



Marguerite Hunter Blair  
Chief Executive

**Cross Party Group  
on  
Child Safety**

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# Play Scotland works to deliver the child's right to play in Scotland

Play on the Longest Day

Play on Pedals

Managing Risk in Play Provision

Play Strategy Imp Group

Community Spaces Green Networks

Have a Field Day

Scotland's Play Council

Early Years Framework

Guidance for Community Planning Partnerships  
Active 2014  
Communities Fund

Project WildThing

Outdoor Curriculum for Excellence

play@home

Sustrans

# The Key Characteristics of Play

Fun

Flexibility

Challenge

Uncertainty

Non-productivity

(UNCRC General Comment 2013)

# Sir Harry Burns, Chief Medical Officer Scotland

“Investing in children’s play is one of the most important things we can do to improve children’s health and wellbeing in Scotland.”



# High Level Statement on Play and Risk HSE 2012

*When planning and providing play opportunities, the goal is not to eliminate risk, but to weigh up the risks and benefits*

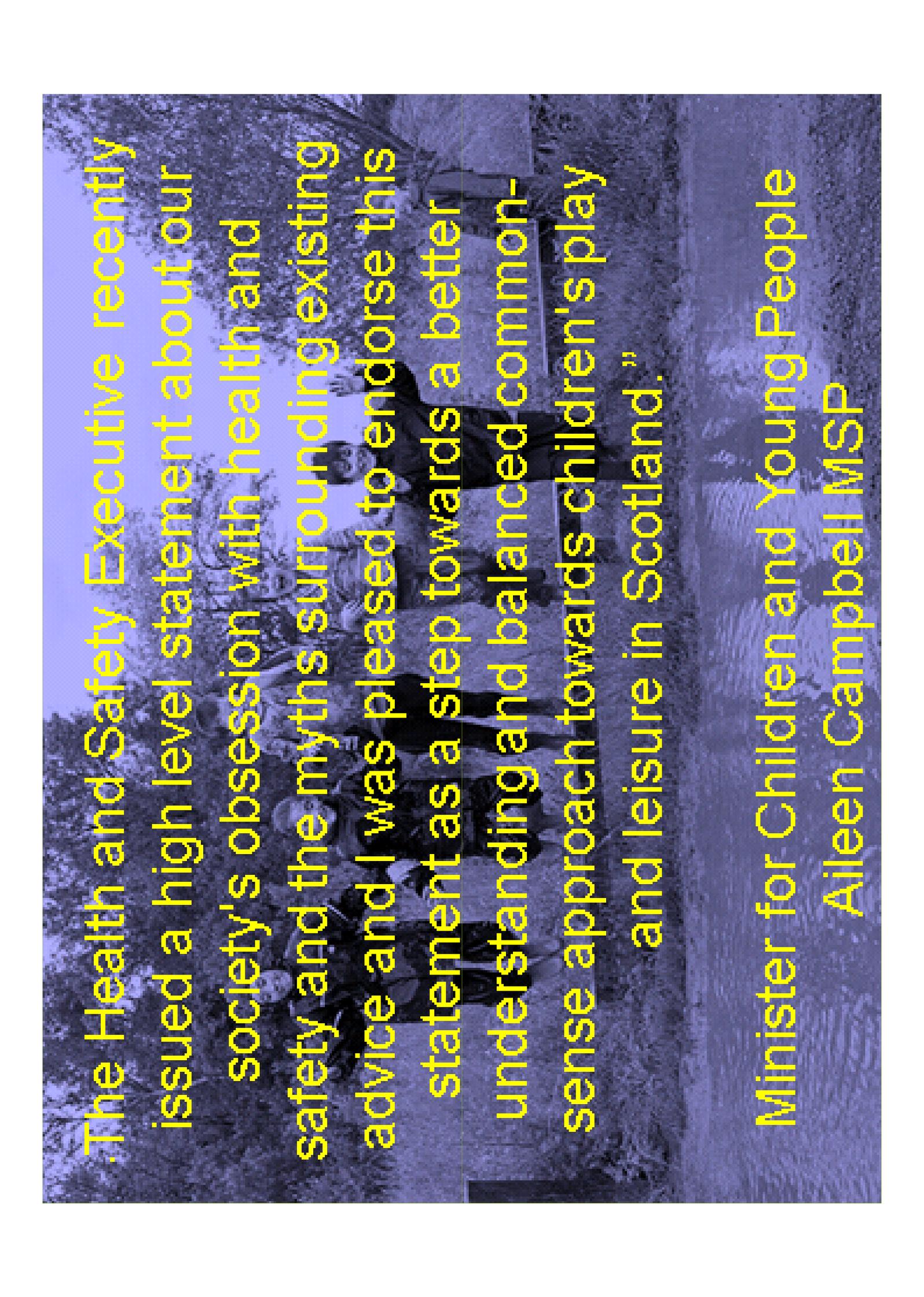
# High Level Statement on Play and Risk

Those providing play opportunities should focus on controlling the real risks, while securing or increasing the benefits - not on the paperwork

Accidents and mistakes happen during play  
- but fear of litigation and prosecution has been blown out of proportion

# Play Provision and Risk

**Safety + Play Value =  
Risk Benefit Assessment**

A group of children are playing in a park. In the foreground, a boy in a blue shirt and dark shorts is running towards the camera. Behind him, several other children are engaged in various activities, including playing with a ball and interacting with each other. The background features a large, leafy tree and a grassy area. The overall scene is bright and lively, suggesting a sunny day in a park.

The Health and Safety Executive recently issued a high level statement about our society's obsession with health and safety and the myths surrounding existing advice and I was pleased to endorse this statement as a step towards a better understanding and balanced common-sense approach towards children's play and leisure in Scotland."

Minister for Children and Young People  
Aileen Campbell MSP

"Health and safety laws are often wrongly cited as a reason to deny children opportunities, contributing to a cotton wool culture. I welcome this statement which brings clarity and focus to what really matters when managing the risks associated with children's play. Whilst HSE's main focus is on health and safety in the workplace, it is clear that attitudes to risk are formed long before young people enter the world of work. Play outdoors teaches young people how to deal with risk and without this they are ill equipped to deal with working life."

**Judith Hackitt, Chair of the Health and Safety Executive**

# Play Strategy for Scotland

Ready ... Steady ... Go ....





# Managing Risk in Play Provision Action 9.10 & 9.11

# The Competent Child Needs Risk

- “The ideal parent wants strong, resilient, bright eyed, fearless children”

(Tom Hodgekinson)

- “The introduction of risk might form part of play opportunities and activity”

(HSE High level statement)

# Children's ACT



**Active** **Achieving** **Inclusive**