



Summer of Play

Evaluation
Summer 2021



Summer of Play



Through funding received from the Scottish Government by local authorities, Aberdeen City Council's Summer of Play programme aimed to support the wellbeing of children and young people across the city who have been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Aberdeen City Council worked with a range of partners to co-create and co-deliver a programme based on the self-reported needs of children, young people and families.

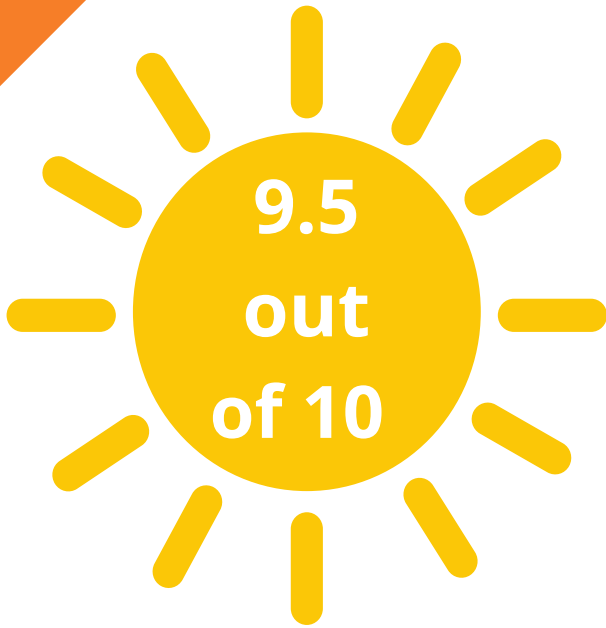
"Wish it could have lasted longer. Enjoyable exhausting fun!" – child at Family Learning activity

Summer of Play provided activities for children and young people to play, be active and enjoy themselves, providing opportunities to (re)connect with friends, peers and the wider community. Emphasis was placed on outdoor activities and barriers to participation were mitigated as far as possible.



Impacts

Children and young peoples average enjoyment rating across all activities



*"It was the best thing
in the whole wide
world!"*

over
15K

15,000

Bookable sessions
for children, young
people and families

over
1,000

1,000

Children attended
community
playschemes

67

67

Children and young
people with complex
additional support
needs accessed
targeted sessions by
invitation

70%

70%

Of children and
young people
were from priority
groups*

70%

70%

Of activity took
place in priority
areas**

*Priority groups: Children and young people who are: care experienced, living in Priority areas, in receipt of free school meals, have additional support needs or are the siblings of children with additional support needs and young carers.

** Priority areas (Northfield, Tillydrone/Seaton or Torry)



CONNECTIONS

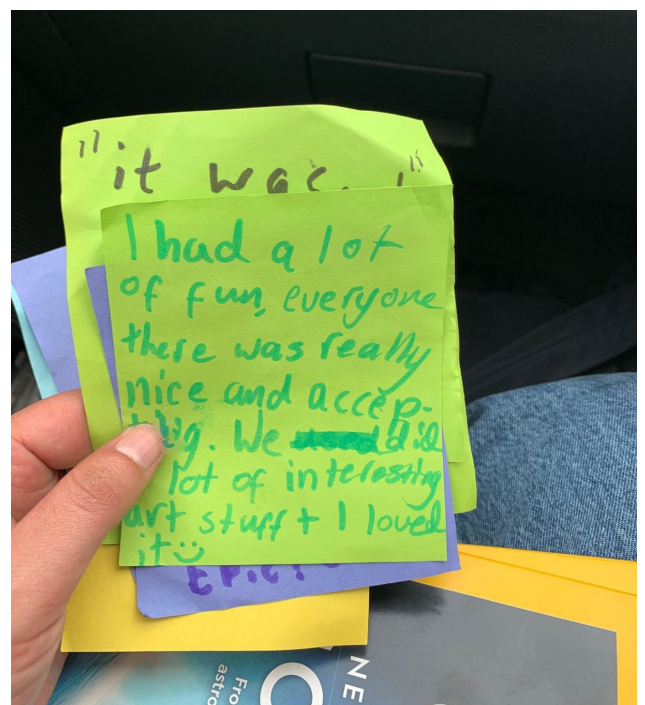
Summer of Play provided opportunities to (re)connect with friends, peers, wider community and the outdoors, as well as with trusted adults.

