



Loanhead After School Club

Annual Report

2007



This is an exciting time to be involved in playwork. There are many changes happening at the moment, all of which will result in a better play experience for your child(ren) whilst at the after school club.

Over the past few years there has been detailed research into play, why we do it, what the benefits are, and the effects on children if they do not have the chance to play. The research has influenced the training received by playworkers who are designing play spaces which will provide exciting opportunities for children to play in lots of different ways. The focus of the play setting is now moving away from adult led activities to self directed play, and the benefits to the child of playing as they want to. The benefits to the children are immense, they learn and develop at their own pace, they learn how to socialise, to appreciate risk and challenge and to make connections with their environment.

These theories are not necessarily a new thing. Remember when you were young, how you explored, climbed, jumped, ran, dug, got messy and had fun? Because of the constraints of traffic, of perceived dangers in the community, a lot of our children are losing out on these play opportunities. What we are aiming to do is to recreate some of the excitement and passion about playing that we had when we were young.



Role of the playworker is also changing. We are, at last, being recognised for the complex work we do and now must be registered with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). This means that in addition to being appropriately qualified and a regular registration process, we must also follow the SSSC code of practice. This process is to ensure the quality you can expect of the playwork professionals who work at the After School Club. You can see the list of staff and their relevant qualification at the end of this report. The registration process is monitored by the regulatory body for care services which is the Care Commission Scotland.

What does this mean for the After School Club?

We hope the process will improve the quality of your child's experience whilst at the after school club, whilst giving you the reassurance that the playworkers are all competent and confident in their work.

LASC continue to receive excellent inspection reports from the Care Commission and are pleased to announce that we have been awarded a Level 3 in the Aiming High Quality Assurance Scheme from the Out of School Network. This is the second time we have been awarded this level of award and we are the only club in Midlothian to receive it.

Community Nursery report

Our Community Nursery has gone from strength to strength with average numbers each week at 220. The children regularly work on themes and have been enjoying a variety of activities such as the new play area outside and our new computer. Special events this year have included the teddy bears picnic and our visits from the police and health visitors. We have improved our planning process and are now working with a quality assurance officer to help introduce the Birth—Three curriculum.

Loanhead Report

The breakfast club at Loanhead continues to attract around 20—25 children each day. The children particularly enjoy the bouncy castle and the hall games which get them running around and ready for the day ahead. The nursery children now have their breakfast separate from the older children which we have found successful. During the next year we aim to increase our numbers and give the children more access to outdoor play. The After School Club continues to grow with an average of 240 children attending each week. The children have been enjoying a variety of activities such as more use of our outdoor space, the old favourite the Jelly club, Dalkeith Country Park. The new additional of the MUGA pitch at the school and the redesigned garden have also been extremely well used. The staff continue to take part in training such as first aid, food hygiene, additional needs training and manual handling. Eilidh completed her SVQ level 3 in Playwork and SVQ level 3 in management. Laura also completed her SVQ level 3 in management. Congratulations to John and Jenny who achieved their SPA awards and Irene who completed her SVQ level 4 in Early Years Care and Education (including Playwork)



Roslin Report

The Roslin breakfast club is going well and has anything from 7—14 children attending each day. The children are getting involved with the promotion of the club by designing flyers which they will give out to children at the school. The after school club has a regular attendance of between 15—20. The children enjoy playing outside as much as possible in the park, and we are lucky to have this facility on our doorstep. Some of the highlights for us this year were the horse riding during the holiday club, and also our Roslin Zoo display. Vicky completed her SVQ level 3 in management this year, and Susan completed her SPA in Children's Care and Play. We hope to continue to increase numbers this year and to maintain the variety of opportunities for the children to play and enjoy.

Managers Report

This has been another very busy year for the LASC. We are continuing to develop and improve our provision to our users ensuring that we deliver a reliable and trusted service to all. This has been recognised through our excellent Care Commission Inspection report which had no recommendations and also being awarded once again a level 3 quality assurance re assessment in child care which is the highest level achievable. All clubs are thriving as you will see from the



play leaders reports. Through funding from Scottish Community Foundation and Midlothian Council we have refurbished our out door play area by installing a colourful rubberised surface and large play house which the children love playing in. The children have taken ownership of our Community Garden and have formed their own gardening club and have planted vegetables in their own plot so we have some budding gardeners on our hands

We value the feed back we get from parents and carers on how we are doing. Acting on a recent Midlothian Childcare survey we have now extended our service in the Community Nursery and are able to accommodate 2 year olds. This has proved very popular and our register has increased 3 fold with 4 permanent Nursery staff who deliver a stimulating warm and caring atmosphere for the children. It was also identified in the survey the lack of provision after 6 pm and on a Saturday and I am delighted to announce we are now about to offer extended hours to our service by opening till 7 pm Monday to Saturday allowing the flexibility to meet parents and carers needs. We are also opening a satellite club at the new school campus in Loanhead which will be offering a breakfast club and after school club when it opens later on in the year.

