

Key statements the Scottish government's new [Play Vision](#) and [Action Plan](#) (2013)

'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.'

'Play encompasses children's behaviour which is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated.

It is performed for no external goal or reward, and is a fundamental and integral part of healthy development – not only for individual children but also for the society in which they live. The key characteristics of play are fun, uncertainty, challenge, flexibility and non-productivity.'

'Free play has the potential to contribute powerfully and positively to some of the most significant areas of life in schools, nurseries, early years and childcare.'

'At schools and nurseries all children and young people enjoy high quality play opportunities, particularly outdoor free play in stimulating spaces with access to nature, on a daily basis in early learning and childcare, nursery and school. '