



# we play festival

Programme Catalogue

Presented in Partnership with





# we play festival

## About the Festival

We Play Festival is a collaboration between The University of Edinburgh, The Play Cafe Project, Froebelian Futures, and The Scottish Storytelling Centre supported by a host of other partners - to celebrate and promote more child-and community-centered public spaces in our cities. Designed with and for children, families, childminders, early years practitioners, policymakers and third-sector partners. We Play comprises:

A week-long drop-in play cafe co-developed with the UK's leading child-led kindergarten resource designers, Community Playthings.

A series of scheduled talks, discussions, arts, well-being, music, storytelling, and film events; all in the welcoming surroundings of The Scottish Storytelling Centre.

We Play aims to blaze a trail for a kind of public space we want to see cultivated right across Scotland: one which fosters community, support, and knowledge exchange between diverse individuals and organizations concerned with children's rights, play, equity, and innovation. At the heart of this initiative is to prototype a radical new public space for children and families where research, knowledge exchange, teaching, practice, and everyday life are integrated, so that the highest quality of early learning and childcare is provided to all children (with a focus on the most marginalized children), and young children's rights are implemented.

As part of the project, we will co-design through community engagement what this space could look like (e.g. physically and in terms of its ethos, ways of working, activities and practices, etc), by engaging with a range of organizations working with children and families in the early years, with a particular focus on families from marginalized and disadvantaged backgrounds.

**23rd September 2023, Saturday**

Time	Activity	Venue
9:30 AM - 12:15 PM	PLAY CAFE & Musical Gathering (10:15 AM - 11:00 AM)	The Storytelling Court @ Storytelling Centre
12:45 PM - 3:00 PM	PLAY CAFE	The Storytelling Court @ Storytelling Centre
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Film Screening: Gods of Molenbeek	The Netherbow Theatre @ The Storytelling Centre
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Little Learners	The Storytelling Court @ Storytelling Centre

**24th September 2023, Sunday**

Time	Activity	Venue
9:30 AM - 12:15 PM	PLAY CAFE	The Storytelling Court @ Storytelling Centre
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Zine making	George Mackay Brown Library @ Storytelling Centre
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM	Film Screening: Short films: Inner Lives, Outer Worlds	The Netherbow Theatre @ The Storytelling Centre
12:45 PM - 3:00 PM	PLAY CAFE	The Storytelling Court @ Storytelling Centre
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	"Playing in the city!"	The Netherbow Theatre @ The Storytelling Centre
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Neurodivergent Communication	The Storytelling Court @ Storytelling Centre

**25th September 2023, Monday**

Time	Activity	Venue
9:45 AM - 10:45 AM	Taster Baby Massage	The Storytelling Court @ Storytelling Centre
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Art Buds	Outdoor Garden @ Storytelling Centre
11:00 AM - 12:45 PM	PLAY CAFE	The Storytelling Court @ Storytelling Centre
1:15 PM - 3:00 PM	PLAY CAFE	The Storytelling Court @ Storytelling Centre
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Slow Pedagogy, children's play and the relationship with time.	George Mackay Brown Library @ Storytelling Centre
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Whose Space Series: Whose spaces?	The Storytelling Court @ Storytelling Centre

**26th September 2023, Tuesday**

Time	Activity	Venue
9:30 AM - 12:15 PM	PLAY CAFE	The Storytelling Court @ Storytelling Centre
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Loose Parts Play	Outdoor Garden @ Storytelling Centre
12:45 PM - 3:00 PM	PLAY CAFE	The Storytelling Court @ Storytelling Centre
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	The Yard	Outdoor Garden @ Storytelling Centre
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Learning Through Landscapes	George Mackay Brown Library @ Storytelling Centre
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Celebrating Differences Through Play	George Mackay Brown Library @ Storytelling Centre
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	<p>Making space for play in Scotland - taking forward UN recommendations on children's right to play and public spaces</p> <p><b>6:00 PM - 6:10 PM  </b> Warm Welcome by Professor Sarah Prescott, Professor of English Literature and Vice-Principal and Head of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.</p>	The Netherbow Theatre @ The Storytelling Centre

**27th September 2023, Wednesday**

Time	Activity	Venue
9:30 AM - 12:15 AM	PLAY CAFE	The Storytelling Court @ Storytelling Centre
12:45 PM - 3:00 PM	PLAY CAFE	The Storytelling Court @ Storytelling Centre
3:00 PM - 4:30 PM	Learn about Swazi culture through stories for young children	The Storytelling Court @ Storytelling Centre
5:00 PM - 5:45 PM	Gender diversity in early childhood	The Netherbow Theatre @ The Storytelling Centre
6:00 PM - 7:15 PM	Pecha Kucha - Provoking play	The Netherbow Theatre @ The Storytelling Centre

**28th September 2023, Thursday**

Time	Activity	Venue
9:30 AM - 12:15 PM	PLAY CAFE	The Storytelling Court @ Storytelling Centre
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Architecture Workshop with Children	Stockbridge Primary School
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	The Yard	Outdoor Garden @ Storytelling Centre
12:45 PM - 1:30 PM	Recitals For Wrigglers	The Storytelling Court @ Storytelling Centre
1:30 PM - 3:00 PM	PLAY CAFE	The Storytelling Court @ Storytelling Centre
1:30 PM - 3:00 PM	Children's Perspectives in the Environments of Play	George Mackay Brown Library @ Storytelling Centre
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Child activism, child-led research and intersectionality	The Storytelling Court @ Storytelling Centre

