



COVID-19 and play: Updating the Play Strategy

Consultation with children and young people

1. Introduction

Play Scotland is producing a report for the Scottish Government to help inform the refresh of the Play Strategy. This follows up an earlier report sent to the government in March 2020.

This latest report looks at the impact of COVID-19 on play and is being finalised in early Spring 2021. Play Scotland would like this report to be informed by the views of children and young people.

Play Scotland would be delighted if your organisation would be able to contribute by asking children and young people what they think. Thank you for your help.

2. Consultation with children and young people

Ideally, we would like you to undertake the consultation between the **6th- 20th January 2021** and return the information to Play Scotland by the **20th January**. We realise this is a tight timescale, this is because the Scottish Government wants to get our full report on COVID-19 and the Play Strategy as soon as possible.

Please could you do the following in preparing for the consultation:

- Work out the best way to consult with the children and young people – what works for your group and what you have time/resources to do.
- Let the children and young people know what the consultation is for e.g. ‘To help the Scottish Government decide how to support children’s play in Scotland. They want your help. They want to know what children and young people think.’
- Ask the children and young people if they would like to take part in the consultation e.g. get their informed consent.
- Tell children and young people what they say will be anonymous e.g. their names won’t be used.
- Check that parents and carers know - in line with your consent policies.
- Keep your child protection policy in mind in case anything that concerns you comes up.

3. What we would like to know

The following questions are general themes. *Please adapt and use language and methods that work for the children and young people you work with.* **You might not get through all the questions but whatever you can do will help us.**

Please record the information you gather from children and young people and provide a short report of responses to Play Scotland:

- a report/summary doesn't need to be anything complicated or time consuming
- use headings for the questions you talked about and add any information underneath
- if most children said something similar or it was one or two let us know 'most children/young people said...' or 'some children/young people said'
- quotes are great
- tell us about your group e.g. how many took part (doesn't have to be high numbers), their ages and details e.g. 'a group of six children aged 6 to 8 who come to an after-school club in central Glasgow.'
- we will summarise the information from the groups who are doing the consultation and use it in our report.

Themes/questions

We understand that young people might not use the word "play" – so please use a word/description that is more suitable, recreation, leisure time, free time throughout

1. Where do you play and what kind of play do you like best?

- 1.1 Where do you like playing? (hints: at home, school, park, club, indoors, outdoors etc)
- 1.2 Tell us about your favourite kind of play? (hints: games, sports, imaginative play, on computer/tablet, with friends, reading and making up stories, making stuff etc).
- 1.3 Who do you do play with? Parents/carers, brothers and sisters, by myself, friends, other children at school/club, pets?

2. What is different for you because of COVID-19?

COVID-19 (use words/discussion as suits your group) has had a big effect on our lives. How has it affected how you play, where you play and who with?

2.1 Has COVID-19 made a difference to how and where you play:

- at home (hints: have to stay in more, can't visit friends);
- at school (hints: can't do things e.g. less play/more play in class; what happens at breaks);
- outdoors: (hints: garden/places nearby, park; other places usually go to, places further away from home
- clubs/activities: (hints: clubs closed, open but different, have to do it online.

2.2 What has been more difficult/you don't like?

(Hints: getting out, spending time with friends, seeing family, doing the things you like doing, rules about what can do/can't do, going to places you like etc; worried about things (*alert-might raise sensitive issues*), can't get there easily, especially difficult for you (*individual needs/barriers*)).

2.3 Have there been things you liked or were better?
(Hints: time doing things you liked; smaller groups; new, fun activities, spending time with family etc, time at home, playing outdoors more, doing stuff online.)

3. What should adults do to help you play?

3.1 What things should change to help you play? (Hints: less rules, being able to see friends/family more, more things open (clubs, sports -swimming pools etc, be able to do more stuff at school/club/activity (what are these things)?)

3.2 What would you like more of or to change? (Hints more places to play outdoors, more clubs/activities, play at school in class, play at school in breaks, things to do at home, things that make it easier for you to play (inclusive play).)

3.3 Have you a **BIG MESSAGE** for anyone who does stuff around play e.g. school/families/people who look after parks/clubs/government?

‘My BIG MESSAGE is...’

We are pleased to have any illustrations and comments children/young people would like to share with us if they wish to do this too, if the permissions are in place for them to be made public (anonymised).

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP. Please return responses to Play Scotland by 20th January. This can be done by scanning notes and emailing, or sending a short report by email. If you would like to report another way we are happy to discuss this with you. Please contact cheriemorgan@playscotland.org