www.playscotland.org

Play Scotland membership services

Members only section of the website with information on funders, resource suppliers, job vacancies and a members' directory

Monthly e-bulletins with up to date play and related news items including events, services, training, activities for children and policy developments

Regular newsletters on key topics

Opportunity of participating in consultations and play related surveys

Discounted entry to Play Scotland conferences, forum and events

Online access to GRANTnet funding search engine (from July 08)

Join Play Scotland to receive these benefits and to champion the child's right to play!

Who should join?

Anyone who works with or for children and young people
Anyone who is interested in the child's right to play

For information on current membership subscriptions go to www.playscotland.org