

Joining the Dots in Fife:

A Case Study

Meet the Team

Who's behind 50 Things in Fife?



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In Fife, 50 Things sits with the Play Practice Development Team, within the **promoting and celebrating play** element of their work.

Early Years in Scotland

A brief background



#48 Natural Art

In Scotland, policies around children, families, and education highlight the importance of play in learning and development. Outdoor play is promoted within the **National Play Strategy**, and is woven through play based curriculum content in the early years.

Sharon Faulkner, who leads on 50 Things to Do in Fife, describes how “50 Things allows us to [promote and celebrate play] at an earlier stage and **close the gap** around the very early years.”

“50 Things really **joined the dots** and provided a framework to engage with early years families around. It [...]opened doors with education and the community, as well as wider partnerships.”

Get Ready to Launch

How did Fife get started with 50 Things?

The initiative was launched on **National Play Day** (2nd August 2023) with a week-long roadshow. Events were held at 5 destination play parks across Fife and involved numerous community partners, such as Parent Club Scotland's 'PlayTalkRead' Bus.

According to Sharon, the low-cost and no-cost nature of the 50 Things activities lent themselves to this year's '**play on a shoestring**' Play Day theme, so a range of play opportunities could be set up quite easily.

Attendees were directed to a 50 Things marquee where they were encouraged and supported to download the App, given a 50 Things ball, and were given the opportunity to win a hamper!



50 Things Marquee

50 Things in Context

How is the approach used locally?

The Play Practice Development Team links in with **Early Years colleagues** at the council, as well as other key colleagues in the following areas:

- With targeted families on our **Outdoor Play Project**
- Supporting play and outdoor play development in schools and nurseries
 - Family Learning opportunities
 - Family Nurture Centres
 - Early Years Settings
 - Active Schools
 - Active Communities

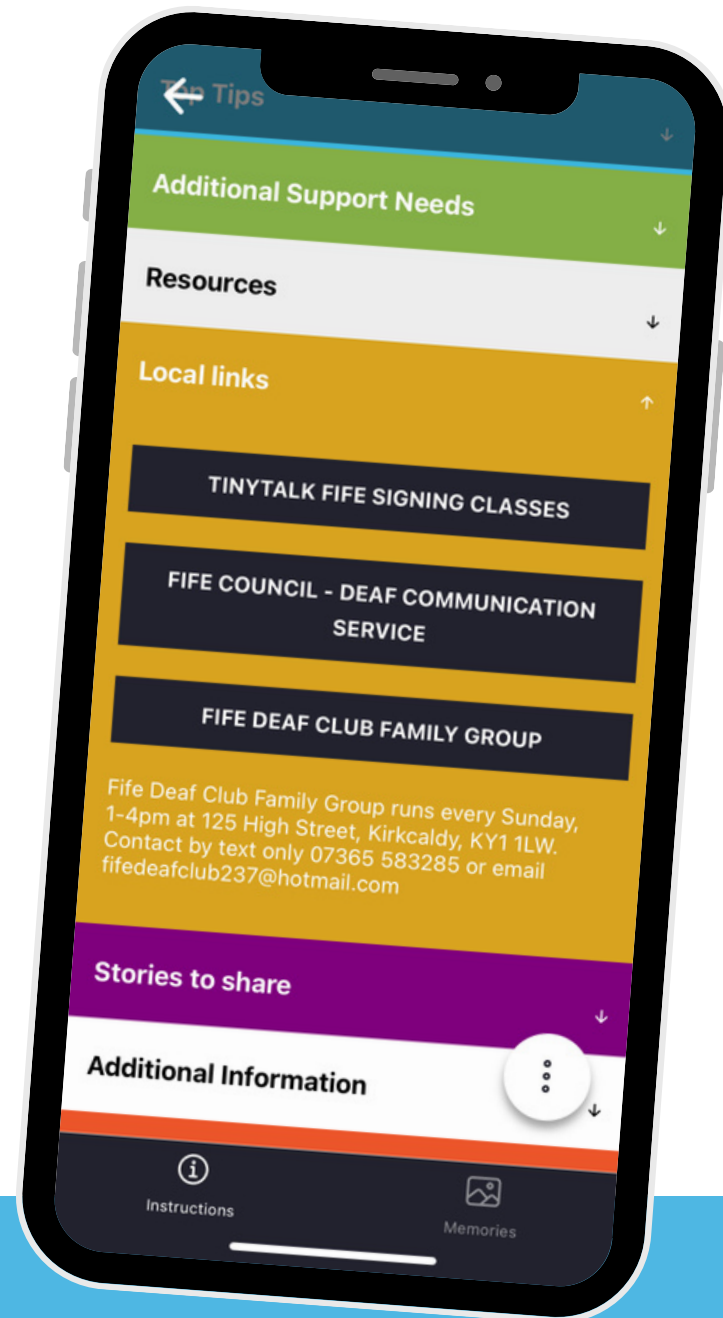
Although play is incorporated universally, Sharon believes that “50 Things provides an **early years focus** for this.”



