



## Annual Review 2010



**Making the Child's Right to Play a Reality in Scotland  
Promoting Article 31 UNCRC**

“Children need and want to take risks when they play. Play provision aims to respond to these needs and wishes by offering children stimulating, challenging environments for exploring and developing their abilities. In doing this, play provision aims to manage the level of risk so that children are not exposed to unacceptable risks of death or serious injury.”

(Play Safety Forum)



## **Minister says NO to ‘Barbed Wire Bairns’**

Play Scotland is a member of the Play Safety Forum which has produced the Managing Risk in Play Provision: Implementation Guide. Play Scotland has been introducing this guide to the Play Sector in Scotland with the help of Children in Scotland, Tim Gill and the Minister for Children and Early Years, Adam Ingram MSP.

Play Scotland is delighted that The Minister endorsed the Implementation Guide and highlighted the importance of promoting RISK MANAGEMENT rather than risk aversion.

“..... we are all well aware that the importance of play within the community setting is central to how children learn, both in terms of developing physical health, and in developing social skills, resilience and wellbeing. But at the same time, we must make sure that our children are not living in a cotton wool culture and become ‘barbed-wire bairns’ as they have come to be known.

All too often, people’s perceptions, the media and bureaucracy have caused parents and practitioners to question the play opportunities that were normal to us as children.

Over time, activities such as playing conkers, swinging on a rope and even playing in the streets are being frowned upon and a mantra of risk aversion is something that is becoming more and more common.

Through the debate on risk and in order for play to be truly accepted by our communities, we have a responsibility to ensure that practitioners, parents and even the children themselves know the benefits that play and risk can bring to their education and wellbeing - WE ALL HAVE A PART TO PLAY IN PROMOTING RISK MANAGEMENT RATHER THAN RISK AVERSION.

I recognise and value the long-term benefits of play and exposure to risk - both in terms of physical health and in developing resilience and mental wellbeing. I am pleased to endorse Play Scotland’s efforts in promoting this guide within the Scottish context.”

**Adam Ingram MSP**

Minister for Children and Early Years

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.

## Play Scotland Aims

- Influencing Policy towards achieving a Statutory commitment to Play
- A Regional Infrastructure to grow and support the Play Sector throughout Scotland.
- Support develop and resource opportunities for Play in Scotland
- Lead contributor in the Professional Development of Play and the Play Workforce in Scotland.
- Initiate and increase research and academic based information on the benefits of Play, including Free Play, Risk Management, Challenging Play, Play-Friendly Community Spaces.



**“A child’s greatest achievements are possible in play, achievements that tomorrow will become her basic level of real action and mortality” (Lev Vygotsky 1978)**

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

## For the year ended 31st March 2010

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2010 Total Funds £	2009 Total Funds £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>				
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>				
Voluntary income	124,000	6,356	130,356	124,144
Investment income	-	-	-	1,321
<b>Incoming resources from charitable activities</b>				
Membership fees	2,880	-	2,880	2,434
Conference fees	-	-	-	11,566
Other income	45	-	45	(470)
<b>Total income resources</b>	<u>126,925</u>	<u>6,356</u>	<u>133,281</u>	<u>138,99</u>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>				
<b>Charitable activities</b>				
Support costs of charitable activities	130,491	460	130,951	154,442
Grants	-	-	-	274
Governance costs	<u>3,457</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,457</u>	<u>2,828</u>
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<u>133,948</u>	<u>460</u>	<u>134,408</u>	<u>157,544</u>
<b>NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES</b>	(7,023)	5,896	(1,127)	(18,549)
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>				
<b>Total Funds brought forward</b>	<u>8,780</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,780</u>	<u>27,320</u>
<b>Total Funds carried forward</b>	<u><u>1,757</u></u>	<u><u>5,896</u></u>	<u><u>7,653</u></u>	<u><u>8,780</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board and signed on their behalf by Mr. John Cleary, BA, CA., Treasurer

Registered Company Number: SC197785 Registered Charity Number: SC029167

## Chairman's Remarks

There have been many advances for Article 31 across the UK this year as a direct result of the work of Play Scotland, Playboard N.I., Play England and Play Wales. And while each organisation has brought added benefits for children's play in each country, collectively the 4 nations has also been very successful in advocating for the Childs Rights to Play in the UK.

