

JOLLY TOTS PLAYGROUP

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 101995

TRUSTEE ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD 1ST SEPTEMBER 2020 – 31ST AUGUST 2021

Jolly Tots Playgroup is based at Mayobridge Community Centre, Mayobridge, Newry, Co Down. Governed by our Constitution, we are community based playgroup affiliated to Early Years, the Children's Organisation. The Playgroup is also registered by the Education Authority, Southern Region as a PEAGS Playgroup.

Throughout the year the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the charity's purposes and provided a benefit to the beneficiaries.

The charity is established to promote play based learning environments for all children under statutory school age in the area of Mayobridge and its surrounding environs in County Down without distinction of age, gender, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, nationality, ethnic identity, political or religious opinion, by associating the statutory authorities, community and voluntary organisations and the inhabitants in a common effort to advance education, and in particular: a) to advance the education of the beneficiaries by the provision of safe and satisfying group play, with the right of parents/carers to take responsibility for and to become involved in the activities of the group; and to promote the preservation of health of the beneficiaries; and b) to support the values and principles of Early Years.

The direct benefits which flow from this include the preparation of each child for Primary education through mastering the basic skills of expression, communication, problem solving and the ability to relate to other children and adults.

These benefits are evidenced through feedback provided to the parents by the leader for each child twice in the playgroup year. An annual inspection is carried out by the Social Services Trust which requests feedback from parents and this forms part of the report.

Throughout the year at each session, the playgroup provided activities through which the children can learn through a range of activities. These included:

Indoor:

- table top games and toys
- water and sand activities
- construction corner
- daily storytelling
- dressing up and role play
- music, songs and rhymes
- ICT
- arts and craft including seasonal activities
- colour of the month display table

Outdoor

- climbing frame and slide
- other playground equipment
- bicycles
- gardening
- outdoor construction area
- nature walks

These activities improve each child's abilities over the course of the year in terms of confidence building, hand/eye coordination, talking, listening, concentration, agility & strength, team working, sharing and friendship building. To prepare for a child with a physical disability coming to our setting, we installed a permanent ramp at the back door into the outside area, and got guidance from the child's Physios. We lowered the water tray

and removed mats and any other tripping hazard's and prepared a changing station. We employed a new member of staff for a one-to-one

We removed any hazards in one yard and concentrated on planting and growing at a level to suit all children, and their sensory needs, eg. Thyme, rosemary, vegetables, we used funding for this project.

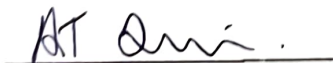
We also revamped the second yard listening to children's ideas, and installed mud kitchens and messy play, with fundraising donations from parents we bought wetsuits to try and encourage outside play throughout the year, we used funding for this too.

The playschool closed for Christmas on 17th December. We were unable to have a Christmas concert where family and friends could attend. The children performed songs and rhymes all relating to Christmas which was videoed and forwarded to parents to enjoy at home. The children enjoying making lots of Christmas crafts to take home and helped to decorate the playroom with beautiful pictures. We held a Christmas hamper raffle draw to raise money. We had to close for a week in January as two members of staff had covid.

Roisin Mc Cumiskey joined our team in September as a playgroup assistant. Shauna Carvil joined our team in September as a one-to-one playgroup assistant leaving at the end of September to take up a different job. Roisin took up Shauna's position as a one-to-one as we were still within the child staff ratio as our numbers were low.

To finish the year the children received a wonderful pack and a personalised book full of all their activities (photos) and pictures / paintings that they had done during their time at Jolly Tots.

The Trustees are grateful to all the parents, for their support and help throughout the year and to the staff for their commitment to the children.



Anne-Therese Quinn
Chairperson