



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the
accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

NOAH'S ARK PLAYGROUP

On accounts for the year
ended

31/08/2024

Charity no
(if any)

1027796

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

4.12.24

Name:

CAYLE SHAKESPEARE

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

FMAAT

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date Period end date
 From **01 09 2023** To **31 08 2024**

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

Charity's principal address

 Postcode

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Louise Smart	Chair		Committee
2	Michelle Lawrence	Treasurer		Committee
3	Katie Holderness	Secretary		Committee
4	Kirstie Pitt			Committee
5	Natalie Baber			Committee
6	Amber Hamilton			Committee
7	Amy Dando			Committee
8	Emma Blackmore			Committee
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Bank	Cooperative	16 St Stephens Street, Bristol
Accountant	Bourne and Bargery	The Byers, Manor Farm, Chilcompton. Somerset

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document <small>(not applicable to trusts)</small>	Preschool Learning Alliance Constitution 2011 adopted October 2014.
How the charity is constituted <small>(not applicable to trusts)</small>	Association
Trustee selection methods <small>(not applicable to trusts)</small>	Parents and family members are invited to the Annual General Meeting in the Autumn. A management committee is appointed or reappointed at this meeting. Trustees are the committee members.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

The preschool is run by a voluntary parent led committee. Committee members are elected by nomination at the Annual General Meeting and have roles and responsibilities as set out in the Charity Commission guidance. All new members are DBS checked and approved by Ofsted.

There is a handover period for each new officer (Chair, Treasurer & Secretary) and suitable training is available from BANES Council if required.

We have regular contact with Bath and Northeast Somerset Council's Early Years Team.

Noah's Ark Preschool is a member of the Preschool Learning Alliance.

We have strong links with the Early Years Teachers at Paulton Infant School and regularly visit them to ensure a smooth transition for all our children.

We hold termly committee meetings to discuss the overall running of the preschool and future fundraising plans.

We complete a daily risk assessment on the building and grounds and a yearly assessment of all equipment. Any visits or outings are also assessed in line with the preschool policies.

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Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

We aim to enhance the development and education of children under statutory school age by encouraging families to understand and provide for the needs of their children through community groups.

In planning our activities and daily routines the committee have regard for and keep in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Our focus is to provide a welcoming, safe and stimulating environment where all children benefit by being able to enjoy themselves and grow in confidence. We encourage every child to be competent learners who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured. We seek to build positive relationships with both our children and their families. We aim for children to develop positive attitudes and relationships, which will form the base for them becoming strong, secure and independent individuals. We see every child as unique and follow a child-led approach to learning within a supported environment.

The preschool is open Monday – Friday during term time and offers affordable sessional day care for children aged 2.5 – 4. 7 practitioners are fully qualified to level 3 or above and 1 is studying a level 2 qualification. We encourage parent helpers to take responsibility for and to become involved in the preschool. We offer opportunities for all children whatever their race, culture, religion, means or ability.

We hold regular fundraising events throughout the year to raise additional funds to enable us to provide new equipment and resources to enhance the learning of all children. Parents and families are asked to help and support these events to encourage their involvement in the running and future of the preschool.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (includes within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

We reopened In September after the Summer break with encouraging numbers. This continued throughout the first 2 quarters and by Easter we were running to near full capacity.

STAFF

We retained our normal staffing levels and employed 1 trainee Assistant practitioner in February; however, in July we said a very sad goodbye to Kirstie Pitt Preschool Manager who retired after 18 years' service. We employed a preschool and charity administrator in July to support the preschool staff and committee.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

All Staff benefit from regular supervision meets and yearly appraisals. We have attended face to face training this year and have renewed our safeguarding certificates where necessary. We continually work with other professionals to enhance our practice these include the Early Years Teachers and Advisors from Children Centre Services and Banes.

