



Playwork

Playwork is the involvement of adults who wish to enhance and enrich Children and Young People's play experiences.

Proposed Playwork Principles 2005¹

These principles establish the professional and ethical framework for playwork.

They 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 and psychological 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 over socialisation, education and other adult agendas. Playworkers must act as advocates for play when engaging with adult agendas.
5. The role of the Playworker is to support 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 must be based on a sound up to date knowledge of the play process, and reflective practice.
7. Playworkers must recognise their own impact on the play space and also the impact of Children and Young People's play on the Playworker.
8. The Playworker must 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 and Young People.

1. PlayWales www.playwales.org.uk

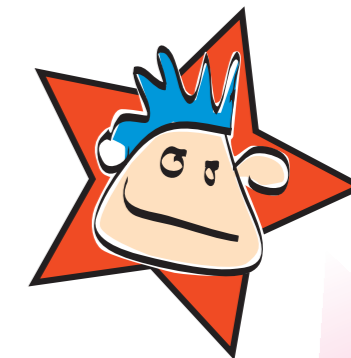
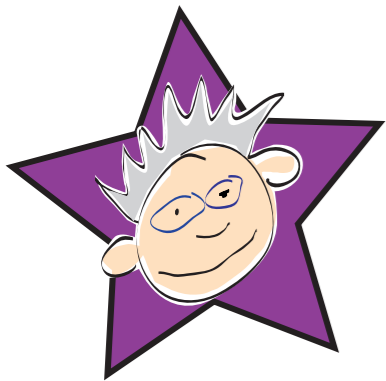


PLAY WORKS!!!

STRATEGIC PLAN 2005-2008



PlayBoard
WORKING FOR THE CHILD'S RIGHT TO PLAY



Strategic Plan

PlayBoard is the lead agency for the development of Children and Young People's play in Northern Ireland. Playboard receives core funding from the Department of Education through the Youth Council for Northern Ireland, to enable and facilitate the personal and social development of Children and Young People.

PlayBoard works to improve the quality of Children and Young People's lives by increasing their opportunities to play.

Play is the natural activity of Children and Young People. Every Child and Young Person is not only entitled to, but has an intrinsic need to play. It is clear in Northern Ireland that the sectarian conflict together with today's culture of inactivity has resulted in Children and Young People being denied a wide range of opportunities for play, particularly outdoors. This play deprivation is both biologically and socially disabling for our Children and Young People and the society in which we live.

PlayBoard is a membership organisation which exists to promote, create and develop quality play opportunities, through three key functions:

1. Tackling Play Deprivation in the Community
2. Supporting quality Out of School PlayCare provision
3. Workforce Development of the Playwork sector

Making the Case for Play – Consequences of Play Deprivation for Children and Young People

- Poor ability and motor skills
- Lower levels of physical activity
- Unable to deal with stress and trauma
- Unable to assess and manage risk
- Lack of social skills
- Poor ability in handling conflict and cultural difference

Making the Case for Play – Play Deprivation and the Legacy of the Conflict on our Community

- Lack of PlaySpace and Mobility
- Adulterated Play Narratives
- The Risk Conundrum
- Negative Stereotypical Images absorbed at an early age
- Childhood Obesity, Mental Health Problems and Bullying
- Medicalisation of Challenging Behaviour

Key areas of work to be undertaken

1. Providing an effective lobby to make the case for Play
2. Research and campaigning for Play and PlaySpace provision
3. Providing quality Play Services
4. Providing Peace Building opportunities for Children and Young People and Playworkers
5. Representation and Advocacy – building effective relationships and providing expertise
6. Training, supporting and developing the Playwork sector
7. Organisational development of PlayBoard

Making it Happen – Key Outcomes

- Improved Play Opportunities for Children
- Professionalised Playwork Workforce
- Mainstream funding for PlayCare Provision with PlayBoard as a key sectoral partner
- Reduction in Children's Obesity levels
- Increased access to Play Enabling Environments

Making it Happen – Key Outputs

- A Play & Recreation Strategy for Northern Ireland
- Growing and Sustaining Out of School PlayCare Provision
- A Playwork Education & Training Strategy for NI, supported by Government
- Reclaiming PlaySpace in Parks, Open Spaces and Local Streets
- Improving Outdoor Play Opportunities in School Playgrounds
- Delivering Environmental Education through Play

