

# Children, risk and responsibility: encouraging confidence in a risk-averse society

Thursday, 7 October 2009 at King Robert Hotel, Stirling



There is growing debate over the constraints imposed on the activities of children and young people by perceptions of risk.

This conference, organised in partnership with Play Scotland, will consider the implications of such constraints when helping children, young people and their parents and carers to develop an understanding of the benefits of risk and responsibility. The programme will offer an opportunity to consider issues that are relevant to the Risk Debate.

**Children in Scotland**  
every child - every childhood



## **This conference will:**

- examine why it is important that children and young people experience risk
- look at different ways that children and young people can experience risk
- help shape the debate on risk at a local and national level
- consider how we can develop different ways of working with children, young people and their carers
- help shape the debate on risk at a local and national level
- launch '*Managing Risk in Play Provision: Implementation Guide*'.

## **Delegates will have the opportunity to:**

- broaden their understanding of how restrictions can affect children and young people
- reflect critically upon their own practices and procedures
- develop practical strategies for balancing risk in children's activities.

## **Who should attend?**

This conference is aimed at a wide range of professional practitioners working in education, social work and children's services, as well as staff from nursery and primary schools and all those with some interest in children's play, and those with responsibility for community planning, playground provision and health and safety.

## **Programme information:**

Registration will begin at 8:30 with the conference starting at 9:15 and the event will finish at 4:00.

## **Plenary sessions will include:**

**Chair** Harry Harbottle, creative play specialist and co-founder of the rattlin'boag consultancy and design agency

**Freedom and child development** Helene Guldborg, associate lecturer in child development at the Open University and author of *Reclaiming Childhood*. Helene will discuss why unsupervised play and risk-taking is essential for children's emotional, social, physical and cognitive development.

### **Pay to Play? The commercialisation of children's play in the real and virtual worlds**

Agnes Nairn, visiting fellow at the Centre for Business Organisations and Society, University of Bath and co-author of *Consumer Kids: how big business is grooming our children for profit*. We spend £100 billion annually on our children and an increasing amount of "play" is paid for. What are the opportunities and risks of commercialised play?

**No Fear: Growing up in a risk averse society** Tim Gill, specialist on childhood and children's play and author. Childhood is being undermined by the growth of risk aversion, restricting children's play, limiting their freedom of action and constraining their learning.

**You Can Be Too Careful** Tom Hodgkinson, editor of *The Idler* magazine and author of *The Idle Parent*. Tom will speak on the dangers of over-protecting children, and will argue that we need to leave them alone.

## Workshops

Workshops will look at positive alternatives to overprotective and risk-averse paradigms, and practical ways to challenge the 'cottonwool culture'.

### 1. The world outdoors

This workshop will explore the issue of risk within the context of the natural world outdoors and will present possible solutions to some of the commonly perceived barriers to safe outdoor play.

Chris Miles, freelance specialist in outdoor play and former Pre School Education Coordinator for Fife Council Education Service.

### 2. Managing Risk in Play Provision: Implementation Guide

Join the Scottish launch of the risk guidance published by Play England on behalf of the UK Play Safety Forum. Copies of the Implementation Guide will be provided to delegates together with copies of the document's Scottish addendum.

Marguerite Hunter Blair, Chief Executive Play Scotland, Chair of Scottish Government's Play and Risk Debate and member of the UK Play Safety Forum, along with Tim Gill, co-author of the guide and author of *No Fear; Growing up in a Risk Averse Society* and Harry Harbottle, Creative Play Specialist, who will provide a Scottish context to the guide.

### 3. Scottish Youth Parliament

In this workshop the Scottish Youth Parliament will explore the challenge of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: how do we balance the protection and participation of children and young people?

### 4. RISK KIT

The 6VT youth cafe has helped over tens of thousands of youths from all over Edinburgh and surrounding areas through its activities and drop-in service. This workshop will present RISK KIT, the 6VT risk toolkit for young people.

### 5. PLAYLINK Play Space Study Visit & Workshop

The off-site visit to some of Stirling's innovative play spaces will provide an opportunity to consider practical management tools and challenge preconception about what is possible and achievable in your own environments whether school playgrounds, childcare settings, public play or open spaces.

**Workshops 1 - 4**, which each last for 1 hour, will be repeated – when booking please make two session choices and we will do our best to accommodate your preferences.

Please note that **workshop 5** will be an off-site study visit and, lasting for two hours, will take up both your workshop choices – numbers will be limited. All workshop choices made at this stage will be final.

Books written by speakers at the conference will be on sale on the day, courtesy of Inkspot & Silverleaf Booksellers of Bo'ness, and delegates will be given the opportunity to have books signed by the authors.

Book online at [www.childreninscotland.org.uk/crr](http://www.childreninscotland.org.uk/crr) or complete, photocopy and return one form for each delegate to: Alasdair Ferguson, Children in Scotland, Princes House, 5 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh EH2 4RG t: 0131 222 2438 f: 0131 228 8585 e: [conferences@childreninscotland.org.uk](mailto:conferences@childreninscotland.org.uk)

**Cost £190**

**Discount A:** Non-member – individuals/small voluntary organisations, primary and nursery schools **£160**

**Discount B:** Member – statutory bodies/ large voluntary organisations, including secondary schools **£160**

**Discount C:** Member – individuals/ small voluntary organisations, primary and nursery schools **£130**

**I qualify for a Children in Scotland or Play Scotland member's discount**

*Early-bird discount: a further 10% discount will be applied for all those who book by 12th August.*

**Booking**

Please book a place for the following person at the conference (photocopy if necessary)

Name: ----- Position: -----

Organisation: -----

Address: ----- Post Code: -----

Tel: ----- Fax: ----- Email: -----

**Workshop 1:**

1st choice: \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd choice: \_\_\_\_\_ 3rd choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**Workshop 2:**

1st choice: \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd choice: \_\_\_\_\_ 3rd choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: if your choice includes workshop 5 (Playlink Study Tour). You will only be able to attend one workshop, since workshop 5 lasts for 2 hours.**

Vegetarian food will be provided. If you have any specific dietary or access requirements, please tick here and let Children in Scotland know the details three weeks before the event

I enclose a cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_ (made payable to Children in Scotland)

Please invoice me at the address above/below (delete as appropriate)

Name: -----

Address: ----- Post Code: -----

Tel: ----- Email: -----

From time to time we may approach you with information about other projects, events, publications and magazines that the partner organisations produce or organise. If you do not wish to be contacted please tick this box  We may occasionally wish to make your details available to other not-for-profit organisations. Please tick this box if you do not wish us to do this . **Cancellations received in writing** three weeks before the event will be refunded less a £20 processing charge. No refunds can be made after this date, although substitutions may be made. Cancellations must be received in writing.