

# The future of childhood: what you told us



## SUMMARY OF THE RESEARCH

We know children are the future, and you all have such important things to say. The decisions adults make now, will affect the childhoods of future generations. We think you are the best people to help adults make decisions about what the future of childhood should look like. We asked children across the UK to tell us what they would want childhood to be like in the future. We were amazed by how creative your responses were. Here's what you told us:

### TECHNOLOGY

You are all so excited about the opportunities technology will provide children in the future! Who knows if there will be drones, VR or online school? You spoke about how it can help you learn and play, but you also want to make sure children use technology safely and healthily. You don't want to miss out on opportunities to play outside and connect with others face-to-face, and worry that technology will be used to replace these opportunities.

### CONNECTING WITH NATURE

You are all so knowledgeable about climate change, and the importance of protecting our environment. You made so many thought-provoking comments about our duty to our planet and want to make sure future generations are able to have clean water, less pollution, more trees and fresh air. Some of you are worried that humans are destroying the planet, and that our time to see the beauty of the world is limited. Scientists know what we need to do to look after the planet, so hopefully we can make these changes now to protect the future!

### PLAY

It was no surprise to hear that you all love having fun and don't want that to stop in the future! You wanted children in the future to have opportunities for active play, like bouncy castles, swings, parks, fun fayres and swimming. You also want them to find time to wind down and relax. You worry about the pressure that comes with learning and school and want to make sure that children also have time to rest.

### BEING EQUAL AND INCLUDED

Children across the UK spoke about how important it is to grow up in an accepting environment. You want to make sure everyone is accepted no matter their race, sexuality or background and encourage everyone to be themselves. You hope that future children are appreciated for all their differences, because everyone is special and unique.

### HOMES, FAMILY AND HOT MEALS

You want to make sure in the future, all families have enough money to provide their children with everything they may need. You think it's important that every child has a safe place to sleep at night and warm meals on the table. You showed a lot of appreciation for the families and resources you have and want all children in the future to have this too.



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## ADULTS

We spoke to 19 adults who work with, or for, children. They are inspired by your generation – you are passionate activists who always fight for what you believe in. They see a more accepting attitude towards mental health in your generation, and hope the government helps pay for the support children will need in the future. These adults agree with you that technology can be very helpful, but needs to be used safely and it's important to get time outdoors too! Just like you, the adults spoke about how some families don't have enough money, which makes it harder to stay healthy, learn and play. Both you and the adults we spoke to know that this isn't fair and needs to change.

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Save the Children will share your views with the people who make decisions in the UK, like politicians. We hope this will help them to make sure that children in the future have the best possible childhood. Below are some questions based on your ideas. You can discuss these with your class or group, to help you keep thinking about the future and how you can shape it.

# Reflection questions



**These questions can be used in the classroom, at home, or just for children to think about in their own time:**

1. You have shared that it's important to have a future where children grow up with no discrimination. What do you think we can do now to make sure that the future is more equal?
2. Can you think of any big or little changes that will help to make sure everyone has safe homes and warm food?  
What can adults do?  
What can children do?
3. Technology will play a role in how you play, learn and connect with others. How can we make sure we keep listening to your views when we make decisions about the role of technology in your world?
4. What can adults do to make sure we keep acting on your views about the environment? What do you think our priorities should be?
5. You told us about how important both playing and relaxing are for you. Why are these things so important?  
How can adults help you to have time to play and relax?