**29th September 2023, Friday**

Time	Activity	Venue
9:45 AM - 10:45 AM	Taster Baby Massage	The Storytelling Court @ Storytelling Centre
11:15 AM. -12:00 PM	A Musical Gathering	The Storytelling Court @ Storytelling Centre
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM	Tiny Plates	George Mackay Brown Library @ Storytelling Centre
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	PLAY CAFE	The Storytelling Court @ Storytelling Centre
2:00 PM - 3:30 PM	Intergenerational and Everyday Play	George Mackay Brown Library @ Storytelling Centre
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Collective: Friday Play	Collective Edinburgh Hills
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Play Cafe & 'Whose Space Series: Children's Play in Public Life'	The Storytelling Court @ Storytelling Centre

**30th September 2023, Saturday**

Time	Activity	Venue
10:15 AM - 12:30 PM	PLAY CAFE & A Musical Gathering (10:15 AM - 11:00 AM)	The Storytelling Court @ Storytelling Centre
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	(Re)Imagining education - What can learning look like?"	George Mackay Brown Library @ Storytelling Centre
12:45 PM - 3:00 PM	PLAY CAFE	The Storytelling Court @ Storytelling Centre
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Children Presenters from Cowgate Under 5s	The Storytelling Court @ Storytelling Centre
3:30 PM - 5:00 PM	Whose Space Series A Child's Eye View: children's participation in the city.	Outdoors
3:45 PM - 5:15 PM	Film screening: In my Blood it runs	The Netherbow Theatre @ The Storytelling Centre
5:30 PM - 6:00 PM	<b>Closing remarks:</b> Warm reflections and future visions of the We Play Festival by the <b>We Play Team</b> , <b>Professor David Smith</b> , Head of Moray House School of Education and Sport, University of Edinburgh, and <b>Professor Kay Tisdall</b> , Chair of Childhood Policy, Childhood and Youth Studies, Moray House School of Education and Sport, University of Edinburgh	The Storytelling Court @ Storytelling Centre

**1st October 2023, Sunday**

Time	Activity	Venue
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	The Story Kist: Inclusive Stories & Art	The Storytelling Court @ Storytelling Centre
1:30 PM - 3:30 PM	Ceilidh Family event	The Storytelling Court @ Storytelling Centre



## Play Cafe

### The Play Cafe Project & Froebelian Futures

Drop in for a cuppa and a wide array of stay-and-play experiences for babies and young children - with friendly volunteers helping you feel at home and supporting confidence in your parenting and your child's play. Our mobile play café facilitates pop-up play spaces for children, families, and key workers across Edinburgh and beyond, co-designed with diverse community organizations. Join us as we create unique child-centered, rich, and nurturing play spaces.

Our pop-up play cafe includes play areas for construction, storytelling, baby-sensory play, cooking, imaginative and dress-up play, water, clay, painting, and more...Spread the word!

Registration required. Please note this is a timed event. Attendees will be asked to leave the play cafe at the end of the session to make room for other families, so we ask that you do your best to arrive at/near the start of your session to enjoy as much time in the space as you can.

**23rd September 2023 - 1st October 2023**    **Scottish Storytelling Centre**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/we-play-festival-2490279>

## A Musical Gathering

### Cowgate Under 5s

This child-led singing session will weave together old favourites, new songs and movement in response to children and families' own ideas.

**23rd, 29th & 30th September 2023**

**The Storytelling Court @ Storytelling Centre**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/we-play-festival-2490279>



## Little Learners

### Little Learners

Join Little Learners UK for a fun filled 'Mini Mark Making Session' with an array of wonderful activities to encourage mark making through messy play! Our award winning Little Learner's sessions encourage your child to use hands, fingers, feet and toes to make marks - setting them up for their first steps towards developing early writing skills. At Little Learners, we encourage every child to make their mark in a safe and fun environment, which places education and learning at the forefront.

Age 6 months - 5 years old

**23rd September 2023**    **The Storytelling Court @ The Storytelling Centre**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/little-learners-tickets-678001168747?aff=oddtcreator>







## Gods of Molenbeek

Take One Action Film festivals

Reetta Huhtanen | 2019 | 72 min

### Does God exist? What happens when we die?

Brussels' Molenbeek district has been, for most outsiders, synonymous with violent jihadism. For six-year-old friends Aatos and Amine, however, it is just home: the playground in which they listen to spiders whisper, or argue over who will get the front seat on the magic carpet that will take them to the land of their ancestors.

Finno-Chilean Aatos lives in the same apartment block as Amine, whose family originates from Morocco. Their daily lives, though markedly different, are shaped by this ethnically diverse neighbourhood, and in the boys' imagination, the exploits of Nordic gods compete with the tales of the Quran. One fateful day, their carefree universe is rocked by violent terrorist attacks in Brussels. Heavily armed soldiers now patrol the streets, while grown-ups seem very anxious. This gorgeously playful meditation on childhood, faith and friendship bears witness to children's resilience in the face of global events, and pays tribute to community cohesion.

Recommended for ages 8+

**BEYOND THE SCREEN:** Join Xuanlin Tham (Take One Action) in conversation after the film for a conversation with We Play co-directors Simon Bateson and Kristina Konstantoni, and Titi Farukuoye - a writer, organiser and anti-racist educator.