"I can't wait to come back and play with my new friends" – Street Football, AFCCT

Favourite part – ***"Getting to do something with my friends for real"*** – Citymoves

"Good for social skills, social interaction, meeting children they don't know and doing something that they love."

"Just what children are needing after the last summer - getting them out and socialising with each other" -parent Art Week



OPPORTUNITIES

Summer of Play provided opportunities for children and young people to play, be active and enjoy themselves. Activities were wide ranging and inclusive to cover all interests, backgrounds and circumstances and were shaped around a theme of fun and play with a view to providing positive experiences. Activities included: sports; expressive arts; science and technology, nature, outdoor play and learning, play schemes. Time outdoors was optimised.

***"Really, really good,
for children to be able
to do what they love."***

-parent



***"My son had an absolute blast,
first time at transition extreme
and trying something new.
Without the summer of
play he wouldn't have had this
opportunity.
Lunch after was great too."***



***"Some days they are bored
and watch tv, they are refreshed
here, fun and games, practical
and creative ,their creative side
comes out, it is great."-parent***



EQUITY

Activities were accessible to target families and barriers to participation were mitigated as far as possible. Consideration was given to meet wider needs, including through the integration of food, childcare, financial inclusion, family support and referral on to wider services where needed.

“Some of the activities that we were able to offer through SOP funding have a high cost to run, so therefore quite a high cost to the participant. An example would be our week long holiday camps or our outdoor adventurous activities. SOP funding allowed these to be free to participants from targeted groups and allowed them to access and enjoy them.” – Sport Aberdeen

*“Children with ASN who have no access to any childcare were able to come for the day, parents commented on how much they appreciated being able to use the service, for some it took pressure off other family members when the parents were working, for others it provided a routine something which Autistic children struggle with in holiday periods (lack of routine)”
– ACC Out of School Care*

*“As well as all the activities we were able to put on we were able to feed the children every single day. They were provided with a sandwich, a juice, and a snack every day over the three days. We know this will have made an incredible impact for the families.”
– Kings Church Aberdeen*



***“Thank you for
making
us so welcome”***
— parent

ENGAGEMENT

Existing trusted relationships and communication methods were utilised so that children and families knew about the offer and were encouraged to engage with it.

In addition to the Summer of Play social media campaign, information went out through all schools with partners and schools also sharing activities and how to book through their social media. The Summer of Play webpage has had a total of 21,000 unique visits since go live. Social media engagement ahead of the bookings opening was at 8.3% which is 6% above average campaigns.

The Customer Contact Centre was available to support bookings where there were barriers to accessing online. Booking was initially open for staff across education, social work, and communities to book activities on behalf of priority families. Partners used social media to promote any places that became available at short notice, and ACC staff worked to match opportunities to waiting lists.



Aberdeen City Cou... · 18/06/2021 ·
This Summer is all about having fun and so many of you have already snapped up spaces! - but don't worry there are still spaces on some fantastic activities including street football and dance classes! Follow [#abdnsummerofplay](#) for the latest information. orlo.uk/S0XnG



1



Aberdeen City Council
16 Jun ·
[Sport Aberdeen](#) are ready to start the Summer of Play - are you?
... See more



38 24 comments 74 shares 4.4k views

Spotlight on activity

- **Environmental**-Duthie Park Rangers
- **Sport**-Sport Aberdeen/ We Too! /AFCCT
- **Additional Support Needs**- Countesswells ASN play scheme
- **Science**-Tech fest/ Aberdeen Science Centre
- **Arts** -Art week

"Today was epic!"

