

4. **Social Play** – play during which the rules and criteria for social engagement and interaction can be revealed, explored and amended.

5. **Creative Play** – play which allows a new response, the transformation of information, awareness of new connections, with an element of surprise.

6. **Communication Play** – play using words, nuances or gestures for example, mime, jokes, play acting, mickey taking, singing, debate, poetry.

7. **Dramatic Play** – play which dramatizes events in which the child is not a direct participator.

8. **Deep Play** – play which allows the child to encounter risky or even potentially life threatening experiences, to develop survival skills and conquer fear.

9. **Exploratory Play** – play to access factual information consisting of manipulative behaviours such as handling, throwing, banging or mouthing objects.

10. **Fantasy Play** – play which rearranges the world in the child's way, a way which is unlikely to occur.

11. **Imaginative Play** – play where the conventional rules, which govern the physical world, do not apply.

12. **Locomotor Play** – movement in any or every direction for its own sake.

13. **Mastery Play** – control of the physical and affective ingredients of the environments.

14. **Object Play** – play which uses infinite and interesting sequences of hand-eye manipulations and movements.

15. **Role Play** – play exploring ways of being, although not normally of an intense personal, social, domestic or interpersonal nature.

16. **Recapitulative Play** – play that allows the child to explore ancestry, history, rituals, stories, rhymes, fire and darkness. Enables children to access play of earlier human evolutionary stages.

By following the 7 best play objectives Play Alloa aims to:

1. Extend the choice and control that children have over their play, the freedom they enjoy and the satisfaction they gain from it.
2. Recognise the child's need to test boundaries and respond positively to that need.
3. Manage the balance between the need to offer risk and the need to keep children safe from harm.
4. Maximise the range of play opportunities.
5. Foster independence and self esteem.
6. Foster children's respect for others and offer opportunities for social interaction.
7. Foster the child's well being, healthy growth and development, knowledge and understanding, creativity and capacity to learn.



PLAY ALLOA Play Policy



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Play Alloa is the leading provider of play and social opportunities for children and adults with disabilities and additional support needs across Clackmannanshire.

Play Alloa is a registered Scottish Charity (SCO23344) and a Registered Charitable Company (379003).

Play Alloa: Play Policy

Play Alloa recognises a **Child's Right To Play** as contained in **Article 31** of the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1991**.

Play Alloa advocates that *play* is the universal language of childhood, it is an activity which exists for its own sake but also has a fundamental role. All children and young people should have the opportunity to play every day.

"Play is a fundamental part of childhood, taking place within the home from birth, through formal and informal learning, and in community settings through the use of public spaces and services. Our role as parents and carers is to enable and facilitate play. As policy makers, planners and practitioners it is to ensure play is embedded at the heart of decision making throughout our society and to provide the catalyst for culture change."

(Scottish Government, Play Strategy for Scotland)

Play Alloa endorses a number of Key Policy/Policy Statements/Reports ie. Protecting Children and Young People: The Charter, The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the National Care Standards: early education and childcare up to the age of 16 and The Scottish Government's Play Strategy.

Play Alloa operates in accordance with the Playwork Principles:

Playwork Principles: The Playwork Principles establish the professional and ethical framework for playwork and as such must be regarded as a whole. 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.

The Playwork Principles are as follows:

1. All children and young people need to play. The impulse to play is innate. Play is a biological, psychological and social 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 and playworkers act as advocates for play when engaging with adult led agendas.
5. The role of the playworker is to support all 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 is based on a sound up to date knowledge of the play process, and reflective practice.
7. Playworkers recognise their own impact on the play space and also the impact of children and young people's play on the playworker.
8. Playworkers 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.

(Playwork Principles Scrutiny Group, Cardiff 2005)

Play Alloa

Play Alloa aims to create a varied and interesting environment that stimulates social, physical, creative, emotional and intellectual play. The setting includes the provision of open space, music, lighting and a range of objects and materials (loose parts) that children can select to develop their own play.

Play Alloa will plan activities and provide resources that are based on children's interests and supports individual children's needs to ensure all children enjoy themselves.

- Staff in the setting recognise the importance of free play with minimal adult intervention whilst keeping children safe from harm.
- The setting will provide staffing at a 1:1, 1:2 or 1:3 ratio, depending on the individual children's needs.
- On leaving the centre the staff will be responsible for 1:1 or 1:2 only.
- Volunteers will support staff in play sessions and may count towards the ratio

Play Alloa recognises and allows children to engage in the 16 types of play taken from '**Bob Hughes' Taxonomy of Play Types**'

1. **Symbolic Play** – play which allows control, gradual exploration and increased understanding without the risk of being out of one's depth.
2. **Rough and Tumble Play** – close encounter play which is less to do with fighting and more to do with touching, tickling, assessing relative strength. Discovering physical flexibility and the exhilaration of display.
3. **Socio-dramatic Play** – the enactment of real and potential experiences of an intense personal, social, domestic or interpersonal nature.