**Access:** The film will be presented with descriptive subtitles\*

**Content notes:** Contains discussions of racism and physical violence.

\*Descriptive subtitles, sometimes referred to as SDH (subtitles for Deaf and hard-of-hearing), HoH (hard-of-hearing), and captions, transcribe dialogue (e.g. for English speaking audiences, both English and any other languages) and relevant aspects of the soundtrack, including music and sound effects, attempting to give viewers an equal experience to those who are able to watch films without descriptive subtitles. Descriptive subtitles would include speech identifiers and descriptive elements such as [door slamming] and [kettle whistling].

**23rd September 2023**    **The Netherbow Theatre @ The Storytelling Centre**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-gods-of-molenbeek-tickets-677562647117?aff=oddtcreator>

## Zine Making

Negar Ebrahimi & Rebecca Innes

A creative bonanza where everyone can design their own zine by hands on activities. The workshop is inspired by a Froebelian approach to empowering child autonomy and teamwork, advocating a circular learning model of imagine/reflect, play/share and create in continuation. Don't miss this opportunity to join Negar Ebrahimi and Rebecca Innes on this event.

In order to create a multi-sensory experience for children, we encourage you to bring along natural materials for crafting including but not limited to dried flowers, tree leaves from your neighbourhood, sand or shells, as well as fabric scraps from an old blanket or outgrown clothes, or even buttons! We especially encourage anything with sentimental value for children.

Get as creative as you wish!

Age 4 - 7 Years old

**Negar Ebrahimi** | PhD in Architecture, University of Edinburgh

**Rebecca Innes** | Froebelian Practitioner at Cowgate Under 5's

**24th September 2023**    **George Mackay Brown Library @ Storytelling Centre**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/zine-making-followed-by-playgrounds-of-happiness-tickets-691253526907?aff=oddttdtcreator>



## Playing in the City

Tasniva Mumu, Manasa Gade and Negar Ebrahimi

Discussion Panel on Children's Play and Play Spaces Cities with **Tasniva Mumu**, a PhD candidate in Landscape Architecture, **Manasa Gade**, a PhD Candidate from the Institute of Geography, University of Edinburgh, and **Negar Ebrahimi** who is an architect and a consultant in spatial analysis and also currently completing her PhD in Architecture while teaching at the University of Edinburgh.

We invite you to a panel discussion, discussing children's play and play spaces. The discussion will draw on research from across borders, from Dhaka, Edinburgh and Chennai, interweaving children's experience of play, their participation in designing urban playfields, and understanding how children play a crucial role in curating their spaces, enabling the practice of agency and empowerment.

Audience: Adults/Professionals/Policy-makers/Children/Architects/Planners

**24th September 2023**    **The Netherbow Theatre @ The Storytelling Centre**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/playing-in-the-city-tickets-691266836717?aff=oddttdtcreator>



## Short films: Inner Lives, Outer Worlds

Take One Action Film festivals

This short film programme curated by Take One Action invites us to explore the relationship between the inner lives of children and the outer worlds they are embedded in. Here, the illuminating fullness of a child's perspective is celebrated – the poignant understandings, their voice, their astute critiques of what constrains their lives, and their immense creativity in imagining and bringing into being kinder, different, and more playful worlds.

Spanning animation to documentary, this programme brings us in conversation with children from Scotland to Syria, all navigating the constraints and possibilities of their unique surroundings. Play and imagination are world-interpreting and world-changing forces, bridging these children's rich inner lives and the expansive ways they interact with and alter the material world around them. Each film makes visible a dimension of children's rights we must continue fighting to uphold: the right to green space, the right to safe and unpolluted environments, the right to safety from conflict and displacement, and the right to play. It is an invitation to be fully present in looking at the world through a child's eyes – and to collectively demand safety, fulfilment, and joy for children everywhere.

Featuring:

**We Know a Better Word than Happy (Helen McCrorie, 2022, UK)** A gentle short documentary capturing children's delight in the possibilities for fun and learning in an urban green space established by community activism in Maryhill, Glasgow.

**Packing a Wave (Edu Glez, 2021, Spain)** Being stranded alone on an island is no fun. This animated short film tells the story of a young girl who finds herself in this situation with nothing but a life jacket.

**The Big House (Musa Syeed, 2014, Yemen)** When a Yemeni boy finds a key to the empty mansion down the street, he lets himself and his imagination run wild in the big house.

**Rock Pools (Animation An Talla - various creators, 2022, UK)** Playful stop motion short exploring damage to nature - made by a group of children as part of Keep Scotland Beautiful's 1.5 Degree filmmaking challenge.

**Yaman (Amer Albarzawi, 2016, Syria)** Yaman, a young inventor, proudly reveals his greatest invention: an incredible machine that can work wonders with paper tissues and render him invulnerable. While Yaman lets his imagination run riot, the outside world turns out to be far less magical.

**Tiny Souls (Dina Naser, 2013, Syria/Jordan)** 9-year-old Marwa is a lively, inquisitive child, whose interests revolve around playtime, school and her siblings. She and her family live in Jordan's Za'atari camp, the world's largest camp for Syrian refugees, and hope to return home soon.

**Access:** The film will be presented with descriptive subtitles\*

**Content notes:** Contains discussions of violence and war.

\*Descriptive subtitles, sometimes referred to as SDH (subtitles for Deaf and hard-of-hearing), HoH (hard-of-hearing), and captions, transcribe dialogue (e.g. for English speaking audiences, both English and any other languages) and relevant aspects of the soundtrack, including music and sound effects, attempting to give viewers an equal experience to those who are able to watch films without descriptive subtitles. Descriptive subtitles would include speech identifiers and descriptive elements such as [door slamming] and [kettle whistling].