"It was great though I'm tired now"



Environment

Duthie Park Rangers



Exploring the Community Garden in Duthie Park and learning about senses with the Duthie Park Rangers!

The Duthie Park Ranger Service delivered environmentally themed sessions for children aged 3-7 and 8-12 years old! Children had fun while learning about recycling, planting, birds, minibeasts, pollinators and senses! Children have made their own recycled paper, scented playdough, bug hotels and bird feeders, planted vegetables to take home, went on scavenger hunts, minibeast, pollinator and bird spots, and so much more!

"I wanted to thank the rangers at Duthie Park. We had a great time with the sensory session. It was very well organised, and staff were so welcoming and helpful. Resources were pitched at a great level for my son"

"I rate the art project 10/10 because you really help me unite my sense of imagination"

"We really enjoyed the minibeast session today - bug hotel now set up in garden. Thank you for organising!"

"I loved it, I now know how to draw a tree"



The rainy weather did not stop us from going on a bird hunt at Duthie Park this summer as part of Summer of Play!

Sports Sport Aberdeen



Sport Aberdeen provided a vast array of dynamic activities for children and young people covering learning to swim, canoeing and paddle boarding and drier activities like BMXing and snow sports. In partnership with We Too, there were relaxed sessions for children with additional support needs who embraced tubing, ice skating and gymnastics

"The Summer of Play program provided the opportunity for children across Aberdeen to participate in a large variety of activities. Hopefully this has ensured there was an activity on offer for everyone and provided many families and young people with fun and memorable experiences this Summer."
- Kirsty MacIver- Project Activator (Holiday Activities)

"The Outdoor Sport and Play sessions provided a great opportunity for children to learn some new games and meet some new people. It was lovely to see the children taking part and trying new things."
- Claire Duncan- Summer of Play Outdoor Sport and Play Coach

"My boys said it was a wonderful day. Wonderful caregivers. Everything organized neatly and pleasantly and the most important thing is the satisfaction of children and smiles on their faces, even seeing that they are tired. Thank you very much for everything and we will definitely come back." -Parent

"We really enjoyed the badminton. Our son said he thought he liked it better because we were able to play as a family all together. Would definitely do it again."

"This guy had the best time at the ASN session at Adventure Snow Sports. First time skiing & he rocked it & Bob was amazing with the kids!"



5975

sessions across different sports

3006

taken up by priority groups

Sports AFC Community Trust



Inspired by Euro 2020 children and young people got stuck into football skills, game and other play at ground in Torry, Tillydrone, Seaton and Northfield. AFCCT staff recall the sportsmanship and leadership of one young person who was a great role model for his peers.

AFCCT's Street Football and Free play sessions, have been running through the week at Tullos School since the end of June. These sessions have been attended by a young person who will be starting in S1 at Harlaw Academy after the summer break.

"He has attended near enough every session since the start of the programme, often alongside his younger brother. Like many of the young people attending the Summer of Play programme, he is a keen footballer and has spent much of his time in Tullos' fantastic Cruyff Court playing several street football games, from cuppy to penalty shoot outs. When asked, he told me that our programme has given him the opportunity "to play football with new people" as well as some of his friends from Primary, and that he has really enjoyed the relaxed, young person-led nature of the sessions.

Having led the sessions since week one, it's great to hear that he has enjoyed his time with AFCCT, however something else has provided me with great satisfaction over recent weeks. Throughout the course of the programme I have watched him develop and exercise some impressive leadership skills to the point that having him in our sessions is like having another member of staff present at times.

He now regularly takes responsibility for organising teams for football matches, looks to include younger and less able players into activities and, as an example from last week, now actively encourages other participants to help tidy away equipment at the end of our sessions. Both myself and many of my AFCCT colleagues that have been present at Tullos this summer believe that working with him has been their highlight of the programme – he is a great role model for those around him and he should be immensely proud of his efforts. I think that this story reiterates that programmes like this really do bring out the best in our young people!"

