



Supporting the  
UK Play Industry

## Why it pays to have great outdoor facilities

If you thought the best classrooms have four walls and a roof, think again. Getting children out of their chairs, away from the classroom and into the fresh air can bring a host of benefits. Children look at the world with fresh eyes when they're outdoors. You don't need to travel far – stepping out into your school grounds can open up a world of exciting new learning experiences. Why not take the roof off your children's learning today?

Here are 5 great reasons to get your school's outdoor facilities in shape:

### 1. Children of all ages learn through play

Learning through play is a Trojan Horse for all the learning experiences that will follow in a child's school life. Without even realising, children develop knowledge, skills and lessons for life, from confidence and endurance to communication and leadership. It's not just your Early Years classes that will benefit from learning through play. Providing time, space, opportunity and a positive attitude to play benefits children of all ages.

### 2. Physical activity boosts concentration, learning behaviour and mood

Children have natural energy and enthusiasm so make the most of it by building physical activity into the whole school day. Use your playground and outside spaces to get children moving during lesson time, break and lunch times, before and after school, and for extracurricular activities, as well as during sport and PE lessons. It's not just physical literacy levels that you'll see improve. Schools report improvements in behaviour and wellbeing too.

### 3. School is the only safe place for some children to play

For children in some socially deprived communities, school may provide the only safe outdoor place to play and be physically active.

### 4. There's government funding to improve school sport and PE provision

The Primary PE and Sport Premium is designed to help schools improve the quality of sport, PE and active play they offer, and to maintain those improvements. Outdoor play equipment promoting physical activity and movement skills is eligible for this/ funding.

### 5. Open your facilities outside of school hours

Many communities lack high-quality facilities for sport and physical activity. Opening your physical facilities to clubs and the local community outside the school day raises the profile of the school within the community while generating an additional income stream.

For more expert advice on school play and outdoor facilities, visit <http://www.api-play.org>

Association of Play Industries

T: 024 7641 4999 | E: [api@api-play.org](mailto:api@api-play.org) | W: [www.api-play.org](http://www.api-play.org) | Twitter: @apiplay