**24th September 2023 The Netherbow Theatre @ The Storytelling Centre**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/film-screening-short-films-inner-lives-outer-worlds-tickets-707780168537?aff=oddtcreator>



## Neurodivergent Communication

Louise Day & Rachel Fay

Louise Day, Speech and Language Therapist will discuss a neurodivergent affirming approach to supporting children in the early years. Learn about how autistic and neurodivergent children process language differently, about special interests and attention. A neurodivergent affirming approach has parallels with the Froebelian approach valuing relationships, meeting the child where they are and embracing play and curiosity

Audience: Professionals/Parents/Families

**Louise Day** | Speech and Language Therapist

**Rachel Fay** | Franchisor of Little Learners UK

**24th September 2023**    **The Storytelling Court @ The Storytelling Centre**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/neurodivergent-communication-tickets-677582416247?aff=oddtcreator>

## Taster Baby Massage

Stepping Stones North Edinburgh

Connect and bond with your babies for our baby massage session and learn great techniques to help calm and soothe your babies. No previous experiences are needed.

Families with babies ( 6 months and under)

**25th & 29th September 2023**

**The Storytelling Court @ The Storytelling Centre**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/baby-massage-tickets-677584000987?aff=oddtcreator>



## Art Buds

Art Buds Collective

Art Buds workshops support creative development through exploration of process, and present opportunities to explore a range of art skills while forming deeper connections with nature. Participants develop artistic skills and outdoor competence under the careful guidance of experienced Artist Educators and through activities designed to support well-being and spark curiosity in the world around us. We adopt a person-centered approach to facilitation and sessions can be adapted to support participants of all ages and needs. Art Buds Collective is a sustainability-focused organization. Sustainability education is integrated into our workshops through discussion, process, and conscious use of natural and/or recycled and 'scrap' materials. Our artist-led creative workshops are designed to be delivered outdoors in nature, but where indoor delivery is preferred, we will bring the natural world to you!

Age 2 - 5 Years old

**25th September 2023**    **Outdoor Garden @ The Storytelling Centre**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/art-buds-tickets-677589377067?aff=oddtcreator>

## Slow Pedagogy, Children's Play and the Relationship with Time.

Konstantina Papaspyropoulou

Konstantina Papaspyropoulou invites you to reflect upon the benefits of adopting a slow pedagogy approach in relation to children's play in the early years. A slow pedagogy values the significance that the Froebelian ethos places upon children being able to learn at their own speed. Some of the ideas that will be discussed in this session during the 'We Play Festival' are: Whose time counts in relation to play? play as an intrinsically slow, unhurried activity and the idea of an "accelerated childhood".

Audience: Families/Professionals

**Konstantina Papaspyropoulou** | PhD student at University of Edinburgh, former Primary teacher

**25th September 2023** **George Mackay Brown Library @ Storytelling Centre**  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/slow-pedagogy-childrens-play-and-the-relationship-with-time-tickets-677592676937?aff=oddtcreator>



## Whose Space Series: "Whose Spaces?"

Ashaanka Sarma, Kristina Konstantoni and Iffah Humaira Eri Tantawi

A place where we can have a discussion about spaces for children and families, ask any questions without judgment, and where people can come with an open mind and an open heart.

"Hi, I am Ashaanka and I am 15 years old. I want to help children of color feel more included in our society."

Ashaanka's questions for the event:

- 'Are our spaces safe and 'inclusive' for children of color to play in?
- What does inclusion mean to you?
- What makes a space child-friendly?

Audience: Carers/Parents, Practitioners, Policymakers

**25th September 2023** **The Storytelling Court @ The Storytelling Centre**  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/whose-spaces-tickets-694593045497?aff=oddtcreator>



## Loose Parts Play

Asia Joanna Jaworska-Dorożyńsk

Loose Parts Play is an art-making experience for early years, that engages parents and carers in messy play with the children, aged 5 and under, in their care. The project aims to provide active childhood experiences for adults and children.

Loose Parts Play provides the resources, ideas, and creative inspiration for a range of activities that can often be replicated in the home environment using recycled, low-cost, and easily obtainable materials.

No previous experience is needed, all abilities are welcome!

Age 0 - 5 Years old

**26th September 2023** **Outdoor Garden @ The Storytelling Centre**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/create-tickets-677601814267?aff=oddtcreator>





## The Yard

### The Yard

Join us in this exciting event from the Yard Edinburgh where children can enjoy free sensory and messy play with loose parts and elements of den building!

Age: 0 - 7 Years old

**26th & 28th September 2023**

**Outdoor Garden @ The Storytelling Centre**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/we-play-festival-2490279>

## Learning Through Landscapes

Join Learning Through Landscape as they discuss what needs to be done in the public realm and school environments to support children's instincts for learning and expand space for children's huge potential. Merrick Denton-Thompson will give a talk on the issue of school grounds and experiential learning. Matt Robinson presents the current Programme for LTL action and shows a short film about climate change. Tim Wilson and Rebecca Rylott will cover school grounds and the repurposing of all urban areas to empower young people to reach their full, natural, development potential (optimal development)

Audience: Professionals, Practitioners and parents

**Dr. Merick Denton-Thompson** | Founding Trustee of Learning through Landscapes

**Matt Robinson** | COO and Scotland Director of Learning Through Landscapes

**Tim Wilson** | Director of Re-form Landscape Architecture

**Rebecca Rylott** | Chair of the Scottish branch of the Landscape Institute and Director at Wood Group PLC

**26th September 2023** **George Mackay Brown Library @ Storytelling Centre**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/learning-through-landscapes-tickets-691256856867?aff=oddtcreator>



## Celebrating Differences Through Play

### Iffah Humaira Eri Tantawi

Being brought up in Singapore, and a part of the minority ethnic community in the lion city, join Iffah Humaira as she shares her experience as a Malay-Singaporean, in a session filled with culture and colors while we celebrate differences through play. This interactive session will interweave children's self and cultural identity with play. A child's understanding of culture shapes their identity and will then impact their learning (Nixon & Comber, 2006). Their recognition and understanding of themselves starts at a very young age and hence important for children to be more aware of their cultural and self-identity.