- AFCCT coach Murray Collie



ASN Countesswells Holiday Club

Aberdeen City Council's out of school care provided holiday playscheme provision for 24 children with Additional Support Needs and siblings. The ASN childcare provision has run over 5 weeks at Countesswells School, the children attending have had lots of fun and tried new activities indoors and out including cooking and baking and circus skills.



"I love holiday club because we made soup Yum Yum" – Emma xx

"Holiday Club was good because we made brownies and chocolate Krispies & we can go outside" – Chloe (13)

Danny & Ashley making flat bread for snack.

"We had lots of fun outside exploring the grounds and playing on the equipment."

- Max & Eun-Hee

"We went for a walk to Hazelhead Park and played in the park" – Ashley



"We had a visit from Scott with his Circus Workshop and learned some circus skills like plate spinning and juggling, it was great fun." -Selpon & David

STEM

Aberdeen Science Centre & TechFest



Aberdeen Science Centre's team had an amazing Summer of Play! Their specially designed outdoor workshop "Survival of the Scientist" was delivered in local parks and playing fields, in partnership with Aberdeen City Council's Family Learning. Activities included a treasure hunt, measuring the height of a tree, a touch of geology and meteorology and of course, slime. In addition to our outdoors fun, we also invited 800 people to visit our facilities in Aberdeen Science Centre.

"Great fun, lots of great experiments"

"Awesome, fun, active and incredible"

TechFest developed a programme of events called Sociable Science specifically following the feedback received from families and in discussion with ACC Education. The aim of Sociable Science was to engage all ages in science activities that are done in conversation utilising teamwork, creativity and most of all fun while learning. Each activity was designed to be repeated at home with our audiences being encouraged to share what they have learnt with others. We took the Programme out to 5 locations across Aberdeen City, these were chosen by the City Council as being in areas which would most benefit from the play scheme.

"take all my electronics away, I could spend all day doing this!"

"I've really enjoyed running a stall at TechFest's 'Summer of Play' events. The joy and enthusiasm of the young children was so nice to see and certain moments have definitely stuck with me. It was such a highlight of the day when siblings or friends would try out the Music Making Glasses experiment together – loudly and passionately! Many were totally mesmerized and desperate to try it at home or show their relatives." -Rory

Arts and Creativity

Art Week - Creative Learning



Creative Learning, ACC delivered Art Week 'Party and life skills for our new world' offering different art forms each day for 3-16 year olds. All sessions started with getting to know each other games and focused on imagination, creativity and fun.

"I liked the variety of the type of art you could do"

"I had fun and was able to express myself as a person in art and meeting new people :)"

As the week has gone on, it has become apparent that these sessions have also had an immense effect on the parents / carers / grannies too! They spent a lot of time socialising, chatting and being supportive of each other. Some said - "it was not what I was expecting . . . it was so much better" - "The activities were so different" - "Where do you get all those amazing ideas?" - Creative Practitioner

"My son is an only child and has benefitted hugely from interacting with a group of children today. I was surprised how quickly he engaged with a group of children he'd never met before as he is usually quite shy. Thank you."

"Art in particular is good for mental health, it's a creative outlet and something we wouldn't do at home"

- parent



Reflections

Summer of Play has:

- Provided opportunities for children and young people to develop important life skills
- Provided opportunities for children and young people to mix out with their family, friendship, and school groups, which has been lacking due to Covid-19, building confidence and new friendships as a result
- Connected partner organisations to new audiences from priority groups and wider, with families booking on to other activities beyond Summer of Play
- Further identified the need for ASN playschemes over holiday periods
- Summer of Play provided in excess of 3805 hrs of additional paid employment and supported organisations to reinstate opportunities for volunteers, especially across community playschemes
- Demonstrated the appetite and need for free activities for children and young people

