

## THE POLICY CONTEXT OF PLAY IN SCOTLAND

The Scottish Government has at long last recognised the importance of Play for the development and well-being of children and young people. There is a tentative Policy framework in place and a number of exciting and innovative initiatives supporting different age ranges to participate in play.

- ☺ **Early Years Framework**- achieving high quality play opportunities in every community, increased play and physical activity and improved and increased access to play.  
Further details can be found at [www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/01/13095148/0](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/01/13095148/0)
- ☺ **Achieving our Potential: A Framework to Tackle Poverty and Income Inequality in Scotland** also recognises the significant contribution Play can make in alleviating child poverty in Scotland.  
Further details can be found at [www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/11/20103815/1](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/11/20103815/1)
- ☺ **Equally Well** - report on the ministerial task force - the policy framework designed to address health inequalities in Scotland - including mental and physical health which is deep rooted in the most deprived areas.  
Further details can be found at [www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/06/09160020/0](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/06/09160020/0)
- ☺ **Designing Streets - A Policy Statement for Scotland** - Creating Playable spaces, streets as social spaces, people priority over vehicles and street focus on social interaction.  
Further details can be found at [www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/03/02113940/0](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/03/02113940/0)
- ☺ **Scottish Planning Policy 11- Planning For Play** - “providing play space and other opportunities for children and young people to play freely, explore, discover and initiate their own activities can support their development.”  
Further details can be found at [www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/02/03132605/12](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/02/03132605/12)

In 2013 the Scottish Government launched Scotland’s first ever Play Strategy. The vision of the Scottish Government is:

*“We want Scotland to be the best place to grow up. A nation which values play as a life-enhancing daily experience for all our children and young people: in their homes, nurseries, schools and communities”.*

The Play Strategy: Our Vision and the supporting Play Strategy Action Plan can be found at:  
<http://www.playscotland.org/resources/publications/>