A task for everyone: Come to the session with a traditional game that you have played or know of growing up!

Audience: 4 - 7 Years old, Families, Practitioners and Carers!

**26th September 2023** **George Mackay Brown Library @ Storytelling Centre**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/celebrating-differences-through-play-tickets-691258602087?aff=oddtcreator>

## **Making space for play in Scotland - taking forward UN recommendations on children's right to play and public spaces**

Observatory of Children's Human Rights Scotland

This panel will discuss what the recently published UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's Concluding Observations mean for children's right to play in Scotland, with a particular focus on ensuring all children have access to public play spaces.

The panel will be hosted by the Observatory of Children's Human Rights Scotland and chaired by Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland Nicola Killean. Panel speakers will include Dr Laura Wright (Associate member of the Observatory and Lecturer in Childhood Studies at MHSES), Theresa Casey (writer on play and children's rights, and past-President of the International Play Association), and Marguerite Hunter Blair (Chief Executive of Play Scotland). We will additionally be joined by Natalie Don MSP, the Minister for Children, Young People and Keeping the Promise.

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child is a panel of international experts who uphold the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in all signatory countries. Every signatory is periodically reviewed by the UN Committee on the state of children's rights in their country, which results in a list of recommendations to be nationally implemented by the next review: the Concluding Observations. Scotland and the UK were reviewed earlier this year.

**26th September 2023**

**The Netherbow Theatre @ The Storytelling Centre**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/taking-forward-the-concluding-observations-on-childrens-right-to-play-tickets-704500408687?aff=oddttdtcreator>





## Learn about Swazi culture through stories for young children

Dudu Hlophe and Fortunate Shabalala, University of Eswatini

Dudu Hlophe and Fortunate Shabalala from the [SIPP research project](#) share fun stories for young children from the Kingdom of Eswatini. Come along to have some fun and learn about Swazi culture. This event is part of the international research project "Safe, Inclusive Participative Pedagogy (SIPP): Improving Early Childhood Education", funded by UK Research and Innovation through the Economic and Social Research Council. It aims to identify and develop safe, inclusive, participative pedagogy that is implementable in fragile contexts and sustainable for governments, communities and families, with research partners in Brazil, Eswatini, Palestine and South Africa.

Audience: children (0+) and adults

**27th September 2023**

**The Storytelling Court @ The Storytelling Centre**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/learn-about-swazi-culture-through-stories-for-young-children-tickets-706064757697?aff=oddtcreator>

## Gender Diversity in Early Childhood

Shaddai Tembo and Katie Horsburgh

Join Shaddai Tembo (The Open University) and Katie Horsburgh (Zero Tolerance) to reflect on the gendered experiences of early childhood, and consider how we (as parents, practitioners, and public space creators) can support young children to explore and feel at ease on their journeys in and around gender.

**Katie Horsburgh** | Policy and Practice Officer: Children and Young People at Zero Tolerance

**Dr Shaddai Tembo** | Lecturer in Early Childhood Studies (UK and China) at Bath Spa University, associate lecturer at the Open University

**27th September 2023**

**The Netherbow Theatre @ The Storytelling Centre**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gender-diversity-in-early-childhood-tickets-677603168317?aff=oddtcreator>







## Pecha Kucha - Provoking play

Lynn McNair OBE, Shaddai Tembo, Theresa Casey, Elizabeth Cripps, Donna Green... and you!

Inspired by the Japanese PECHA KUCHA ("chit chat") format, five inspirational humans speak for just six minutes each in front of 20 images [no text] that capture a new or powerful idea about play and children's rights. Audience members can choose to respond - or not - for up to 20 seconds. The result? Energy! Aimed at adults who support play environments for young children, but open to anyone interested in play, children's rights and early childhood. Includes: Lynn McNair OBE (Ditch the curriculum), Shaddai Tembo (Champion anti-racist play), Theresa Casey (Value disability), Elizabeth Cripps (Defend children's futures), Donna Green (Slow down)... and you!

Audience: Researchers, Academics, Practitioners, Policymakers, Community Groups

**Dr Lynn McNair OBE (O.B.E)** | Senior Teaching Fellow and Lecturer in Early Childhood and Froebel, University of Edinburgh

**Donna Green** | Early Years Pedagogue: Froebel in Falkirk Lead

**Dr Shaddai Tembo** | Lecturer in Early Childhood Studies (UK and China) at Bath Spa University, associate lecturer at the Open University

**Theresa Casey** | Writer on play and children's rights, and past-President of the International Play Association

**Elizabeth Cripps** | Senior Lecturer in Political Theory at the University of Edinburgh

**27th September 2023**      **The Netherbow Theatre @ The Storytelling Centre**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pecha-kucha-provoking-play-tickets-677605074017?aff=oddtcreator>

## Architecture Workshop with Children

Iain Scott, Reyhaneh Mozaffar, and Carol Cerdan

This short workshop will work with young children providing them with modeling materials and techniques of drawing to elicit the children's own vision for their ideal 'Froebelian play-space'.

