

What is life in Scotland like for babies, children and young people?

Easy Read Version

Prepared by Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights).

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Who are we?



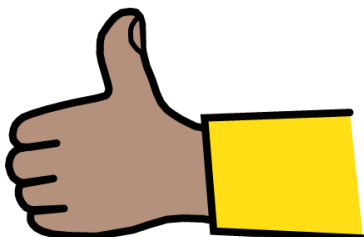
Our name is Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights).



We are a charity who want to make things better for children.

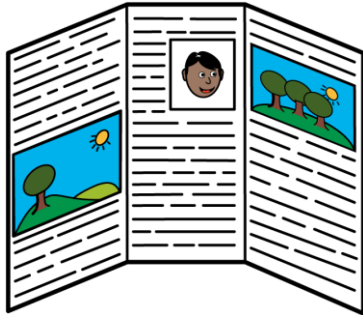


We help babies, children and young people under age 18.

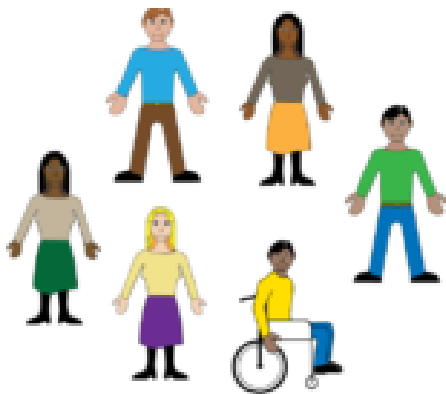


We want to make sure they grow up happy, healthy and safe.

What is this leaflet about?



We gathered stories from children all over Scotland about what life is like for them.

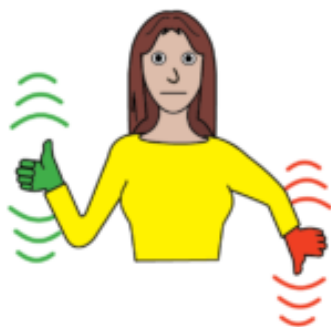


Over 200 babies, children and young people sent us their stories.

They told us about:

- Life at home
- Life at nursery, school and college
- Life in their community
- Life online
- Life in Scotland

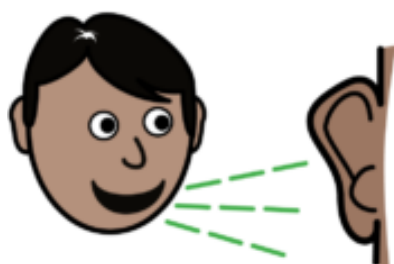




Children shared what they like and the things they do not like.



They also shared ideas about how to make things better.



This leaflet tells you about some of the things they said.

jobs to do	
job 1	✓
job 2	✓
job 3	✓
job 4	✓
job 5	✓
job 6	✓

A cartoon illustration of a hand holding a pen, pointing towards the bottom right corner of the table.

It also tells you what we have asked adults to do to make things better.

What are children's rights



Children's stories help us know if their rights are being protected in Scotland.



Children's rights are about the things you need to grow up happy, healthy and safe.



Children's rights are written down in a special document called the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).



Scotland has made children's rights part of the law.

Life at home

What children said



Many children feel loved and safe at home.

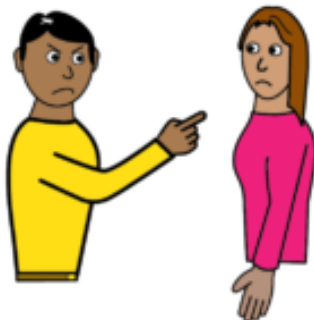


They feel supported by their parents, carers, brothers, sisters, other family and pets.



Sometimes life at home can be hard.

Children told us examples, like:



- Their family breaks up.
- Their parent or carer is in the army.
- Their parent or carer is in prison.
- They find it hard to talk about their feelings.
- Their home is too small.

Ideas to help



Children said more help could make life at home better. Here are some ideas:



The Scottish Government should make sure every child has a safe and comfy home.



They should make sure families have enough money.



It should be easy for children to complain if they are worried.



These changes will help every child feel happy and safe at home.

Life at nursery, school and college

What children said



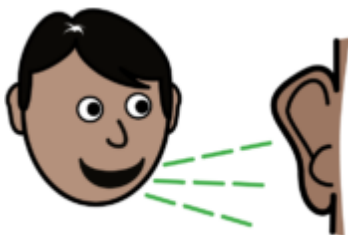
Young children say nursery is fun. They can explore, play, and make friends.



They like kind nursery staff because they help them feel safe.



Children want schools to be safe and welcoming for everyone.



They want to have a say in decisions.



Sometimes life at school is hard.



Children told us examples, like:

- School buses get cancelled.
- Bullying.
- Rules that are not fair.
- Teachers who shout.
- Children not getting the help they need.

Ideas to help



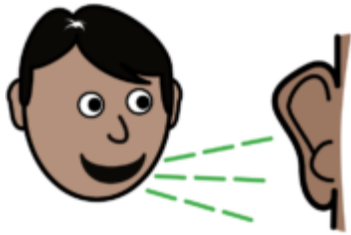
Teachers should follow children's rights all of the time.



