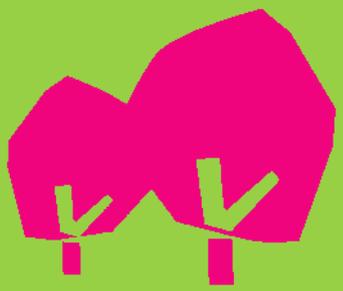
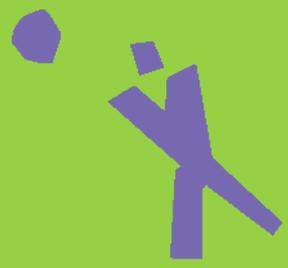


XIPPLAY SCOTLAND



Did you know ?

Between June 1996 and March 2003 143 Playing Fields were sold off by Local Authorities for Property and Retail Development.

Overweight children could be offered weight loss surgery ... recommends Government Health Watchdog (NICE). It suggests urgent action to increase active playtime for children to stem the rising tide of obesity. (Dec 06)

50,000 prescriptions for ADHD were issued in Scotland in 2005 an increase of 16% on the previous year costing £1.8M. Little is known about the possible long term side effects of the brain altering medication given to small children, for these symptoms.

90,000 anti-obesity prescriptions were issued by Scottish Doctors in 2005 at a cost of £41.1M.

One third of children say they never play outside.

German film makers are using Scottish children as the world's worst example of obesity.

Scotland is being cited as the world's obesity capital in television programmes worldwide.

There are children starting secondary school who have never walked to school on their own. They have pedestrian skills a six-year old would have had in the 1970's. (ROSPA)

22 out of Britain's 25 unhealthiest neighbourhoods are in Scotland

Almost half of all children avoid playing outside as they don't feel safe

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

Play Scotland works to promote the importance of play for all children and young people, and campaigns to create increased play opportunities in the community.

About Play Scotland

- Formed in 1998 to support the Child's Right to Play and make children's play rights a reality in Scotland
- Membership organisation and registered charity funded by the Scottish Executive

Priorities for Play Scotland

- Political Lobbying for a Play Policy and a Strategic Approach to Play in Scotland
- Developing Strategic Resources to support the Play Sector in Scotland
- Workforce Development of the Playwork Sector
- Research into Play Provision in Scotland (space to play, time to play, funding for play, best play)

Targets for 2006

- To gain political commitment to a Play Strategy for Scotland
- To develop strategic links with partner organisations in Scotland, UK and Internationally
- To promote National Playday 2006 - Play, Naturally
- To commission research on Play Provision in Local Authorities
- To complete with SkillsActive Scotland's first ever Playwork Education and Training Strategy
- To provide quality information to our membership and organise best practice seminars and conferences to meet the needs of our members.



Welcome to Play Scotland's Annual Report for 2006, a year which has seen some exciting and dramatic changes.

Following the National Play Forum at Strathclyde Country Park in November 2005 there was a clear mandate from members for Play Scotland to take up the challenge to lobby for a Play Strategy for Scotland. In January 2006 Play Scotland was fortunate in recruiting Marguerite Hunter Blair to take up the challenge on Play Scotland's behalf.

March 15th was a historic day for play in Scotland when the Scottish Parliament debated the importance of play for the first time. This was followed by three days in May, lobbying in the heart of the Scottish Parliament itself at Holyrood which took play directly to our politicians.

Events such as PlayTalk! and the National Play Forum in May and June have given members the opportunity to have their say. Working in partnership with Barnardos Scotland, the Scottish Commissioner for Children and Young People, SkillsActive, SQA, Active Schools Network and many other organisations has helped to put play much further up the national agenda than it has previously been. However these are first steps, and there are many challenges ahead if we are to achieve the lasting change Scotland's children deserve.

I would like to thank the Board of Directors, our friends, partners and members for all the support they have given to Play Scotland over the last year and to express my personal thanks to our hard working Play Scotland staff, Marguerite Hunter Blair and Sharon Forrester.

I look forward to increasing progress in 2007!