VISITORS

We continue to hire Jenny James (Music with Mummy's) to provide weekly music sessions. The children enjoy the singing, dancing and playing of instruments. These sessions are held on different days throughout the week so all children can take part. We have regular visits and story sessions from the library volunteers. We have benefitted from a visit from our local PCSO, the children enjoyed the road safety discussions and trying on the uniforms. We also encourage parents to visit to talk with the children about their work or life achievements.

CHRISTMAS 2023

We visited Paulton Infants school to watch their Christmas Production. In December we invited parents into the preschool for planned craft sessions. It was a great success. We held a Christmas party for children and families with hired entertainment at the end of Term 2.

PHOTOGRAPHER

The photographer visited in November and June and gave us a percentage of the orders.

LEAVER'S PARTY

We held a school leaver's party with hired entertainment in July.

FUNDRAISING AND EVENTS

As well as the money raised from the photo sells, we had a Bingo night, Christmas raffle and a race night in May. All was a great success raising just over £1400. This money will be spent on large outdoor climbing equipment and resources.

TREASURER'S REPORT

We have had a very positive year resulting in a profit. Income is up 12.8% on last year. Although this percentage is down on the 27% increase on the year before. This increase is mainly due to more funding hours and increased rates from Banes + a small increase to non-funding fees which we implemented In September. Expenditure has increased by 12.3% an increase of the 5.4% the previous year. The running costs have risen year on year with the cost of living – food, electric and gas. We have also upgraded the laptops and purchased 2 Apple Macs. Wages have increased by 5.9%, PAYE/NI by 263% and Pensions by 150%. PAYE/NI and Pensions have vast increases due to the hourly rate increases in line with the minimum wage. All staff received a bonus in December. We have started work updating the outside of the building and gardens and have separated these costs from the main running costs. This will enable us to keep track of expenditure.

Income and expenditure

Bank Balance b/f 156976.22

Total Income for the year to 31st August 2024

BANES	136382.02
Fees	21763.29
F Raising	1476.05
Uniform	86.
Lunch Club	0
Interest	0
Misc	0
	<hr/>
	159707.36

Total Expenditure for the year to 31st August 2024

Wages	101404.86
PAYE/NI	5829.93
NEST	4055.07
Running Costs	13395.56
Equipment	4170.15
Uniform	343.49
Fund Raising	372.60
Building & Improvements	1770.18
Training	368.98
Repairs/renewals	570
Food/snacks	1500.32
Other	91.62
Subscriptions	2092.42
	<hr/>
	135965.16
Bank Bal to c/f	180718.42
Excess of Income over Expenditure	23742.20

Balance Sheet on 31st August 2024

	Y/e Aug 24
Bank Bal B/f	£156976.22
Income over Expenditure	<hr/>
	£23742.20
Balance to C/f	<hr/>
	£180,718.42

FUTURE PLANS

To secure a 10-year lease with Pauton Parish Council. Now that we have surveys to state that the building is in adequate order, we can start spending the reserves put aside to update the property inside and out. Plans are in place to renew the kitchen and craft areas. Regenerate the outside playing area. Repaint and update the lighting in the classroom and cloakroom. Meetings are ongoing with the Management Committee to ensure the current pay structure is fair and to continue are commitment to investing in our staff.

The management committee comprises of parent volunteers. The overall management of the preschool and all fundraising events are carried out by these volunteers.

You may choose to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grant making.
- policy programme related investment.
- contribution made by volunteers.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Our current financial position is positive, and we have a relatively healthy amount of savings which we are keeping in reserve for any unforeseen expenditure, the purchase of new equipment/resources and the enhancement/renovation of a very old building.

Further financial review details (Optional Information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

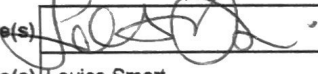
- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising).
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity.
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

The main source of funding is through paid fees for younger children and the Early Years Entitlement. We raise further funds through our regular fundraising events.

Our expenditure has always supported our key aim to provide a welcoming, safe and stimulating environment where all children are able to enjoy themselves and grow in confidence.

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.
Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		Date:	19-11-24
Full name(s)	Louise Smart	CHAIR	