



4 SCOTLAND'S PLAY STRATEGY

In June 2013 the Scottish Government published its first National Play Strategy vision followed by an Action Plan in the October. The Play Strategy group supporting the development of the vision and action plan was made up from a wide range of representatives across the Government, play and voluntary sector.

The vision:

'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'.

This vision document formed the basis for the development of the action plan which was created using three domains: Home, School and Communities, and a fourth with the theme of Positive Support for Play. The full vision strategy document and action plan can be viewed and downloaded here:

https://2ff5fdee-0157-42dd-bdaf-9d9dc72af7f4.filesusr.com/ugd/33d2a7_036fe73420564ca931640306818f3c2.pdf

How can local groups use the Play Strategy?

- Read it! Look through the actions and establish what you are currently doing that meets these actions.
- Demonstrate what you do by developing some text around your activities that links in to these actions and quote these actions in your text.
- Meet with others in your area and plan how you can develop new activities to support specific actions.
- Highlight what you are doing to meet the actions to Smart Play Network. We can share your activity with our wider network and with the Play Strategy Group.
- Look up the research and associated toolkits that have been developed from the actions; these can be found on the Scottish Government website and are excellent resources to help you develop your service.

By being able to demonstrate how your activities are helping deliver areas of the Action Plan you are aligning with the Scottish Government's National Outcomes. This is very important when writing funding applications and it also gives you confidence that your service is meeting the play needs of your children, families and communities.



Ideas and examples of how your setting can support some of the actions of the Play Strategy

In the Home

Action 6.4 Download SPN play cards from our website. We have a range of colourful cards with activities designed to meet action 6.4 for your setting. Print off the black and white versions; children can colour in the cards and parents can use the ideas in the home.

Action 6.5 Who knows about your work? Can you publicise what you do more widely? Are you demonstrating how you support play at home? For toy libraries this should be one of your key messages.

Action 6.7 Sign up to RoSPA's newsletter, Homeward. This e-newsletter offers excellent up to date information for safety in the home environment and can be passed on to your families. Email: elumsden@rospa.com and find back copies here: <http://www.rospa.com/home-safety/uk/scotland/newsletter/>



Ideas and examples of how your setting can support some of the actions of the Play Strategy continued...

In Nursery and School

Action 7.3 & 7.7 Share your practice. There are some excellent examples of how play in schools and nurseries is supporting child development. Write case studies, share them with us and we can feed back to the Group.

Action 7.4 Tell us how you communicate the importance of play to parents. If you don't already do this you could hold discussions with staff on what you think would work and try some things out. Could you produce an information sheet with the help of parents? Could you appoint a 'play champion' in your setting?

Action 7.6 Introduce free play with loose parts in your playground. Get guidance from SPN or better still, look at our Play in a Pod programme and find out that could work: <https://www.smartplaynetwork.org/play-in-a-pod>

Action 7.8 Raise awareness of Article 31 by downloading the poster from the UNCRC website.

<http://ipaworld.org/resources/for-children/fun-things/>

(English, Welsh, German and Turkish) or

<http://www.ipascotland.org/article-31-gaelic-poster/>

(Gaelic)

In the Community

Action 8.2 Make links with your Community Planning Partnership. Find out if they have access to and are utilising the published guide developed for them to support play, 'Play Map—a resource for Community Planning Partnerships'

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/12/6702/download>
[ads](#)

Action 8.4 Research the extensive information and guides on developing outdoor play in communities. Play Scotland has some excellent links and downloads, <http://www.playscotland.org/resources/information/>.

Promote these in your networks, download / buy copies and lend them to parents and practitioners.

Action 8.9 We would be keen to know how you support play in the home via the activities that you do. For example, toy libraries lend toys and resources, and model good practice at sessions, this provides parents with the tools, knowledge and confidence for play when they go home. Tell us your 'legacy' and we can promote this and showcase to others including at Play Council Strategic Group.

Positive Support for Play

In general, consider whether there are enough opportunities to promote play in your area. Is there sufficient play training for example? Are teachers, practitioners, volunteers, community members and parents informed enough to support good quality play opportunities?

Consider holding a training session on play and invite as many people from different sectors as possible. The media should be invited and informed about your training, events and services. Aim to ensure that everyone who can support the development of play opportunities for children has the information they need.

Progress review of Scotland's Play Strategy 2021

The report highlights how the play organisations have responded to the COVID pandemic. It takes account of mitigating measures that the Scottish Government have put in place to support children's play at a time of national crisis and eight recommendations.

Recommendations are:

- Refresh the Play Strategy and ensure national and local leadership
- Renew and develop the national and local commitment to outdoor play
- Listen to children and young people and act on what they say
- Ensure the inclusion of all children and young people
- Ensure cross sectoral and inter professional approaches to play
- Sustain and support play provision through adequate funding
- Maintain a focus on playful learning and play in schools
- Strengthen the play sector nationally and locally.

For the full report please go to:

https://www.playscotland.org/resources/print/Play-Scotland-Play-Strategy-Review-Play-in-Covid-2021.pdf?plsctml_id=20943

Smart Play Network Members Support

Member you have access to telephone and email support. For more information about the topics covered in this guidance sheet, or any other queries you may have about your project, please contact us using: 0131 554 2620 or admin@smartplaynetwork.org