Home Start at the 50
Things launch

Available for Everyone

How does 50 Things work for families with ASN?



In Fife, there is an **Educational Home Visiting Service** to support families of pre-school children with complex Additional Support Needs, as well as various organisations that the Play Practice Development Team have discovered since researching for the 50 Things App.

Sharon explained how it can be difficult to access **“good quality play information”**, and that the guidance and ideas given within the ASN section of each activity will hopefully be really useful for families with ASN.

The Play Practice Development team have listed various ASN organisations on their App and website, and hope to collaborate with these, and many others, in the future.

Reception to Date

What are the community saying so far?



#8 Bubbles!

So far, 50 Things to Do Before You're Five has had really good support in Fife; families, professionals, and early years practitioners alike.

In addition to the launch event and the ongoing community projects, the **Fife Families Information Service** is used to share key messages and activity ideas with their well-established followers on social media. Printable resources have also been made available on the **Early Learning in Fife website**.

Sharon says that her team “haven’t spoken to one family that didn’t have **positivity and praise**” for 50 Things and believes that this is because “the ideas can be done easily and don’t cost anything, so families don’t have to feel guilty about not spending lots of money on expensive days out.”

A Family's Perspective

What do parents think of 50 Things in Fife?



One parent told us that using 50 Things has allowed them to:

- Show their friends the App so that they can go to events with their children
 - Access activities at the library during the holidays
 - Save pictures in the Memories section

"I find it very beneficial as a person to do things with my little one that doesn't cost much money."

Professional Perspectives

What does a Childminder think of 50 Things in Fife?

One Childminder told us that 50 Things is a **“great idea”** because:

- It gives different ideas
- It focuses on simple, everyday activities
- It gives children an opportunity to be more autonomous through making their own play decisions

“With the poster, we can show the children and they can interact and point out the pictures that they would maybe like to talk about [...] and activities that we could do.”



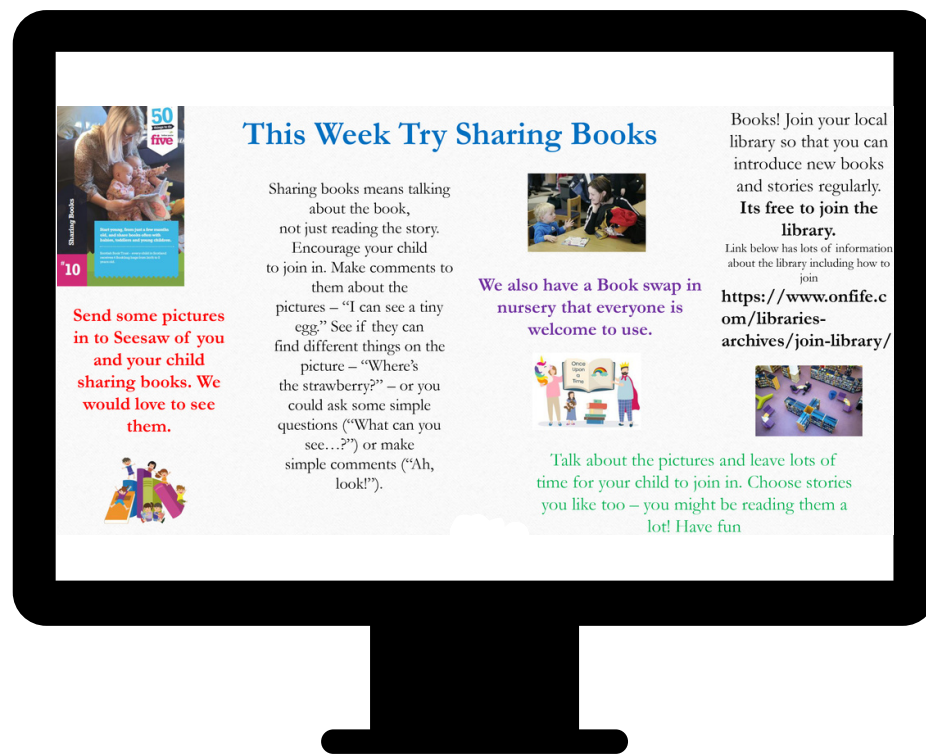
#49 Grass Gazing

Professional Perspectives

What do 2 Local Authority Nurseries think of 50 Things in Fife?

The staff at Methilhaven Nursery and Paxton Nursery in Methil are weaving 50 Things activities into their **family learning groups and** the **home learning** that they share with families by utilising:

Links between 50 Things and **existing groups and strategies**
Seesaw App to make suggestions for the home environment
Seasonal and weather-related themes
Children's interests



Seesaw snapshot from
Paxton Nursery

"Families have been really interested in the App and what's going on in the area."

(Emma Jex, Senior Early Years Officer, Methilhaven Nursery)