

A new climbing frame also arrived and was soon in use. In February the inspector from Environmental Health called out and awarded us a 5 Star rating. We applied for a grant of £500 from the King's Coronation Fund to help with celebrations for the Coronation and held a party with the Mayor and Lord Lieutenant as special guests. Painters from Tesco came and painted the outside yard and walls as part of volunteering in the community. A school trip was organised to Laganvale farm in June and a Quiz night raised approx £1700. Additional advertising was organised as numbers were predicted to be low for next year due to a dip in the population birth rate.

The Forest School continued to be a valuable resource and one of the newer staff did her Forest School training. The children are encouraged to explore nature around them and even had a visit from some lambs in the forest setting, the forest school is seen as a huge benefit by the whole community and it is a safe and supervised environment for children to explore. A willow tunnel was planted to celebrate the King's Coronation.

EXPENSES

The main expenses continue to be essential ones such as salaries, pension contributions, tax, rent of the hall, rent of the Forest School land, electricity, heating oil, maintenance, which this year included the new kitchen, telephone, photocopying, specialist support for the children, snacks for the children, water rates, insurance and additional second hand laptop and other activities and expenses as detailed in the accounts. Donations were made to local charities including World Vision.

The various activities that Sunshine has undertaken over the year have helped to further its purpose in a safe and caring environment for young children to grow and learn, as well as providing a resource for the public benefit in the local community.

This report has been approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by Liz Addison.

Signed Liz Addison

Date 25/11/23

ANNUAL TRUSTEE REPORT FOR SUNSHINE PLAYGROU AND PRE-SCHOOL
2022-2023

Sunshine Playgroup and Pre-School is a registered Charity which was originally founded in 1984. It is a non-profit making organisation and is located in Killultagh Orange Hall, Legiteriff Road, Upper Ballinderry, Lisburn, Co Antrim. The Charity Commission number is 105899-0 and it has a facebook page. It is a cross-community playgroup which is registered with the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust, in line with the statutory requirements of the Children [NI]Order 1995 and the minimum Standards of Childminding and Daycare 2012. Inspections are carried out annually for both the Pre-School and Playgroups by the Early Years team from the South Eastern Health and Social Services. The Pre-School is funded by the Department of Education NI and the pre-school curriculum is followed and inspected by inspectors from the Department of Education [E.T.I.] All of the staff at Sunshine Playgroup and Pre-School hold an N.V.Q.Certificate in Childcare and Education. They are all Access N.I. Checked and are trained in Child Protection **Safe-Guarding**, as well as holding various other appropriate qualifications.

THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVE

The Aims and Objectives of Sunshine Playgroup and Pre-School remain the same and these areas are as follows;

- To provide a warm and welcoming early years environment where young children are valued as individuals.
- Where their self esteem, confidence and independence are promoted in a happy, stimulating and caring setting.
- Where each child's needs are taken into account arising from culture, race, religion, language and disabilities.
- To recognise that the child's needs and safety are paramount.
- To work in partnership with parents, carers and other professionals.
- To formulate and encourage equal opportunities for both adults and children.

The Trustees consist of local people who have volunteered and who come from a mixture of backgrounds across the community. They have different fields of interest, including business, education, finance and rural affairs. The Trustees have operated the charity to increase the public benefit during the reporting period and have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's statutory public benefit guidance.

The Trustees believe that the purposes of Sunshine Playgroup and Pre-School satisfy the elements of public benefit requirements. The main benefit continues to be for the **children and their families** in the local area. The whole community of Ballinderry and the surrounding area is encouraged to participate in any fundraising activities that the staff of Sunshine decide to arrange as well as being invited to Open Days and Information sessions. The local children attending the playgroup/pre-school benefit from a safe, stimulating environment and a range of educational activities and social interaction as part of the wider Sunshine and Ballinderry community.

The Education Authority is the main provider of funds for Sunshine Playgroup and Pre-School, with various other appropriate grants applied for and received . Childcare vouchers and uniform monies also contribute to the income for Sunshine. In addition there were grants from Fair Play to support a particular child, a grant from Child Care partnership to fund a new kitchen in the hall and a Christmas ballot, Cash for Clobber and other fundraising activities as outlined in the accounts. Delays in getting the kitchen meant that it was not fully operational until January when the new floor went down. This had meant that staff had worked extremely hard in poor conditions to get the children's' breaks served and keep everything up to the standards that we expected.