



IPA believes that every child must be afforded equal opportunities to enjoy his or her right to play in their everyday lives.

Disabled children have the same right as other children to sufficient time and space to play freely, in the ways they choose, without being unduly overprotected.

Many disabled children face multiple barriers that restrict their day-to-day opportunities to play. These barriers include the imposition of activities determined by adults, inaccessible facilities and environments, negative attitudes and inappropriate social policies and programmes which restrict the lives of disabled children.

IPA believes that families, care-givers, professionals and authorities must recognise the value of play, both as a right in itself and a means of achieving optimum development.

Every child is different; to enable each child to enjoy their right to play, pro-active measures are needed to remove disabling barriers and promote accessibility, such as:

- awareness raising amongst adults and peers,
- age-appropriate support and assistance,
- accessible and inclusive environments, facilities and transport,

- provision of information, education and training that support children's right to play.

IPA strongly endorses the view of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child that play is a fundamental and vital dimension of the pleasure of childhood, as well as an essential component of physical, social, cognitive, emotional and spiritual development.

IPA therefore seeks to protect, preserve and promote disabled children's right to play as expressed in Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

IPA wishes to draw attention to Article 23 of the UNCRC and Articles 7 and 30 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled Persons which further encompass disabled children's play rights.

Children have told us¹ that their lives would be happier and healthier if Governments took children's right to play seriously. IPA fully endorses this view.

IPA, May 2015

¹ Children participating in the making of IPA child-friendly Article 31 posters (2013)