

# Children IN SCOTLAND

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PRESS RELEASE

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## **Making space for children**

***Children in Scotland conference, Edinburgh – Making space: architecture and design for young children.***

The Scottish Executive will today (Thursday) be urged to be more courageous and creative with its school building programme or miss an opportunity to instigate real reform in Scottish schools.

Reform initiatives such as the development of integrated community schools, which are intended to bring education closer to health and social work so that schools can meet the needs of the whole child and also provide services for the whole community are changing the way that education is delivered in Scotland. The increase in after-school clubs also means that children are spending more time in school.

Bronwen Cohen, chief executive of Children in Scotland, which has organised the conference **Making space: architecture and design for young children**, said the Scottish Executive's building reform programme is a vehicle for reform, and new schools being built now must reflect this.

She said: "Opportunities to build new schools come along once in a life-time. Many of the school buildings our children are using today are over one hundred years old and the schools we build now will be used by generations of children to come.

"We are committed to reforming the way that education is delivered but do the spaces our children use really reflect this? Are they, for example, being built with more informal space for children to use at the beginning and end of the formal school day?"

Speaker, Mark Dudek, an architect and writer specialising in early years environments, will express concern that architects' work is too often compromised by the need to build cheap and build fast. He said: "For small people read small budgets."

Speakers from other countries in Europe will demonstrate that the creative design of schools is possible. Karin Buvek, an architectural researcher at the Foundation for Scientific and Industrial Research at the Norwegian Institute of Technology, will

demonstrate how similar educational reforms in Norway are being reflected in the design of its school buildings.

Journalist and broadcaster, Kirsty Wark, who will chair the conference, said: “Never has there been a better opportunity to create high quality spaces for children and people must grasp that opportunity. Good architecture for children is as important for children as it is for adults. Giving children access to high quality spaces is a part of giving them the best start in life.”

Notes for editors:

- ***Making space: architecture and design for young children*** is organised by Children in Scotland in association with Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Children in Europe and with sponsorship from Lend Lease, with support from the Scottish Executive.
- **Children in Europe** is a network of eight magazines in the UK (Children in Scotland produces the English Language version), Spain, Italy, France, Germany, Denmark, Belgium and the Netherlands, reaching workers in childcare and education, policy-makers and academics. The latest issue is on architecture and young children, and can be ordered online at [www.childreninscotland.org.uk/cie](http://www.childreninscotland.org.uk/cie)
- **Children in Scotland** is the national agency for voluntary, statutory and professional organisations and individuals working with children and their families in Scotland. It exists to identify and promote the interests of children and their families and to ensure that relevant policies, services and provisions are of the best possible quality and able to meet the needs of a diverse society.
- **The Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland** was founded in 1916 as the professional body for all chartered architects in Scotland and is the foremost architectural professional institute in the country dealing with architecture and the built environment. It has charitable status and offers a wide range of services and products for architects, students of architecture, construction industry professionals and all those with an interest in the built environment and the design process.
- **Lend Lease** aims to create and manage property in a way that serves individuals, communities and businesses in an innovative, safe and efficient manner. It aspires to have a positive effect on the wider community and environment, to support economic prosperity and enhance the quality of life for generations to come. [www.lendlease.com](http://www.lendlease.com)
- **The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development** has 30 member countries and works with over 70 countries worldwide.

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