Margaret Westwood, Chair Person

Treasurers Report

Play Scotland is an extremely effective organisation which has easily met its targets for 2006 despite the limited core grant it currently receives from the Scottish Executive. I am pleased to report that good financial management systems together with the absence of a Director for a few months, left a small surplus in the 2005-2006 Accounts, which was deployed into the Local Authority Research Project. In order for Play Scotland to build on its success in 2006 and meet the aspirations of its Membership and the Play Sector, it is vital that the core grant is increased as it is currently leaner than perhaps is sensible.

Alan Aithie, Treasurer

How does playing make you feel?

"I felt a great sense of achievement when I finished making my tree house" Ronan aged 11

"happy cause we were nicking bits of wood from the big boys tree house for ours" Jack aged 5

Directors Report

What a fabulous time for play this is! I was delighted to join Play Scotland in January 2006 and it quickly became apparent that this was going to be a great year for the Child's Right to Play in Scotland. The support from our Membership, our sister organisations in the UK and partners and Politicians within Scotland has been overwhelming. Our colleagues in the Scottish Executive have also been very responsive to our needs throughout the year, and we look forward to significant progress for PLAY in 2007.

All you need to know about the year in detail can be found on our newsletters, e-bulletins and consultation responses on our wonderful website www.playscotland.org I hope you enjoy the Review of 2006 in brief and please contact Sharon Forrester at sharonforrester@playscotland.org to become a member or make a donation to the charity.

Finally a huge thank you to Sharon Forrester and the Board of Directors for their invaluable enthusiasm, energy and commitment throughout the year.

Marguerite Hunter Blair, Director

PLAY SCOTLAND STAFF PHOTOS



Marguerite Hunter Blair
Director



Sharon Forrester
Office Manager



PLAY SCOTLAND BOARD



Margaret Westwood
Chair



Gary Love
Company Secretary



Kenny Abbott



Ron Tulloch



Tammy Devlin



Lillian Burnett

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS

Alex Rodden
Vice Chair

Alan Aithie
Treasurer

Stephanie-Anne Harris

Joan Beattie

Louise Simpson

Jim Duncan



Political Lobbying

In January 2006, Mr Kenneth McIntosh, MSP tabled a motion on the Importance of Play in the Scottish Parliament. 81 MSPs signed up to the Play Motion prior to the Debate on 15 March 2006. The Play Motion made history in terms of the overwhelming support it received from elected members. The Debate reflected that a significant number of MSPs were well informed on the barriers to Play and the need for a wide range of quality Play opportunities for children and young people in Scotland. The Deputy Minister Robert Brown undertook to work with Play Scotland and others in considering options for taking forward the request for a Play Policy and Strategic Approach to Play.



Play Scotland was sponsored by Alex Fergusson, MSP at the Lobby Garden of the Scottish Parliament on 16-18 May 2006. 86 MSPs signed the Play Scotland Statement calling for Scotland to be designated a Child Friendly Country underpinned by a Play Strategy.



Public Petitions Committee: PE913 To Play Or Not To Play

Play Scotland welcomed the opportunity to respond to the Public Petitions Committee regarding Petition PE913 by Debbie Scott and the 'To Play or Not to Play Project'. We call on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to adopt a Play Strategy that recognizes the right of all children in Scotland to a safe, accessible and challenging play environment. The Public Petitions Committee have still to report back.

"The human need to play is a powerful one.
When we ignore it, we feel there is something missing in our lives." Leo Buscaglia

Resources



Play Scotland provided a range of quality resources in a strategic way to the Play Sector in 2006. Together with monthly e-bulletins and regular newsletters, copies of all Play Scotland's consultation responses are posted on our website. Up to date play research information and information from our sister organisations in the UK: Play Wales, Playboard N.I., Play England and the Children's Play Council are easily accessible from our website.

In addition Play Scotland organised a number of a highly successful events: PlayTalk! 2006, The Pedagogy of Play - 3rd National Play Forum and the Scottish Playwork Revolution Conference.

