

# Evaluating Your Playwork Project

**Play Partnership Network  
Event. November 2008.  
Ali Long & Kevin Clark.**

# Why evaluate?

- **Learn from experience**
- **Check your progress.**
- **Record and share what you've learned.**
- **Identify strengths and weaknesses**
- **Determine how far the project has met the stated objectives.**
- **Identify what impact the project has had.**

# What is evaluation?

***“Evaluation is the systematic collection of data about the characteristics of a programme, product, policy or service”***

*Grey (2004)*

## **Key Principles of Evaluation.**

- **It is a continuous process which informs planning and delivery**
- **It involves all stakeholders**
- **It uses imaginative and creative approaches**
- **It ensures accountability to the wider community.**
- **It encourages an honest appraisal of progress.**

Joseph Rowntree Foundation (2005)

# Children's Play and Evaluation

***“an approach to play provision which privileges the intrinsic value of playing is likely to fare poorly in an evidence – based, outcome focused policy and audit culture unless it can be fully understood.”***

Russell, W & Lester, S (2008)

- **Barriers and difficulties**
- **Different value positions.**
- **What would be classed as a 'good' outcome?**
- **How would you prove it's happened?**
- **What evidence would you need to gather?**

# Questions:

- **What is the aim of your setting/play provision?**
- **What evaluation methods would you use to prove you'd met your aim?**

# Bibliography.

- Lester, S & Russell, W (2008) Play for a Change. Play, Policy and Practice: A review of contemporary perspectives. London. National Children's Bureau
- Taylor M, Purdue D, Wilson M & Wilde P. (2005) Evaluating Community Projects – A practical guide. York. Joseph Rowntree Foundation.
- Grey, D. (2004) Doing Research in the Real World. London, Sage.