This was most notably demonstrated in two ways this year: one in March at the UK Symposium hosted by the Local Government Association in London called 'Playing the Long Game'. This event brought together Politicians, Childrens Commissioners and leading figures across the UK to discuss how best to progress the case for play collectively.

The second good example of this is Lord Young's Report 'Common Sense, Common Safety' which proposed a shift from a system of risk assessment to a system of risk BENEFIT assessment. This is something that the UK Play Safety Forum which comprises the 4 Nations has campaigned for through the Managing Risk in Play Provision: Implementation guide.

In Scotland we are fortunate that Play enjoys wide spread Cross Party Support from our Politicians. This was very much in evidence at the Play and Risk Debate event we held in the Scottish Parliament at which our Politicians talked about the need for a Statutory Duty for Play similar to that in Wales. Play Scotland hopes to build on this support for Play in 2011 elections.

Also this year we were delighted to work with Parenting Across Scotland and we jointly published 'Child's play – Top ten tips for parents and families'. We jointly organised and held two Risk Benefit Seminars with Children in Scotland and jointly hosted the Play and Risk Debate Question Time Event at the Scottish Parliament in November.

As Chairman of Play Scotland I should like to pay tribute to the staff, fellow Directors of the Board, the membership and supporters for making the Child's Right to Play a Reality in Scotland.

**Gary Love,**  
Chair, Play Scotland

## Play Scotland Board



(From left to right: Simon Knight, Susan Elsley, Harry Harbottle, Andrea McMillan, John Cleary)

Gary Love  
**Chair**

Andrea McMillan  
**Vice Chair**

Alan Aithie  
(to Nov 2010)

John Cleary  
Tammy Devlin

Ross Dunn  
Susan Elsley  
Harry Harbottle

Simon Knight  
John McKendrick

Susan Elsley  
Sue Palmer  
Debbie Willett



## Chief Executive's Comments

In 2010 we were delighted to see Scotland move closer in Policy to a Child Friendly Country. Building on the Social Policy Framework and Planning Policy which acknowledges the benefits of Play for Child Development and Community Development, the Designing Streets Policy Statement (which sits alongside Designing Places) was launched by Cabinet Secretary John Swinney MSP. The Policy encourages Community interaction through Street Design by creating inclusive social spaces where children can play .... and other activities can take place safely. Play Scotland wants Planners and Designers to create more playable spaces at the heart of our communities.

**"Scotland's streets are the most valuable social space we possess"**  
**John Swinney MSP**

Our Funding from the Go Play Fund this year has allowed us to grow as an organisation and achieve a wider range of support to the Play Sector across Scotland, while developing an innovative Toolkit for Local Authorities and Community Groups – 'Getting it Right for Play' to be published in 2011. We have also had great fun this year working with Children in Scotland to promote a risk benefit approach to risk assessment and thank you to all our members and supporters who attended the many events organised this year.

A huge thank you to the staff team and dedicated Board, who, as always, provide tremendous support above and beyond the call of duty!

**Marguerite Hunter Blair**  
Chief Executive



## UK Playwork and Education Strategy

SkillsActive, Play Scotland and Playwork Education Training Council have been involved in developing the new Implementation Plan for Playwork in Scotland. The new UK Playwork and Education Strategy was launched in November 2010. The strategy is founded on the principles of Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Plan provides a strategic framework and vision for employers and the play sector to work together to:

1. Position Playwork as a distinct profession within the children and young people's workforce.
2. Support other sectors and the public in their understanding of the value of play and playwork.
3. Develop and promote a suite of sustainable qualifications that are valued by employers and the workforce, including volunteers.
4. Encourage delivery and uptake of high quality accessible training, education and professional development opportunities.

## Play Scotland Staff



**Marguerite Hunter Blair,**  
Chief Executive

**Amanda Godsell,**  
Development Manager



**Jane Crawford,**  
Senior Play  
Development Officer

**Sharon Forrester,**  
Office &  
Information Manager



# Play Scotland are calling on all Play a priority in Scotland,

## A Statutory Duty for Play

**WHY?** To ensure that Local Authorities are committed to providing sufficient and satisfying play opportunities for children of all ages and abilities.

**HOW?** A Universal Play Fund to support play services could remove the barriers to access and increase quality play opportunities throughout all of Scotland.