Big Lottery Fund Play - See Investing in Communities - 21st Century Life Programme
www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

Advance Notice International Play Association 17th World Conference, Hong Kong, January 2008
see www.ipaworld.org

How does playing make you feel?

"it makes you get your tooth out"
Nathan aged 5

"I like play time cause you get to
have a healthy snack" Jake aged 5

"I feel happy, full of joy and you use
up all your energy" Patrick aged 11

"great, because you get to be
outdoors and play with your friends"
Caoimhe aged 12

"because it gives you energy"
Jack aged 5

"great, because it's fun to play with
friends and it keeps you fit"
Rachael aged 12

"gets you moving and not be lazy"
Jock aged 5

"you get muddy" James aged 5

"Perhaps we should drain all the lakes, chop down the trees, fill in the gorge, identify and remove any plant or fungi that is poisonous and cover the grass with cotton wool"
Nurse Helen Santry reacts to Bristol Council's decision to remove yew trees from a park in case children poison themselves

Workforce Development

Play Scotland organised a CPD (Continuous Professional Development) Environmental Play Conference 5-7 May 2006. 65 Playworkers enjoyed a challenging outdoor play experience at Whithaugh Park, Newcastleton. On the basis that pictures speak louder than words we hope you enjoy the following report!



Minister Robert Brown, MSP (far right)
at the Scottish Playwork Revolution Conference

Play Scotland, SkillsActive and SQA (Scottish Qualifications Authority) jointly hosted the Scottish Playwork Revolution CPD Conference in October. Over 100 delegates attended each day of the 2-day conference which was packed with inspirational and innovative contributions from keynote speakers and workshop providers. Conference organisers and delegates were delighted at the close of the conference to hear Robert Brown MSP, Deputy Minister for Education and Young People highlight the Importance of Play in children's lives, stating that 'Children need every opportunity to play and to benefit

from what they do in play. It is vital to every child's development. The input of playworkers is important to this. It is encouraging to see that those working with children are committed to increasing their skills, qualification and professionalism. After all we are working towards a common goal - to give every child the best possible start in life.'

Research

Play Scotland Local Authority Questionnaire

The Scottish Parliament confirmed that statistics are not available for the spending and provision for play resources for children and young people in Scotland. Play Scotland sent out a questionnaire to all 32 Local Authorities at the end of May 2006 to try to gather some baseline information in order to support the Lobby for additional resources for the Play Sector. Play Scotland was delighted that 27 responded as best they could to the questionnaire. A full report will be published in 2007 but preliminary findings indicate that

- Only 3 Local Authorities could provide a copy of their Play Policy
- Over half did not have a Policy or Strategic Commitment to Play in any of their Service Plans
- The variation on spend per child per week for outdoor play was £0.06 to £0.28. Although 63% were unable to make a calculation.
- Only 6 Local Authorities intended to hold a Playday event
- Only 9 Local Authorities have commenced an audit of greenspaces.

A huge thank you to everyone in Local Authorities who worked on the responses and thank you to Delma Byrne at Moray House School of Education for her analysis of the research.



Kathleen Marshall, Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People

SCCYP

Play Scotland is delighted to be working with Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People on the Advisory Group supporting her two key themes: Safe, Active, Happy; and Promoting Proportionate Protection. These two themes emerged after extensive consultation with Children and Young People and Statutory, Voluntary and Private Sector groups working for and with Children and Young People. Over 16,000 votes were cast by children and young people for 'Things to Do' as their top priority - Fun, Affordable, Designed by children and young people, Places to Play, Accessible, Information.



"Play stands at the centre of human development, especially in the formative years, but its importance has to be defended by each generation anew, often on different grounds" Sturrock, Else and Russell (2004)

Partners In Play



All sister publications are available from Play Scotland.

"to recognise respect and resource Play is to recognise respect and value childhood"

The Proposed vision for Play in Northern Ireland

Playday – Play, Naturally

The UK's 19th Playday got off to a blustery start in Scotland on 2nd August. From Shetland to the Scottish Parliament and Strathclyde Park to Moffat, children played as caterpillars shuffled, birds raced and teddies picnicked. The Funky funky seaweed dance competed with den building, rolling down grassy banks, scavenging for treasure and, retrieving the registration information after the gazebo blew down, for the top fun activity of Playday.



