

# Training and services for schools, nurseries and community settings 2024/2025

## Choose Play! East Lothian Play Association SCIO

ELPA offers a range of short training courses, play sessions and consultancy to schools, community settings and nurseries.

In this brochure you will find details and prices.

- Prices include tailoring the session to your requirements, handouts, resources and writing up key points ready for use back in your setting.
- Prices may vary depending on number of participants, number of trainers or facilitators (usually two) and your requirements. We always try to offer economical options.

ELPA is happy to tailor sessions to the needs of the participants and organisations. If you don't see what you need in this brochure, feel free to contact us to discuss your ideas at [info@elpa.org.uk](mailto:info@elpa.org.uk)

ELPA is registered on the Framework for Services to Support Engagement, Inclusion, Achievement and Attainment Services in East Lothian Schools.



Our training is:

- tried and tested
- cost effective
- designed to support your school improvement plan
- based on a children's rights approach
- resource efficient and sustainable
- backed up by policy and supported by research.

Playing, especially outdoors, naturally supports children's health, wellbeing and relationships. Improved playtime supports children's creativity and problem solving; reduces arguments and promotes inclusion. Improving playtime has significant benefits for children, for the school and relationships with families.



**“Children learn better when they are healthy and happy, and playtimes offer an opportunity for both.”**

The Case for Play in Schools, 2021<sup>1</sup>

**“The children are always busy and I've got a big smile on my face.”**

Teacher, Windygoul Primary School

Remember to follow ELPA on social media for our free training and events!

[info@elpa.org.uk](mailto:info@elpa.org.uk) [www.elpa.org.uk](http://www.elpa.org.uk)

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<sup>1</sup> <https://outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/The-Case-For-Play-In-Schools-web-1-1.pdf>

# What we offer

## The Choose Play loose parts play package

This set of 3-hour training sessions is designed to build a progression for schools at the beginning of their loose parts play journey, through to sessions for people with more experience or advanced knowledge. Training is supported by ELPA's input into planning with the Senior Management Team and in the playground with staff supporting children's play.

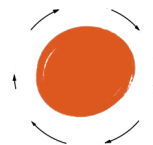
1	Initial meeting
2	Playspace audit
3	Training session - loose parts play, key points and shared understanding (for whole staff team)
4	Training session - Facilitating play
5	Training session - Practical guidance to get started
6	In-person support to launch loose parts play
7	Development meeting
8	Evaluation meeting
Cost - £3,500	
We are happy to discuss and tailor the package for your needs.	

**“It transforms the playground before your eyes.”**

Parent, Windygoul Primary School

**“I had high expectations of loose parts play and it has by far surpassed them. Seeing the problem solving and children working together is fantastic.”**

Deputy Head Teacher, Campie Primary School



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# Stand-alone training sessions

Session title	Brief description	Length of time	Indicative cost
Refresher loose parts play training for staff	For settings which have loose parts play but need to restart or freshen up their project. This session includes an initial visit and review of existing loose parts play resources.	2-2.5 hours	£400-£450
Facilitating play	This session supports staff who support and facilitate play to build understanding, skills and practical knowledge.	2-2.5 hours	£400-£450
In-service or twilight play training	An ideal boost for your play improvement project to involve and energise the whole staff team and develop a cohesive school approach to play.	Whole day 2-2.5 hours	£720-£840 £400-£450
Planning for play	Create a framework for a school play statement and develop an understanding of risk benefit assessment in policy and practice as a framework of a risk in play statement.	3 hours	£400-£500
Loose parts play taster sessions	For whole classes or groups of children, introducing play and supporting children to think about how to manage loose parts play in their space. This includes safety, care for each other and resources, tidying up, and suggesting their own straightforward guidelines.	1 hour per class/group, up to 6 sessions in a day	£720-£840
Playspace audits	For settings wishing to understand how their play space meets the play needs of children, what is missing and what might be possible. Participation of children is built into playspace audits. A short report including playspace improvement proposals will be produced as part of this package.	3 hours which can be split over two or three sessions	£600-£800
Bespoke children's workshops	Understanding children's play experiences and involving children in play space design and playtime improvements.	Time tailored to your needs	Price on discussion
Evaluation and reflection	Develop practical tools for ongoing documentation and reflection on your loose parts play project. This includes ways to involve children throughout the project.	2-2.5 hours	£400-£450
Mentoring	To support staff who are responsible for introducing more play and facilitate play.	Contact us to discuss your needs	Price on discussion

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# The ELPA Choose Play approach

ELPA has considerable experience supporting schools to introduce loose parts play and improve playtimes. We have built a package of training, support and resources to get you started with loose parts play and keep the play going. Our approach is supported by a website full of free resources, developed through our Erasmus+ loose parts play project: [loosepartsplayproject.eu](https://www.loosepartsplayproject.eu)

ELPA works with the whole school to develop the values, policies, skills and resources that make lasting change, improving children's play experiences and making a happier school environment.

Our focus is:



When schools work to improve playtimes, a wide range of benefits for children, families and the school community are reported. Key findings from our research<sup>2</sup> on loose parts play:

- Children enjoy playtime more, especially with the exercise of agency.
- Teachers are more appreciative of play.
- Children's play is more varied, with particular increases in creative, imaginative, exploratory and risky play.
- Children are more co-operative when playing.
- Children are less reliant on adults when playing.
- Parents are supportive of loose parts play.
- Climate awareness and sustainable thinking are integrated easily through loose parts play.



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