Age 5 - 7 Years old

**Iain Scott** | Senior lecturer in Architectural Design, University of Edinburgh

**Dr Reyhaneh Mozaffar** | Research Assistant, The Play Cafe Project, University of Edinburgh

**Carol Cerdan** | Froebelian Practitioner at Cowgate Under 5's

**28th September 2023**

**Stockbridge Primary School**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/architecture-workshop-with-children-tickets-691261962137?aff=oddtcreator>





## Recitals For Wrigglers

### Recitals for Wrigglers

A fun, interactive and educational show for babies and toddlers. Fringe sell out 2022! Professional violinist and cellist perform up close and personal - enjoyable for the whole family. A selection of music, some familiar from the classical repertoire, a traditional story and instruments provided to join in with well known songs to finish!

Children aged 0 - 5 Years old

**28th September 2023**

**The Storytelling Court @ Storytelling Centre**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/recitals-for-wrigglers-tickets-677606769087?aff=oddtcreator>

## Children's Perspectives in the Environments of Play

Iain Scott, Marguerite Hunter Blair, Jenny Wood, Carol Cerdan and Melodie Crumlin (chair)

This discussion panel is a conversation about engaging children in designing their own spaces and will present the outcomes of the "Architecture with Children Workshop." Providing a space for children to have input in designing their play spaces is an essential step in creating environments that truly resonate with their needs and interests. So please join us in this discussion to share some of the methods we can make this happen.

Audience: Professionals, Researchers, Policymakers

**Iain Scott** | Senior lecturer in Architectural design, University of Edinburgh

**Marguerite Hunter Blair** | Chief Executive of Play Scotland

**Dr. Jenny Wood** | Co-founder and Co-director, Policy & Research, A Place in Childhood

**Carol Cerdan** | Froebelian Practitioner at Cowgate Under 5's

**Melodie Crumlin** | Thrive Outdoors Fund Manager, Inspiring Scotland

**28th September 2023** **George Mackay Brown Library @ Storytelling Centre**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/childrens-perspectives-in-the-environments-of-play-tickets-691264128617?aff=oddtcreator>



## Child activism, Child-Led Research and Intersectionality

Laura Wright, Patricio Cuevas-Parra

Child activism, child-led research, and intersectionality: Food for action when thinking about early childhood and play (Speaker Patricio, Chair/Host Laura Wright)

We invite you to this workshop that seeks to create a general understanding of the value of using an intersectional lens to unpack child participation and child activism, how these are related to children and young people, and how play is experienced. Using child-led research as an emancipatory practice, we will discuss the intersecting points between participation, activism, and play. The workshop will then end with an exciting and interactive section to reflect on activism and participation in research with children!

Audience: Researchers, Academics, Practitioners, Policymakers, Community Groups

**Dr. Patricio Cuevas-Parra** | Director, Child Participation and Rights, Advocacy and External Engagement | World Vision International

**Dr Laura Wright** | Lecturer Childhood Studies, University of Edinburgh. She is also the Director of Participatory Methodologies with the International Institute for Child Rights and Development (IICRD)

**28th September 2023** The Storytelling Court @ The Storytelling Centre

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/child-activism-child-led-research-and-intersectionality-tickets-677608835267?aff=oddtcreator>



## Tiny Plates

Sally Findlay (Pilton Neighbourhood Centre)

This sessions look at what a balanced diet looks like for babies and toddlers, weaning, introducing allergens, and how to make food fun. During the sessions, we prepare lots of food and offer it to the children. We allow the children autonomy over what they choose and what they eat. Tiny Plates and Funny Faces is one of the activities. We give each of the children a rice cake, oatcake or wrap topped with a dollop of cream cheese or hummus, and then let them top themselves choosing from healthy foods including; olives, radish, tomatoes, peppers, cucumber and herbs. Meanwhile, we can discuss various topics with the parents around healthy food behaviours.

Age 6 months - 5 Years old

**29th September 2023** George Mackay Brown Library @ Storytelling Centre

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tiny-plates-tickets-691267879837?aff=oddtcreator>



## Intergenerational and Everyday Play

Laura Wright, Findlay, Emma Clarkson, Pat Scrutton & Caroline Walsh

This workshop will begin with an overview of intergenerational relationships (ranging from early years to youth, and from young adults to senior citizens) in play across generations. It will move on to three to four short presentations on the role of play in intergenerational relationships drawing on examples from nurseries, community based Programmes, and other forms of everyday play that arise across settings. We will highlight the power of play to foster meaningful relationships and contribute to children's participation in decision-making, wellbeing, and rights more broadly. We will also reflect on the value for adults themselves in engaging in play with children and young people. After the presentations, participants will have the opportunity to participate in play-based methods that can be adapted and applied in their own research and practice. The workshop will close with space for questions, answers, and dialogue for idea sharing and learning between participants and presenters.

**Audience:** Researchers, Academics, Practitioners, Policymakers, Community Group, Families and Children

**Dr Laura Wright** | Lecturer Childhood Studies, University of Edinburgh. She is also the Director of Participatory Methodologies with the International Institute for Child Rights and Development (IICRD)

**Sally Findlay** | Development Manager, Women Supporting Women Programme, Pilton Community Health Project

**Emma Clarkson** | Froebelian Practitioner at Cowgate Under 5's

**Caroline Walsh** | Early Years Outdoor Learning Officer at the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh

**29th September 2023**      **George Mackay Brown Library @ Storytelling Centre**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/intergenerational-and-everyday-play-discussion-tickets-691265011257?aff=oddtcreator>

## Play Cafe & 'Whose Space series: Children's Play in Public Life'

Kristina Konstantoni, Reyhaneh Mozaffar and Aggeliki Dimoulia

- Where do young children play in public life?
- What would an ideal social and play space for young children and their families look like, feel like?
- How can play café spaces be inclusive for all?
- Is children's free play always possible?

