



What the UNCRC says:

Article 31:

1. *States Parties recognise the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.*
2. *States Parties shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.*

What the UN Committee said to the UK Government in 2008:

The Committee noted that:

Children with disabilities continue to face barriers in the enjoyment of their rights guaranteed by the Convention including in the right to access health services, leisure and play (**para 52**).

The right to play and leisure is not fully enjoyed by all children, especially due to poor play infrastructure, notably for those children with disabilities (**para 68**).

What children and young people say:

Safe Play

"The local playground is full of broken glass and dog dirt"

"There are no places to play, I have to play on the road."

Affordable Play

"Anything half decent is very expensive"

"If you don't have money, there's nothing to do."

Accessible Play

"Local facilities are important, as if your parents are too busy you can't get to an activity."

"There are lots of places as in the cinema, ice skating and bowling, but they are all in the towns so I have to get someone to take me or I have to pay for a taxi."

Appropriate Play

"There is nowhere to go. You sit around the village and people come and tell you to move."

"Nothing for our age – stops at 12 years ... nothing for 13-17 year olds." ³