**Scotland delivers "Improved children's outcomes and quality of life through play" (Early Years Framework 2008)**

## The Inclusion of Children and Young People in the Planning and Provision of Play Space

**WHY?** Children have the right to play and participate. (Article 31 and Article 12, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child).

**HOW?** By giving children a role in Community Planning and School Playground usage and design appropriate to their ages and stages of development.

**Scotland creates "well designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need" (National Outcomes 2008)**



# politicians to continue to make by pledging to promote:

## The Creation of Child-Friendly Communities

**WHY?** To deliver the Child's Right to Play, increase physical activity and improve children's health and well being. Child-friendly spaces promote social interaction and strengthen community spirit between children and adults, while making areas more desirable places to live.

**HOW?** Designate all public space a potential play space (unless otherwise categorised)

*Scotland builds "strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others."* (National Outcomes 2008)

## A Highly Skilled Play Workforce

**WHY?** Play is essential for children's development and an integral part of a good childhood. This requires skilled adults trained in the Playwork Principles (available through Play Scotland/SkillsActive)

**HOW?** By working with Sector Skills Councils, in particular SkillsActive, and accredited trainers to develop a proficient workforce.

*Scotland's Children deserve "Quality at the heart of service delivery"* (Early Years Framework 2008)



## **Scottish Government Equally Well Review**

Play Scotland welcomed the Equally Well Review which brings together actions from the three social policy frameworks: The Early Years Framework; Equally Well; Achieving our Potential, which frames the Scottish Government's commitment to Play in Scotland. A Child Poverty Strategy is also being produced which will build on the Early Years Framework and the findings of this review.

## **Scottish Government Invests in Play - GO PLAY!**

The Go Play Programme, administered by Inspiring Scotland, has been launched with funding of £4m over 2 years. It aims to increase opportunities for children aged 5-13 years to engage in free play activities, contributing to mental and physical health outcomes and building social cohesion. Go Play targets specific local authority areas where children are least likely to have opportunities to develop through play and will improve the infrastructure of the play sector at local, regional and national levels.

## **Play Scotland Go Play Projects**

Play Scotland was delighted to receive funding from the Go Play fund for two projects: the first project is developing and publishing a National Toolkit for Local Authorities to assess the sufficiency and quality of their play provision; the second is to strengthen Play Scotland's infrastructure to provide strategic support to the play sector and continue to raise awareness of the Importance of Play.

## **Curriculum for Excellence through outdoor learning**

'Outdoor learning experiences are often remembered for a lifetime. Integrating learning and outdoor experiences whether through play in the immediate grounds or adventures further afield, provides relevance and depth to the curriculum'. Play Scotland warmly welcomes this guidance in which we assisted, which promotes risk/benefit analysis in risk management.

## Events

Play Scotland's Annual Conference, 'Places and Spaces – creating child friendly communities' was held on 30 September in Edinburgh with Speakers Dr Harry Burns, Chief Medical Officer Scotland; Professor Frank Furedi; Matthew King, Child Friendly Communities, UNICEF; Fergus Storrier, Tayside Police; Janette Fich Jespersen, Kompan.

All presentations are available on request to [info@playscotland.org](mailto:info@playscotland.org)

## Manifesto for Play 2011

Play Scotland was delighted to launch its Manifesto for Play at our annual conference this year. Play Scotland calls for all politicians to continue to make play a priority by promoting a statutory duty for play, including all children and young people in the planning and provision of play space, creating child-friendly communities and ensuring a highly-skilled play workforce.

## Playday - Our place!

Playday is the annual celebration of the child's right to play and this year's theme - Our place! - aims to tackle the restrictions faced by children wanting to play outside where they live, and is highlighting the role of communities in shaping childhood.

Our first Playday Planning Seminar was held on 1 June 2010 which was a great success. We will be holding another in 2011.

For further information on Play Scotland activities for Playday see [www.playscotland.org/playday](http://www.playscotland.org/playday)



## Playwork Principles

These principles establish the professional and ethical framework for playwork, and describe what is unique about play and playwork, and provide the playwork perspective for working with children and young people.