Come and join us to chat about where young children play in public life and public spaces, about families' and children's experiences of playing in public spaces (including indoor spaces like cafes, restaurants etc) and to think together about what ideal social and play spaces for young children and their families would look like. Children attending can also play at the play cafe.

The event is hosted by the play café project team as part of an international research project 'The Play-café project: What would Froebelian play cafes look like?' funded by the Froebel Trust. The project is a partnership between the University of Edinburgh and the Network for Children's Rights (Greece) and is particularly interested in children's play and lives in community and public spaces.

As part of the event we will share some key findings from our time spent with families and young children in two countries (Greece and Scotland) and we will also invite participants to take part in some participatory activities to share your own experiences and views.

We are particularly calling families with young children (under 7), practitioners and other early childhood professionals and grassroot individuals and communities with an interest in co-designing and creating equitable social and play spaces for young children and their families.

**Dr Kristina Konstantoni** | Senior Lecturer in Childhood Studies, Co-Director of We Play Festival, Co-lead of Early Childhood Research, Policy and Practice Group, University of Edinburgh

**Dr Reyhaneh Mozaffar** | Research Assistant, The Play Cafe Project, University of Edinburgh

**Aggeliki Dhoulia** | Research Assistant, The Play Cafe Project, University of Edinburgh and Research and Communications Officer Network for Children's Rights in Greece

**29th September 2023**

**The Storytelling Court @ Storytelling Centre**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/whose-space-series-childrens-play-in-public-life-tickets-694591470787?aff=oddtcreator>





## Collective: Friday Play

### Collective

Collective Edinburgh Art Friday Play is a weekly outdoor loose-parts play session at Collective, a contemporary art space in the historic City Observatory on Calton Hill. From messy play and crafts to gardening and cooking, there's always something different to do during these child-led play sessions. In this special session hosted to celebrate the We Play Festival, families are invited to harness the wind, experimenting with different ways of making flags and kites to fly from the hill!

**29th September 2023**      **Collective Hills Edinburgh @ Calton Hill**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/collective-art-edinburgh-tickets-694595382487?aff=oddtcreator>

## (Re)Imagining education - "What can learning look like?"

Pavithra Sarma, Priscilla Mandona, and Iffah Humaira Eri Tantawi

Pavithra Sarma, Priscilla Mandona, and Iffah Humaira ask and invite you to explore this as we delve into what child-centered learning excludes, and can look like, and what it means to consider the impact of racism within education. Pavi is a home-educating parent, anti-racism consultant, researcher, and also one of Moray House's SGSSS ESRC DTP-funded Doctoral researchers, whose lived experiences and work have focussed on addressing inequities and inequalities from an intersectional lens. Priscilla Mandona is in community engagement, and activism, is a parent, and has been fleshing out people's experiences of being of color within Scottish education (both current and former). She is currently carrying out her research, called 'People of color in Education' (POCE). Iffah Humaira is a current Postgraduate student from Moray House School of Education, UoE. Her dissertation research interest moves around children's spatial agency and child-adult relationships in spaces and places.

Audience: Researchers, Parents, Academics, Practitioners, Policymakers, Community Groups, Families

**30th September 2023**      **George Mackay Brown Library @ Storytelling Centre**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/reimagining-education-what-can-learning-look-like-tickets-677624903327?aff=oddtcreator>



## Children Presenters from Cowgate Under 5s

### Cowgate Under 5s

Join us with children from Cowgate under 5s in experiencing and learning about their research, discussing nature, animals, and many more! This session brings you a child-led, participatory platform where children will be presenting their research and findings to the audience.

Audience: Families and Children

**30th September 2023**      **The Storytelling Court @ Storytelling Centre**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/children-presenters-from-cowgate-under-5s-tickets-695895039797?aff=oddtcreator>



## Whose Space Series: "A Child's Eye View - Children's participation in the city"

Sukanya Krishnamurthy

Calling all parents/carers and children! Join us for a fun and unique empathy walk experiment to explore how our children view the city - from child's height. A playful walk in the area around the Scottish Storytelling Centre - followed by child-centred reflections and discussion of wider issues around planning child-inclusive cities. Please bring your own phone with a camera so that you can take photos of the walk and be prepared to share the photos as part of our gathering to discuss our experiences.

**EVENT TIMES:** Empathy walk session - starts at 15:30 pm in the garden behind The Scottish Storytelling Centre (access via Trunk's Close). The walk will last approximately 20 minutes and we should all aim to come back to the We play cafe by 16:00 pm. Discussion approximately 16:10-17:00 pm in the We Play cafe (Scottish Storytelling Centre).

For all ages, but is especially suited to families with children aged 3-8 years.

Part of our "Whose space?" series. Hosted by Dr Sukanya Krishnamurthy whose work focuses on children and young people's lives in cities. You are welcome to bring your own snack and drink.

Audience: Families and Children (under 8 Years old)

**Dr. Sukanya Krishnamurthy** | Chancellors Fellow and Senior Lecturer in Human Geography at the School of Geosciences, University of Edinburgh.

