

Thank you so much for choosing to fundraise for The Yard.

For our families, The Yard is a lifeline. For parents and carers, we are a place to find support, access resources, receive muchneeded respite, and connect with a friendly community. For the children who visit us, we are a place of fun and adventure — exactly as it should be.

Families need us now more than ever. Last year, we supported over 2,876 children, and we welcome around eight new children every week. Many families who join us in their children's early years stay with us through to adulthood and the need for our services is constantly growing. With your school's help, we can make sure more families have a safe and welcoming place to come together and play.

In this pack, you'll find everything you need to make your fundraising a success. However you choose to get involved, know that you're making a real difference to children and families who need it most.

Fundraising Team





About The Yard

There is quite literally nowhere else like The Yard in Scotland.

The Yard is a Scottish charity founded in 1986 to create a space for disabled children, young people, and their families to play, connect, and grow together.

While adventure play is at the heart of what we do, The Yard's impact goes far beyond play. We provide essential family support, respite, school services, and community-building opportunities through our centres in Edinburgh, Dundee, and Fife.

Each centre is a welcoming hub where families not only find practical support but a sense of belonging. Through play, guidance, and shared experiences, we create a community that celebrates each child's individuality and offers a foundation for families to thrive together.



Did you know?



Many disabled children and their families are excluded from local play spaces due to accessibility issues, lack of understanding of their needs, negative public attitudes, and limited play opportunities.



1 in 3

families with disabled children face extra costs of £300+ per month just to meet basic needs.



18%

of disabled children experience depression due to a lack of inclusive opportunities.

Children who visit us often show improvement in confidence and social skills, while families find much-needed support and community. This is why your support means so much – it helps us provide a safe, welcoming space for more children to play, grow, and feel included.

How your support could help

£96

Could cover a family's membership for a full year.

£192

Could buy a heated massage chair. Providing comfort and therapy to children with complex needs.

£300

Could help pay our family workers for 20 hours of support. Providing advice, resources and a listening ear to families.

£1,000

Could fund an inclusive family event at one of our centres. This could be a Christmas party or summer fair, giving families a chance to come together, have fun, and make special memories.



66

"The Yard is an incredibly special place and our family feel so lucky that we are able to visit on a regular basis. I feel like a weight lifts off my shoulders every time I walk through the doors."

Mylo's story

I'm Ashley, a mum of four, and for a long time, I felt like I was struggling alone. My son Mylo is five years old and waiting for an assessment for ADHD and autism.

Mylo gets overwhelmed in noisy, busy places, and without a diagnosis, I thought there was no support for us, especially not locally. Then a friend told me about The Yard.

The Yard is the one place Mylo can truly be himself. He loves sensory play, getting messy with mud and slime, and spinning on the sensory chair.

The play team know exactly how to engage him, whether that means getting his favourite toys out, giving him a piggyback, or even getting into the mud and slime with him. Nothing is ever too much trouble.

For the first time, I don't have to apologise for how he plays. There's no pressure, no judgement—just a safe space where he's free to be himself.

Taking all four children out alone can feel impossible, but at The Yard, I don't have to choose between Mylo's needs and his siblings' happiness. They all love coming here, and my eldest has even started to understand Mylo better—seeing them play together means the world to me.

The Yard hasn't just supported my kids, they've supported me, too.
After losing Mylo's dad to suicide, I felt isolated, but the carers' group has been a lifeline. I've found parents who understand, learned coping strategies, and even started to realise I might be neurodivergent myself.

For families like mine, the yard is a lifeline. It's where we feel safe, where we belong, and where Mylo can truly be himself. Without it, our Sundays and lives would be completely different.



"The Yard makes me feel safe and valued and like I'm part of a big family.

Ashley Courtney, Mum to Mylo

Fundraising ideas

There are so many different ways your school can get involved and raise funds to support The Yard. To get you started, here are just a few of our favourite fundraising ideas.