They are based on the recognition that children and young people's capacity for positive development will be enhanced if given access to the broadest range of environments and play opportunities:

1. All children and young people need to play. The impulse to play is innate. Play is a biological, psychological and social necessity, and is fundamental to the healthy development and well being of individuals and communities.
2. Play is a process that is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated. That is, children and young people determine and control the content and intent of their play, by following their own instincts, ideas and interests, in their own way for their own reasons.
3. The prime focus and essence of playwork is to support and facilitate the play process and this should inform the development of play policy, strategy, training and education.
4. For playworkers, the play process takes precedence and playworkers act as advocates for play when engaging with adult led agendas.
5. The role of the playworker is to support all children and young people in the creation of a space in which they can play.
6. The playworker's response to children and young people playing is based on a sound up to date knowledge of the play process, and reflective practice.
7. Playworkers recognise their own impact on the play space and also the impact of children and young people's play on the playworker.
8. Playworkers choose an intervention style that enables children and young people to extend their play. All playworker intervention must balance risk with the developmental benefit and well being of children

Playwork Principles Scrutiny Group,  
Cardiff 2005 endorsed by SkillsActive 2005



## **Child's play – top ten tips for parents and families**

Play Scotland has a strong position of working collaboratively and in partnership with a wide range of organisations. You may recall that last year we jointly published 'National Outcomes in Scotland, The Potential of Playwork: Better childhoods mean a brighter future' with SkillsActive and this year we were delighted to work with Parenting Across Scotland to jointly publish 'Child's play – Top ten tips for parents and families'.

1. Play! Talk! Read!
2. Messy Play – children love to get messy eg paint, sand, water.
3. Outdoor Play – important for physical fitness and developing self confidence.
4. Safety – teach your child about safety.
5. Leave the clearing up – don't worry about having a tidy house. Make time for play!
6. Be creative – children love playing with household items like pots, pans, wooden spoons. A sheet over a table or chairs makes a great den.
7. Helping Out – young children love to help about the house and is a real learning experience.
8. Playing with the elements – let your child play with water, make mud pies, explore the woods, play in the bath, splash in puddles, make and fly a kite on a windy day.
9. Free Play – when your child plays alone, they're learning to keep themselves occupied and use their imagination.
10. Look after yourself – being a parent is not easy; when your child plays you can relax.

Extract from Top Ten Tips Booklet  
produced by Parenting across Scotland and Play Scotland.  
[www.parentingacrossscotland.org](http://www.parentingacrossscotland.org)



## Scottish Government Household Survey

The Scottish Household Survey is a continuous survey based on a sample of the general population in private residences in Scotland.

In 2009 Play Scotland in conjunction with the Scottish Government developed Play Questions to be included in the survey on the opportunities for children to play in their neighbourhood and perceptions of safety relating to various locations.

In 2010 Households were asked about their access to different types of play areas:-

- Fewer than half of households had access to play areas within their neighbourhoods.
- Fewer than 25% of households in the most deprived areas had a “natural environment or wooded area” in their neighbourhood. This compared with over 40% in the rest of Scotland
- In rural and urban areas, more than half thought it was unsafe for children to travel to play on the surrounding streets, even if with friends.
- To play without supervision in the different play areas, respondents said children should be 9 or 10 yrs old. However, in the “dangerous” natural environment within deprived urban areas, the age rose to 11 yrs.
- Over half of children walk or cycle to school, roughly a quarter travel by car or van and another quarter take the bus .
- One in three Scottish households did not have access to “safe and pleasant” parks or green spaces. In the most deprived areas this was almost half.

Further results will be published in 2011 which will be broken down by Local Authority areas.

## Play Scotland Information Services

Play Scotland offer the following range of services through its information services:

Website including 'Members Only' Section.

Research and Policy Documents, Playwork Theory

Training, CPD Events, Media Articles Newsletters, eZines, Briefing Papers

Information Sheets

Further information at [www.playscotland.org](http://www.playscotland.org)

For further details on any of the above contact Sharon Forrester on  
Tel: 0131 440 9070 Email: [sharonforrester@playscotland.org](mailto:sharonforrester@playscotland.org)

## About Play Scotland

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. Formed in 1998 to support the Child's Right to Play and make children's play rights a reality in Scotland.

The work of Play Scotland is underpinned by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. 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."

IPA

World Conference on Play

4th – 7th July 2011

Cardiff



**Play Scotland wants Planners and Designers to create more playable spaces at the heart of our child-friendly communities.**

**“Creating playable spaces which are accessible via walking or cycling. Playable spaces that are placed away from busy roads Playable routes within and between neighbourhoods Playable streets - such as home zones”.**  
**(Better Places to Play)**



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