

DISCOVERING KIDS PLAYGROUP ANNUAL REPORT 2014



Report from the Chairperson

For those of you that don't know me, my name is Matt King, I am the current chairperson of the playgroup and it gives me great pleasure to present the annual report of another year's activities of Discovering Kids Playgroup.

The report reflects a broad summary of some of the work we have carried out over the past year. I couldn't hope to cover everything but I hope this gives you a flavour of the work done over the past year.

Admissions

It has been another busy and exciting year and a lot has been achieved, attendance at the playgroup has continued to rise with 36 funded children this year and 18 pre-pre's enrolled in our afternoon session with admissions next year for funded children currently 35 for Sept 14.

Staff

This year has been a busy year with several new staff and promotions:

Elizabeth Folliard and Joanne Devlin were promoted to supervisors starting September 2013.

Rachel Martin joined us as a playgroup assistant September 2013.

Jude MacLagan stepped down as our playgroup leader at the end of last summer.

June O'Kane started as playgroup leader in January 2014.

Isobel McClean who has been a volunteer in previous years but this year was one to one carer.

John McCrory was with us on placement from Network as a caretaker / handyman. His work has been invaluable.

Bernie Duggan and Kathleen Rafferty are currently doing placements with the Playgroup whilst undertaking courses.

Shauna Conway who has been with us before on placement was with us again until February.

Special thanks must go to the supervisors who acted up whilst the playgroup was without a leader and all the assistants for their hard work keeping the playgroup running smoothly.

Grant Applications

As we are a voluntary group we rely on funding from various sources.

Staff Training 2013/14

Child Protection

First Aid

Food Hygiene

Fire Safety

Designated Child
Protection Officer

Respecting Difference

Over the past year we have successfully received grants from NHST, Cookstown good relations, Loup women's group, NHSCB and Cookstown shared culture through music and dance.

We have several other grants in the pipeline, one capital funds grant for outside work and another good relations grant.

Fundraising

The community got together for the annual party night in June 2013. A great night was had and we raised a total of £529.

In December we did a Tesco Back Pack that raised £476.

In March this year we did the Smarties Tube Fundraiser which raised £462.80.

We held an Easter coffee morning which raised just over £560.

Throughout the year there was funded provided by a clothing recycling bin.

Parent Involvement

Discovering Kids Playgroup has always viewed parent involvement as an essential element contributing to the success of a community run pre-school. There were Halloween, Christmas, Valentines and Easter parties with parents and carers welcome as well as an embracing diversity night that was very well attended.

Later on this week there will be a school trip to see "The Jungle Book" at the Burnavon.

In June we will also have the end of term party.

Inspection

We are registered and inspected by the Department of Education for Northern Ireland and we are required to follow and implement the Curriculum Guidance for Pre-School Education. The playgroup was inspected at the beginning of April, we are still waiting for the results.

Conclusion

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff on behalf of the committee for their dedication to the children and the playgroup and for all the hard work they have put in over the year.

I would also like to thank the other members of the committee for their hard work and willingness throughout the year.

Finally I would like to thank parents, committee, and staff for supporting the playgroup in our fundraising events over the year.

Matt King 20th May 2014

Chairperson Discovering Kids Playgroup



Fund Raising 2013/14

Annual Party £529

Tesco Bag Pack £476

Smarties £462.80

Easter Coffee £560.80

Clothing Recycling
(ongoing)