Thank you

Thank you to all the partners who made Summer of Play happen in Aberdeen;

Aberdeen City Libraries, Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust, Aberdeen Lads Club, Aberdeen Play Forum, Aberdeen Science Centre, Aberlour Options, ACC Music Service, Adventure Aberdeen, Balnagask Community Centre, Barnardo's Aberdeen Young Carers, Citymoves, Countesswells Holiday Club, Countryside Ranger, Creative Learning, Cultivate Aberdeen, Cummings Park Community Centre, Duthie Park Rangers, Family Learning, Fit Like Hubs, Grampian Autistic Society, Jesus House-Torry, Kings Church Foundation, Mastrick Community Centre, NESCoI, Northfield Community Centre, Northfield Congregational Church, Orchard Brae Specialist Playscheme and Holiday Fun Club, Sport Aberdeen, Techfest, Tesco Hub Project, We Too.

Summer of Play support provided by Aberdeen city council staff across Integrated Children's and Family Service, Early Intervention and Community Empowerment, Customer Experience and Corporate Landlord.

#AbdnSummerof Play



Aberdeen City Music... · 09/07/2021

Well we have had an absolutely fantastic week running activities as part of [#abdnsummerofplay](#) Here are some of the young people who attended with their violins! [#aberdeenlearns](#) [#SummerOfPlay](#)



6 likes



Aberdeen City Cou... · 14/07/2021

"Summer of Play is fantastic." Make every moment count this summer, there are great free activities available for all. From canoeing in Rubislaw Quarry to creative learning, what have you signed up for? [orlo.uk/jids3w](#) [#abdnsummerofplay](#)



737 views

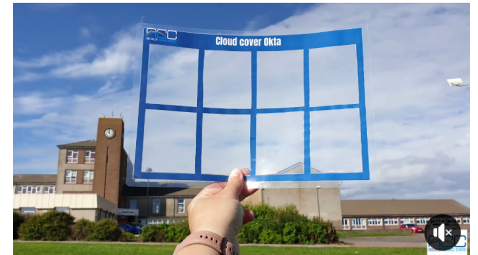
2 comments 5 shares 10 likes



Aberdeen Science Centre

4 Aug

That's a wrap on our summer 'Survive the Park' workshops. ... See more



Creative Learning @C... · 30/07/2021

Summer Of Play day 5 - printmaking. Bags, beams and further proof there's more than one way to use a potato. Absolutely stunning and what an amazing week we've all had. Thank you everyone!

[#AbdnSummerOfPlay](#)
[#CreativeLearning](#)
[#CultureAberdeen](#)
[#GetIntoSummer](#)



2 likes



Family Learning Aberdeen

30 Jul

[#abdnsummerofplay](#)

Helen Family-Learning is with Ruth Family-Learning and Caroline Learning.

We had a great morning at the beach. We played a game what Caroline says, beach scavange hunt our art gallery, stone... See more



We Too SC045895 is at Innoflate Aberdeen.

18 Jul · Aberdeen

Bouncing out of the weekend! 🤪

Thank you so much to everyone that ca... See more



13 likes 7 comments 2 shares 674 views



Aberdeen City Cou... · 25/06/2021

Its the holidays! Well done to all our pupils, after another challenging term we couldn't be prouder of how they have adapted, so now its time to PLAY! There are still spaces available on our summer of play activities. To book visit; [orlo.uk/pCxes](#) [#abdnsummerofplay](#)



4 shares 13 likes



Aberdeen Play Forum

26 Jul

☀️ We love popping up at the Alan Douglas play park in Northfield! Some great loose parts play on another fine sunny morning! We had a... See more



We Too SC045895

26 Jul

Just the boost our wee team of Ninjas need this morning!

... See more



SPORTABERDEEN.CO.UK

Local charities creating opportunities for children of all abilities to get active this summer | Sport & Acti...