Two thousand children and almost eight hundred adults played out in Strathclyde Park, at the North Lanarkshire event as over 100,000 children across the UK enjoyed a huge range of natural play activities. This years theme - Play, Naturally - highlighted that Play is a natural part of children's lives, but modern society has eroded play opportunities for children both in towns and in the countryside.



"Natural Play is essential to children's development" said Marguerite Hunter Blair, Director, Play Scotland. "It is not only about having fun, but it also helps children to develop valuable life skills and contributes to their understanding of the world about them"

A full research review Play, Naturally is published on the Playday website www.playday.org.uk

The Play Naturally theme was also supported by a Playday survey carried out by British Market Research Bureau in July 2006. The UK poll of 7-14 year olds showed that most children, 80% prefer PLAYING OUT to play indoors, and 82% of children would rather play in natural spaces like gardens, parks and local fields, building dens and getting muddy, rather than playing computer games.

Play Scotland is lobbying for a Play policy and strategic commitment to play in Scotland. However, parents also have an important role in making sure their children can get out and play in natural environments, finding out about local natural spaces, and providing old clothes and outdoor gear so children can play out in all weathers.



Nancy Ovens Awards – Celebrating Excellence

The Nancy Ovens Trust Awards for Play were created in 2004 to recognise best play practices in Scotland. This year's awards took place in Fort William and full details of the winners are on our website. **Best Community Award for Play** was awarded to The Tiree Community Business, The Broomhouse Grove Project - Edinburgh and The Hope School Trim Track - South Ronaldsay - Orkney. **Outstanding Contribution to Play** was awarded to North Ayrshire Skate Group - Stevenson. Specially commended Buddies Playscheme in Glasgow.

Playground Partnerships Woolworths Kids First

Playground Partnerships is an award scheme initiated by Woolworths which promotes children's play by awarding grants to UK primary schools to enable the development of their playgrounds. Play Scotland was delighted to be part of the awards panel this year which funded almost £90K across Scotland and the North East. For further information and application pack for 2007 see www.playgroundpartnerships.org

Study Group Visit to Norway

Marguerite Hunter Blair was fortunate to be sponsored by The Scottish Executive to join the Children in Scotland study visit to Northern Norway in September to look at **place based learning** where the curriculum is mapped across outdoor learning opportunities and the outdoors is integrated into the curriculum naturally. Inspirational Academics, Pedagogues and Public Representatives shared their insight with the group regarding **upbringing plans** for all children and young people. A newsletter will be available on the website from January 2007.

Your Environment

Love it ☺ Learn about it ☺ Use it ☺
Care for it ☺ Return to it

A **Play Strategy for Scotland** is essential to ensure that children and young people's needs are met through the development of child friendly environments and practices at **LOCAL LEVEL**:

- ☆ Home Zones ☆ Safer Routes to School ☆ Community Playspaces and Facilities ☆
- ☆ Local Authority Play Policies ☆ Child Friendly Neighbourhoods ☆
- ☆ Creative Landscapes ☆
- ☆ Quality Play Provision in School Grounds and Hospitals ☆
- ☆ Disability Access and Inclusive Play ☆ Workforce Development of the Playwork Sector ☆

"In Scotland we have the unhealthiest neighbourhoods and the fattest children who watch the most TV in the UK. The sedentary, indoor lifestyle of our children and young people is leading to a generation of kids who are risk averse and don't feel safe to play outdoors. A Play Strategy for Scotland would help reverse this trend."

Marguerite Hunter Blair, Director, Play Scotland

How does playing make you feel?

"excited" Sky aged 6

"really happy" Dara aged 7

"fit to play football" Jack aged 5

"great fun" Deaglan aged 7

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Article 31

1. States Parties recognise the right of the 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.
2. States Parties shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.

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