

Play Action Plan



Our children have the best start in life
and are ready to succeed

West Lothian is a place where play is valued as
an essential, life enhancing daily experience for



Definition of Play

Children's play is any behaviour, activity or process initiated, controlled and structured by children themselves. Play is non-compulsory, driven by intrinsic motivation and undertaken for its own sake, rather than a means to an end. It may take infinite forms but the key characteristics of play are fun, uncertainty, challenge, flexibility and non-productivity



OUR ACTIONS AND ASPIRATIONS

The reference to a child or children in the Action Plan is for any child between birth and 18 years old including those with a disability

1. We promote West Lothian, as a place that nurtures children through play.
2. We will create opportunities for play for every child, every day. Children playing within their community will always take precedence over adult led issues such as nuisance or noise.
3. We plan programmes for play within schools and communities that follow the Playwork Principles.
4. We ensure that every child's right to play is valued, protected and delivered.
5. We will encourage all sectors to highlight a play champion, either internal or external and to review play practice termly.
6. We will advocate that all play environments have suitable outdoor areas for children to experience outdoor active play in nature.
7. We will support the importance of risk and challenge in children's play.
8. We all move to a risk benefit approach to managing risk within children's play, in line with the Health & Safety Executive and Care Inspectorate statements on risk management.
9. We will encourage parents to be involved and support their children's learning through play.
10. We will strive to ensure all areas in West Lothian have professionally staffed play provision during holiday periods.
11. We will provide support to play organisations to facilitate access, so that all children including those with a disability can access the provision.
12. We have school grounds with varied natural landscapes, accessible loose parts and open access to all areas. If parents have concerns about clothing wellies and waterproof should be provided.
13. We ensure that all those working with children in West Lothian have current, up to date play training which is regularly maintained.
14. The Play Strategy and Action Plan will be reviewed and play will always be a priority with the Community Planning Partnership members.

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**Outcome Happy Children and
Young People!!!**

West Lothian

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The Play Action Plan was developed in
consultation with