**30th September 2023**

**Outdoors**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-childs-eye-view-childrens-participation-in-the-city-tickets-677626337617?aff=oddtcreator>

## The Story Kist: Inclusive Stories & Art

The Story Kist

Join storyteller Ailie Finlay and artist/illustrator Kate Leiper as they take you on a fun-packed, sensory adventure. Ailie will share some of her favourite sensory stories and games, with plenty of props to squish and stretch as we tell tales of autumn. Then Kate will be getting out her paints - the yellows, reds, and oranges - so prepare to get splodgy and splattery as we make autumn-themed pictures. A fun and engaging session for everyone but particularly suitable for children with additional needs and their families and friends.

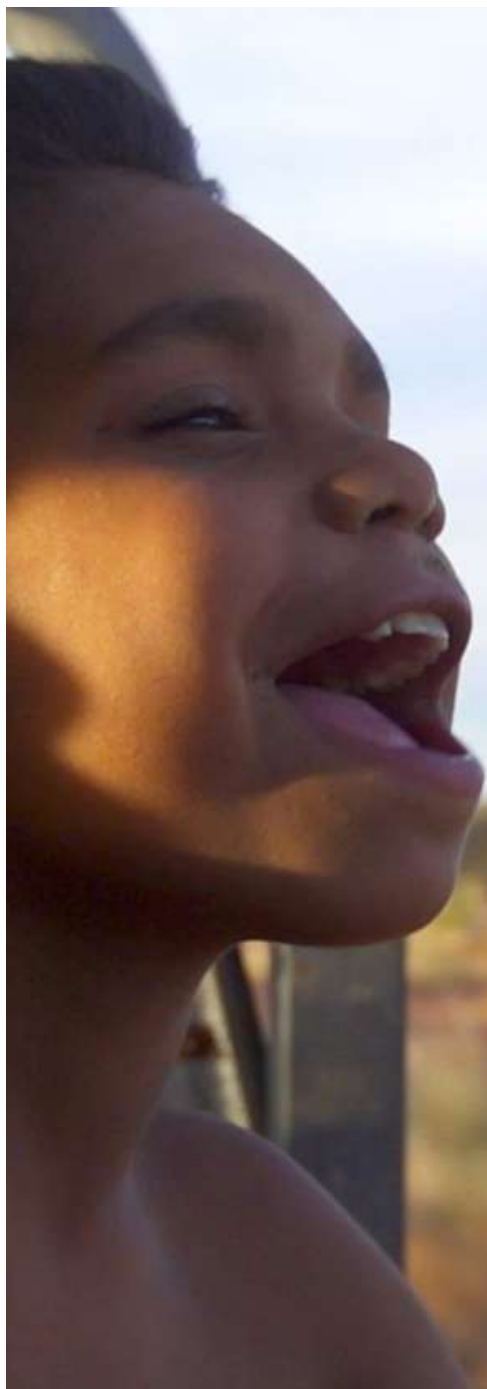
Age 0 - 7 Years old

**1st October 2023**

**The Storytelling Court @ Storytelling Centre**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-story-kist-inclusive-stories-art-tickets-677631944387?aff=oddtcreator>





## Film screening: "In my Blood It Runs"

### Take One Action Film

**Logline:** Critically acclaimed documentary exposing Australia's systemic racism, told through the eyes of charismatic 10-year-old Arrernte/Garrwa boy, Djuwan and his family. An intimate story of struggle, strength and love.

**Synopsis:** Djuwan is a 10-year-old Arrernte/Garrwa boy from Mparntwe (Alice Springs) in Australia. Thanks to his mother and grandmother's guidance, he speaks three languages, is a child-healer and an accomplished hunter.

Though Djuwan is highly intelligent and sensitive, he is "failing" in school, where his wisdom and strengths are not valued. He seems disengaged and bored; his frustration takes a toll on his self esteem. He starts skipping school and staying out late - and faces increasing scrutiny from welfare officers and the police. As the age of criminal responsibility is just 10 in Australia, the threat of juvenile detention looms (100% of the inmates in Alice Springs' juvenile detention centres are Aboriginal)... But as soon as Djuwan is "on country," away from the city, he ponders his future and, somewhere in between, finds space to dream.

Filed in direct collaboration with Djuwan and his family, this striking documentary illustrates their fight to decolonise the school system and develop a curriculum that enables Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islands people to determine and lead their own education.

**Content notes:** Contains depictions of racism, colonialism and state violence (incl. against young people). Contains discussions of substance abuse, suicide ideation.

About The Film: <https://inmyblooditrans.com>

**30th September 2023      The Netherbow Theatre @ The Storytelling Centre**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/film-screening-in-my-blood-it-run-tickets-695871900587?aff=oddtcreator>





Picture: Scottish Storytelling Centre

## Ceilidh Family Event

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Ticket Price: £5

Come with family and friends to dance Scottish dances and sing well-known songs with the Minnow Ceilidh Band. All dances will be called and there'll be easy-to-follow circles for wee ones.

A fun introduction to sociable dancing with live music and some storytelling too.

**1st October 2023**

**The Storytelling Court @ Storytelling Centre**

<https://scottishstorytellingcentre.online.red61.co.uk/event/913:4993/913:21438/>

Scan here for all of our events for the  
We Play Festival!



# Thank You!

## We Play Festival Team



### Organisations and Individuals:





# we play festival

Presented in Partnership with



For further information please contact us at: [weplay@ed.ac.uk](mailto:weplay@ed.ac.uk)