Wear Yellow for The Yard

Get your brightest outfits ready! Host a dress-down day where students and staff wear The Yard's signature yellow!



Get active

Get your school moving with a challenge that suits everyone! Whether it's walking, running, or dancing, set a goal and get students and staff involved.



Big Yard Quiz

Bring students, teachers, and families together for a quiz night filled with fun and friendly competition. Why not include a round all about play?



Festive Fun

The festive season is the perfect time to give back. Organise a Christmas jumper day, a festive bake sale, or donate what you would usually spend on sending cards to The Yard.





Charity of the Year Partnership



We're always on the lookout for new schools to partner with and support in their yearly fundraising endeavours. Our dedicated Fundraising Team are on hand to provide expert advice and ideas to our school partners, as well as provide talks at assemblies for students.

Get arty



Encourage students to express themselves creatively with an art competition. Charge a small fee for submissions and auction the artwork to raise funds for The Yard.

Headteacher challenge



What better way to bring a school community together than by challenging your headteacher? Come up with a challenging task (this could be anything from running a marathon as a superhero to a sponsored headshave! set a fundraising goal and once that goal is reached, your headteacher must complete the challenge.

Talking about The Yard

Here are some key facts and figures about The Yard to use when speaking about us with students. At the end you'll find some suggested discussion points which you might like to share with your class. These will get them thinking about the impact that The Yard has on the lives of children and their families.

The Yard was Founded in as a small, parent-led community initiative. We were originally an outdoor play space for around four years.

A capital appeal funded the creation of our Edinburgh centre.

2015 The Yard Dundee opened.

2016 The Yard Fife opened.

We now support 3,000+ children and their families each year through adventure play, respite, and outreach programmes across Scotland.

You can learn more about what we do here - https://theyardscotland.org.uk/what-we-do/

Did you know?

We offer a range of services through our centres including:

- Family play sessions
- Early Years sessions
- Youth groups
- Family support service
- Kinship carers service
- School sessions
- Edinburgh Disability and Neurodiversity Hub
- Disability and inclusion training



No diagnosis is needed to access The Yard. Families can self-refer and start using our services whenever they're ready.



The Yard operates a non-exclusion policy, ensuring every child and young person is welcome, no matter their needs.



We support children from birth to adulthood – young people can continue coming to The Yard until they are 25

Discussion Ideas

Use these questions to spark conversation in the classroom and help students understand the impact of their fundraising.

Understanding Inclusion

What does it mean to be included?



Have you ever been in a situation where you felt left out? How did that feel?

Why is it important that all children have a place where they feel safe and welcome?

The Importance of Play

What are your favourite ways to play?



Why do you think play is important for all children, no matter their abilities?

How do places like The Yard help children who might not have the same opportunities to play elsewhere?

Making a Difference



How can we help make sure everyone feels included at school? Why is it important to support charities like The Yard?

What does fundraising mean, and how does it help?



Setting up your fundraising page

The easiest way to collect donations is to set up a JustGiving fundraising page.

- Head to the The Yard JustGiving page at justgiving.com/theyard or by scanning the QR code on this page.
- Select 'Fundraise for us'
- Follow the prompts to quickly set up your page and join Team Yard!





Scan here to go straight to our JustGiving page

Talk to our friendly Fundraising Team if your school would like other fundraising resources, such as collection tins and buckets. You can email us on fundraising@theyardscotland.org.uk



What happens after?

You've raised money to support play and adventure for disabled children and now you're ready to pay in, but what happens next?



First things first – take a moment to celebrate!

Thanks to you, more children and families will have a safe, welcoming place to play, explore, and be themselves.

You're amazing!

Once you've treated yourself to a wellearned rest, here's how to send in your funds.

When to send your money

All money raised should be sent to us within one month of your event, but you can send it over anytime before that deadline.

If you've fundraised online

If you used JustGiving or another online platform that sends donations directly to us, you don't need to do a thing! Your donation will come straight to The Yard, and you can get back to celebrating.