I would like to congratulate our dedicated and caring staff team who take pride in providing the service parents and carers have come to expect from the LASC. The team have worked steadfastly through out the year with all undertaking qualifications and/ or additional training to up skill themselves. They do this in their own time allowing them to meet the Scottish Social Services Commission registration that is now required for childcare workers. They are a credit to us and I thank them for their continued commitment and hard work over the year.

And last but not least our board of directors who have been a great support to me over the year. Their help and advice has been invaluable. I look forward to working with you all again and to another exciting and fun packed year.

Irene Hogg
Manager

Chair persons report

Looking back over the last year it is clear to me that LASC has grown from strength to strength.

Our After school team are continuing to enhance their knowledge base through on the job developmental skills and off the job training sessions and seminars. This in turn brings more creative and exciting ideas to the play element of our children's development and all adds to fun aspect as well as the safety and professional attitude of the care facilities.

Irene, through her never ending energy continually adds to the learning and development opportunities offered to the young people within the local community, and this has now expanded into welcoming children from the age of two into the centre. At the other end of the spectrum our teen club has proved to be a great concept. The outside play initiative has been a hit, and the securing of funds has allowed the integration of, for example, the external soft play area, complete with its play house.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the dedication of our staff team, and the driving force of Irene Hogg, who together make the LASC a positive reality.

Acknowledgment also goes to the Board of Directors who are a strongly motivated team, and who work in partnership for the benefit of our children and parents of the organization.

Lynda Stoddart
Chairman

Treasurers report

As you will see from the accounts we have run at almost break even again this year. This is actually better than it looks as this is the first year we have had to cover the costs of the managers post and we are also managing to run another vehicle as well. We have also not touched the reserved funds that were put aside to cover wages during 2006-2007.

At the end of last financial year we managed to offer our staff a pension scheme which a number of them have taken up. We are the first After School Club to offer this facility and we hope it will help us retain the excellent staff that we have. With the opening of the branch at the new campus we may have to face more expenses next year and we plan to start setting aside finances for the replacement of the aging buses but I anticipate that we shall be able to keep on track, breaking even as before

Janet Philp
Treasurer

Our Staff Team

Staff Name	Title	Qualifications
Irene Hogg	Project Manager	SVQ Level 4 Early Years Care and Education (including Playwork) D32/33/34 Assessor/verifiers awards
Veronica Wood	Administrator	
Mary Stables	Administration Assistant	
Tracey Joyce	Development Worker	MSc. BA. PDA Childcare and Education D32/33/V1 Assessor/verifiers award Working towards Graduate Diploma in Playwork
Eilidh Denholm	Senior Play Leader	SVQ Level 3 Playwork SVQ Level 3 Management Working towards Children's Care Learning and Development Units at SVQ Level3
Vicky Lynch	Play Leader (Roslin)	SVQ Level 3 Early Years Care and Education SVQ Level 3 Management
Samra Akram	Senior Play Worker (senior special needs)	SVQ level 2 Playwork Working towards SVQ Level 3 Playwork
John Hogg	Senior Playworker	SPA Children's Care and Play Working towards SVQ Level 3 Playwork
Laura McGinty	Senior Playworker	HNC Childcare and Education SVQ Level 3 management
Yvonne Todman	Senior Playworker	SVQ Level 2 Playwork Working towards SVQ level 3 Playwork
Susan Clark	Playworker	SPA Children's Care and Play Working towards SVQ Level 3 Playwork
Jennie Gorrie	Playworker	SPA Accessing Playwork
Johnny Hogg	Playworker	Working towards HNC Sports Coaching and Sports Development
Shona Kane	Playworker	SNNEB Nursery nurse
Sarah Black	Playwork Assistant	Working towards SPA Children's Care and Play
Nikki Hamilton	Playwork Assistant	Working towards SPA Children's Care and Play
Christine Todman	Playwork Assistant (sessional)	Working towards BEd Primary Education

Our Committee 2006—2007

Lynda Stoddart—Chair
Janet Philp—Treasurer
Lynn McFadyen
Joanne Adair
Connie Williamson
Carol Bald
June Judge

Anne Grant—Vice chair
Kathleen Stables—Secretary
Christine Boal
Margaret Robertson
Sarrah Laycock
Lynn McNeil