Teachers should be kind and not shout.



Schools should do more to stop bullying.



Schools should give children more of a say in decisions.



These changes will help children feel listened to and supported.

Life in the local community

What children said



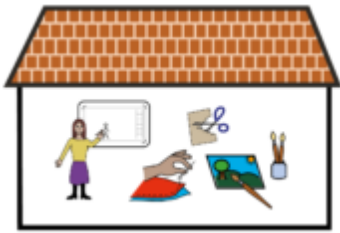
Some children live in the city. Others live in towns, villages or the countryside.



Children want to spend time with their friends.



They also want to be in nature and visit parks.



Youth clubs help children relax, have fun and learn new things.



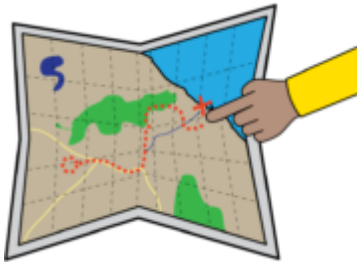
Children told us some things they are worried about:

- Buses that are always late.
- Parks that are untidy or not safe.
- People drinking alcohol or using drugs.
- Not enough cycle lanes.
- Youth club funding getting stopped.

Ideas to help



Children want cleaner and safer places to enjoy. Here are some ideas to help:



Town planners should speak to children and think about their rights when making decisions.



Adults should keep parks and public spaces clean and safe for everyone.



Adults should make it easy for children to report problems in their community.

Life online

What children said



Lots of children go online every day.



It helps them connect with friends, learn new things, relax, and have fun.



Sometimes they spend too much time online.



Children told us some things they are worried about:

- Online bullying.
- Strangers.
- Scary content.

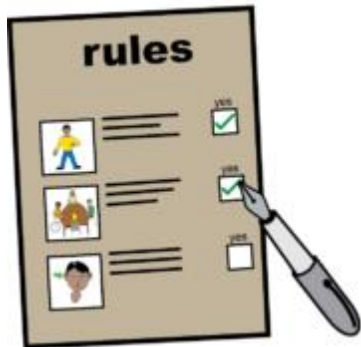
Ideas to help



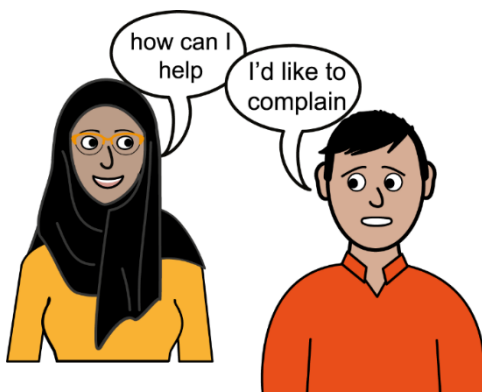
Here are some ideas to help:



Social media companies should protect children's rights.



They should act strongly against online bullying and hate.



They should make it easy to complain if children see something that worries them.



The Scottish Government should help children, parents, carers and teachers learn about how to stay safe online.

Life in Scotland

What children said

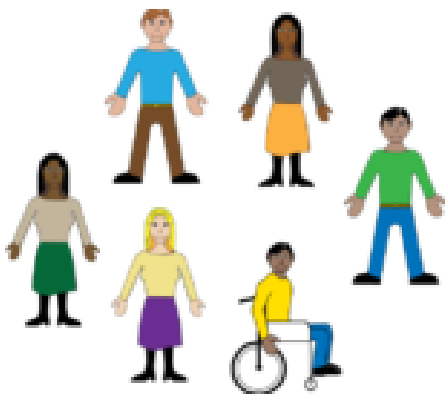


Lots of children and young people enjoy living in Scotland.



They love nature, the landscape, free university, and free buses.

There are some things children want to change about living in Scotland:



- Make it a fairer country for everyone.
- End poverty.
- Make sure all children are heard.
- Do more to stop climate change.

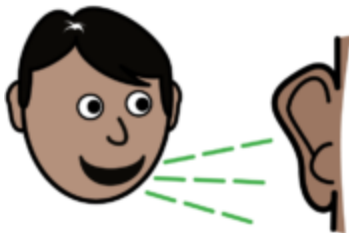
Ideas to help



Here are some ideas to help. The Scottish Government should:



Make sure the country is safe and welcoming for everyone.

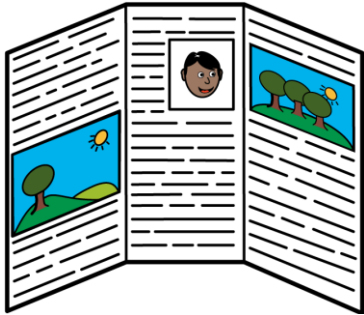


Make sure children have a say in decisions.



Make it easy for children to report any problems.

Thank you!



Thank you for reading this leaflet.



Scan the code if you want to see some of the stories and artwork that children sent us.