Play happens wherever children are, at home, in their neighbourhood and in their community. But not all children and young people growing up today have the same chances in life. For many children, their local environment offers great opportunities for play, recreation and hanging out with friends, supporting their hopes for a great future. For others, their experience is all too often one of play deprivation, poverty, inequality, environmental hazards and even conflict.

The responsibility to make things better lies with civic leadership, our government, local authorities and civil society, indeed all of us working together to lay the necessary foundations for cities, towns and communities, to fulfil the rights and needs of our youngest citizens.

This year our conference focuses on play as a key building block of childhood. Our keynote speakers and workshop facilitators will engage policy makers and resource providers, local leaders and civil society, offering all an opportunity to join hands and collectively develop strategies to make our cities, towns and local communities better places for children and young people to learn, grow and play.

Only by making the communities where children live places where they feel safe, secure and nurtured will they be able to flourish. Attending this conference you may be able to play your role in ensuring a brighter, playful future for every child in Northern Ireland.

For more information and to book:
www.playboard.org/playboard-conference-2019/

PlayBoard NI Conference 2019

20th November 2019
Crowne Plaza, Belfast
9.30am - 4.30pm

9:00 - 9:30  Registration - tea & coffee
9:30 - 9:45  Jacqueline O’Loughlin - Welcome
9:45 - 10:00 Derek Baker
10:00 - 10:30 Grainia Long - Building a resilient future for all our citizens
10:30 - 11:15 Stella O’Malley - Growing up in a cotton wool society
11:15 - 11:45 Break
11:45 - 12:15 Helen Dodd - Could adventurous play decrease anxiety in childhood?
12:15 - 12:45 Alan Herron - Play - the domino effect
12:45 - 1:45 Lunch
1:45 - 2:30 Felicitas zu Dohna - Everything to play for
2:30 - 3:00 Joanna Brown - PACEs: Play - a counter to ACEs
3:00 - 3:30 Break
3:30 - 4:15 Workshops:
• Emma Marshall - Building Emotional Resilience in Children & Young People
• Amanda Grimes - A Richer Understanding of Article 31 - The Child’s Right to Play
• Suzi Gray - Playwork – It’s Child’s Play, Isn’t It?
• Christiaan Karelse - Engaging with Children to create Child Friendly Places for Northern Ireland
4:15 - 4:30 Plenary session and close