

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Tool 6

Being a Play Champion

These tips are a starting point for expanding your leadership skills in the important area of play advocacy.

Get prepared

Effective advocacy requires a bit of preparation work. Refreshing your knowledge of the importance of play is a good way to get yourself ready. Reviewing the issues will help you decide how you will distribute information to others.

The [Ministerial Review of Play Background Paper](#) provides useful information about the importance of play.

Make use of experiences and memories

Often, encouraging others to remember their own play memories can be very evocative and helps them to understand the importance of supporting play. Supplementing facts and research with stories from children and memories from others, is an effective advocacy tool.

Play Wales has published a film titled 'This is why play is important' which contains children and adults sharing play experiences and memories.

www.play.wales/play/film

Map the links

Help others within a specific policy area to understand how their decisions impact on children's play.

- *Who will benefit mainly from this policy, process or service?*
- *What information and / or data (evidence) has been obtained to impact assess this policy, process or service?*
- *Has a negative impact been identified in any group?*

Visit the Play Wales [resource library](#) for various *Focus on play* briefing notes.

Reflect on your current advocacy practices

Start by thinking about the ways where you might be able to currently advocate for play, such as meetings, policy briefings, developing new initiatives. What are you doing right now to be an advocate and a leader in these situations? What else could you do to advocate for play?