Sending money by cheque

All cheques should be made payable to The Yard Scotland and sent to: The Yard, 22 Eyre Place Lane, Edinburgh, EH3 5EH Please don't send cash through the post.

Sending money by bank transfer

You can also send us a bank transfer using the below details. Please let us know when you send across a transfer and add a reference so we can track your donation.

Royal Bank Of Scotland Account no: 18896179 Sort Code: 83-06-08

Fundraising guidelines for teachers

We want to make sure that your school fundraising is a huge success. Please do read the following guidelines when you are organising your event, to ensure that you keep everything safe and legal

Letting parents and carers know about your plans

Please ensure that parents are aware of and give consent for fundraisers which their children are involved with by sending a letter or including information in your school newsletter. We would love to see photos of your fundraising, please share them on your social channels. Please ensure you have parental permission before sending them to us.

Using the charity logo and liability

If you would like to use the charity logo to advertise your event or fundraising please email comms@theyardscotland.org.uk. You will be provided with the charity's 'in aid of' logo. Please send us an example of your design before going to print.

Please make sure that it is clear that you are fundraising in aid of The Yard and that your activities are not representing or organised by the charity. We advise that all fundraisers seek advice regarding public liability insurance if your event involves the general public.

Resources

If you require downloadable resources, please get in touch with comms@theyardscotland.org.uk and we can send these to you.

Holding a collection

Do not allow unsupervised children under 16 to collect money from the public. An adult will need to be responsible for holding the collection bucket at any event.

Always have two adults present to count any money raised. All donations collected should be sent to the charity within 1 month of collection.

Collecting sponsorship

We encourage schools to set up a JustGiving page for collecting sponsorship, as this is a really quick and easy way to donate and automatically claims Gift Aid where possible.

We also have paper sponsorship forms available for you to use. Please ensure that students are aware that they should only ask people that they know for sponsorship and should not be asking door to door or in public places.

If you have any queries regarding supporting The Yard at your school, please contact us at fundraising@theyardscotland.org.uk



We'd love to hear about your plans!

Contact the fundraising team - fundraising@theyardscotland.org.uk

Learn more about The Yard - www.theyardscotland.org.uk

Share the love

f 🕝 🛚 in @theyardscotland





Sponsorship Form

I'm fundraising for The Yard.
Please sponsor me to support
disabled children, young people
and their families in Scotland.

Fundraiser name		
School name		
School address	Class Add 25% to your fundraising without p Help us maximise your fundraising by a if they are eligible to Gift Aid their don to do is tick the box to confirm that the	asking your sponsors ations. All they need

Full name	Address and post code (We need your home address to claim gift aid (please print)	Donation amount (£)	Date Collected	Gift Aid?* Please tick



Please tick the Gift Aid box to confirm that you are a UK taxpayer and would like The Yard Scotland to reclaim tax on the donations you have made in the last four years and any future gifts you make. If you pay less income tax and/or capital gains tax than the amount claimed on all your donations in that tax year it is your responsibility to pay any difference. If your circumstances change, such as your name, address or tax status then please notify us so that we can update our records

Full name	Address and post code (We need your home address to claim gift aid (please print)	Donation amount (£)	Date Collected	Gift Aid?* Please tick

For Teachers

Please collect all sponsorship forms together and send to - The Yard, 22 Eyre Place Lane, Edinburgh, EH3 5EH, or email to fundraising@theyardscotland.org.uk

Send us a cheque

Please make cheques payable to Scotland Yard Adventure Centre and send to the above address.

Bank transfer

Royal Bank Of Scotland

Account no: 18896179 **Sort Code:** 83-06-08

Please use your name as the reference

The Yard will use your data to enable the administration of sponsorship and the claiming of Gift Aid (where applicable). We will keep your data secure, and never sell or share it with other organisations. For full details on how we manage your data please see our Privacy Policy at

www.theyardscotland.org.uk/privacy-policy/ or contact us at

info@they ard scotland.org.uk