

# Discovering Kids Playgroup - Trustee's Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2022

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for Discovering Kids Playgroup for the year ended 31 August 2022.

## References and Administrative Details

**Charity Name:** Discovering Kids Playgroup

**Charity Registration Number:** NIC104738

**Principal Address/Registered Office:** 100 Loup Road  
Moneymore  
Magherafelt  
BT45 7ST

## Trustees

The trustees who served during the year are as follows:

**Chairperson:** Karen Brown  
**Secretary:** Sinead McMahon  
**Treasurer:** Michael O'Boyle

**Committee Members** Martin Kelly  
Claire McVey

## Objectives & Activities

We promote, sustain and increase individual and collective knowledge of approx. 40 3-4 year olds every year (September - June). We offer two- and three-quarter hours of pre-school education, five days a week to children of families in the surrounding area regardless of disability, nationality, ethnic identity, political or religious opinion. We deliver quality pre-school education through implementing the NI pre-school curriculum and we are inspected by ETI and NHSCT annually helping us to maintain high standards in all areas of childcare.

## Compliance with Public Benefit

The Charity has given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities entered into during the year have helped to achieve the Charity's objectives and activities, as well as providing public benefit.

## Financial Review

The statement of Financial Activities is listed on page 7.

## **Charitable Purposes**

The Group is established to promote play based learning environments for all children under statutory school age, (hereinafter referred to as the beneficiaries) of the Magherafelt/Sperrins and its surrounding environs in County Londonderry (hereinafter called the 'area of benefit') 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/careers 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.

## **Achievements & Performance**

The financial/school year of 1st Sept 2021 to 31st August 2022 operated with one morning Preschool session. A total of 26 Preschool children attended the Playgroup in the year, assisted by 5 staff. During which time DKP was able to offer 2 Pre-Pre sessions in the afternoon.

The playgroup reopened in September 2021 following the enforced government lockdowns and associated Covid-19 closures of which continued to affect attendances of staff and children. It was a very challenging time that the staff, the children, their parents and committee had to navigate.

Early years, along with Primary and Secondary school children returned in September 2021 for a new school year. The previous guidance issued that focused on social distancing etc. was adhered to until such times that the government eased this guidance.

The committee are extremely grateful of the efforts by the staff and parents to adhere to the health & safety guidance and maximise the fight against Covid-19.

The committee are tremendously proud of the staff who worked every day to ensure the children received their early years education despite all the concerns around Covid-19.

Fundraising activities that normally take place each year were greatly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Christmas Calendar did manage to take place proving to be a great fundraiser as well as a great keep sake for parents and the children. The staff also had a pyjama day for the children which was a great success. The children absolutely loved it and it was a fantastic fundraiser.

Several grants were made available due to the pandemic. These grants were a great help and helped to offset the loss in fundraising. They also were to help cover the additional costs incurred due to the extra cleaning and the PPE required due to Covid-19. We also received various grants such as Engage I funding and a sustainability grant for maintenance.

Well done and many thanks to all the staff and parents for ensuring a successful 2020 2021 school year through an extremely challenging time.

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

Discovering Kids Playgroup is a Registered Charity and is governed by the terms of its constitution, which was adopted by the membership on 2nd April 2008. Discovering Kids Playgroup is registered with the Charity Commission and is placed on the Northern Ireland register of charities from 23rd March 2016.

The objectives and activities of the Charity are administered by a Management Committee, which shall consist of the three Honorary Officers and not less than two nor more than nine other members. The members are elected at the Annual General Meeting and shall meet not less than two times per term which equates to six times per year.

**Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others**

The charity holds no funds as custodian trustees on behalf of others.

Approved by the trustees on 22 November 2022 and signed on their behalf by:



**Karen Brown**  
Chair



**Michael O'Boyle**  
Treasurer