



Loanhead After School Club

Annual Report

2009



A Year In Summary—Manager’s Report

It’s been another busy year at the Loanhead After Schools Clubs with our numbers growing all the time. The children, and parents, continue to give us great feedback on the activities and events that are provided for them and we look forward to not only consolidating on that feedback but helping to grow it even further.

In addition to our own numbers, the last 12 months have seen us hosting Crèches for other organisations. Midlothian Childcare Partnership approached us to put on a 6 week Crèche for their Introduction to Childcare course at the end of May while we welcomed once again, children from all over Midlothian through “Women Onto Work”.

Last year’s opening of the Ramsay Campus on Edgefield Road saw us open another centre. At the end of our first full year at this Project, we’ve seen the numbers grow steadily and have recently extended our Breakfast Club’s ‘Walking Bus/pick up service’ service to that Campus also.

A source of growth this year has been the extension of the age range we now cater for. In late 2008, we received our registration to take two year old children in addition to the pre-school nursery children we already catered for. Due to our growing ‘child base’, we are delighted to have brought on new staff across all our Projects. Nathan Hunter (Loanhead Paradykes), Gemma Hogg and Lisa Webster (both Roslin) have joined us in the last 12 months while Nicola Quinn and Trevor Hannant have both arrived to assist in the Administration side of the Club.

Our staff and the Club itself have been successful in obtaining further honours. Johnny Hogg achieved his HND in Sports Coaching while Lisa Webster also received her HNC in Early Education and Childcare at a graduation ceremony last year. Also congratulations go to Yvonne Todman, John Hogg and Samra Akram who have completed their level 3 in Playwork and good luck to John who is working towards his level 4 in playwork. An initiative led by Eilidh Denholm, with the assistance of a sub group of staff, to encourage staff to eat healthier and walk more helped the Club receive Healthy Working Lives Silver and Bronze Awards. Attaining both awards in a single year is a major achievement and credit goes to all those involved.

LCLC has been successful in it’s application for funding to research the costing and ultimately building of a new log cabin in the grounds behind the centre. While this is not an LASC project, the Club will benefit from some of the space that will be created within this new building. Confirmation of the funding will allow the existing Feasibility study to be taken to the next stage.

Fundraising continued to keep the children busy over the course of the last year. Following on from the successful Giant Sleepover last year, which raised £1500, a further £3,000 was received in sponsorship and Corporate donations enabling the full amount needed for the playground project in West Africa to be handed over to the International Play Association in November. Funds were also raised for the Seed To Soup Project (Loanhead), Marie Curie (Roslin) and Comic Relief while we have been invited back to Costco for Carol singing and bucket shaking after a successful visit last Christmas.

Finally a big thank you to all our staff and board for their dedication and hard work over the year.

Irene Hogg

What's Ahead in 2009-10

At the time of writing, we're in the process of finalising the Summer Programme for 2009. With many and varied elements in place, we're very excited about the quality as well as quantity of the events we'll be putting on. With different themes for the different weeks, there will certainly be plenty to keep the children - and staff - occupied.

One element of the programme that we're looking forward to is RUTS (Rural & Urban Training Scheme). RUTS uses motorcycles as a way of engaging with young people, allowing them to ride them as well as looking at the safety and mechanics of bikes. With various themed activities and off-site visits to look forward to including to Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh International Climbing Centre, East Links Family Park and Blair Drummond Safari Park, we're sure that the kids will once again have an enjoyable and active summer in the Club.

After the success of last year's Giant Sleepover, we will once again be taking part in the Giant Sleepover. Both staff and children are gearing up for this year's event which will be held just ahead of the AGM. We'll be hoping to at least match what we made last year.

Work continues on the plans for the new Log Cabin which will be situated behind the LCLC building within the Community garden. The LCLC continue to work hard seeking funding for the project and are hopeful that this will be in place by early 2010 with the construction of the facility starting during the spring of next year. We hope that by the end of the year, we'll take up the space being afforded to us and can continue the expansion of our services.

Later this year, we will also begin working towards renewing our Aiming High Quality Assurance Certificate from Scottish Out of School Care Network. This certificate is issued every two years and we believe we're well placed to obtain this again this autumn.

We also look forward to our staff completing their qualifications in child care and taking up further training to enhance their skills. We will also be welcoming an other stream of Students that wish to work in child care who will be working in our project for their chosen work placements.

Around The Clubs

Loanhead Afterschool Club Report

This year has been very busy. There have been a few new children and they have settled well.

We have been offering an open snack for the older children. They eat when they want then go out to play without waiting for everyone to finish. The younger children still sit together as this gives them a chance to chat about their day and also like news time. They then like to have team games for 15 minutes then they go and either go out to play or take part in an art activity or free play.

Activities this year have been:

Cards for different celebrations

Themes for the year:

Back to school, Ramadan, Weather, Halloween, Bonfire night, Remembrance Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Rabbe Burns Day, Chinese New year, Healthy Eating, Pancake Tuesday, St Patrick's Day, Easter, Anzac Day, Space, Planting.

We also took part in Comic Relief and Children in Need and raised a lot of money.

We also finished off the year with the fancy dress parade in which we came third. We dressed up as cowboys and indians. The children enjoyed decorating the bus. Then the following night we took part in the Giant Sleepover to raise money for Africa Play.

We attained the Bronze healthy working lives last September 2008 then we achieved the Silver in April 2009. This was a great achievement.

We have had a big turnover of students and they have all enjoyed their time with us.

Assistant Play leader
Yvonne Todman

Community Nursery Report

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Breakfast Club Report

This year has gone well. The children all seem to enjoy coming.

Breakfast consists of mainly healthy options. They love Weetabix, Shreddies and Sugar Puffs, fresh orange and hot chocolate, toast, fruit and yoghurts.

We enjoy team games in the gym hall and bouncy castle on a Friday when the weather is good. They love outdoor play before school.

Activities coincide with ASC: Mothers and Fathers Day cards, Valentine cards, seasonal activities.

Nintendo Wii, Lego board games are on offer every day and also drawing and colouring in.

We collect children from their homes this is very beneficial and also help all children to do their homework.

We have a new member of staff 3 days a week. Nathan is a great asset to the team and the children relate well with him.

Toothbrush bus:

At the end of Christmas term we had "brex factor" then before we broke up for Easter we had "breakfast's got talent". They really enjoy this even the quiet children take part.

Play leader
Yvonne Todman

Around The Clubs (cont.)

Ramsay Campus Report

The Breakfast Club, After School Club and Nursery at the campus are now fully up and running. We have our regular children who are all well settled, and thoroughly enjoy their time in the setting. From day one we have promoted Self Directed Play for the children and encourage outdoor play for all our children. We have an excellent working relationship with the head teachers from St Margaret's and Loanhead School also the Janitor and many other staff members, I feel this has helped us in so many ways as we are allowed access to a number of areas and equipment.

We have a very relaxed and informal approach. This shows in how we provide breakfast and snack, they are able to choose when they would like to eat, within reason of course. I feel this works well particularly in the afternoon where children can choose to play outside for a while before snack. I find they need very little encouragement to do this, indeed this is now the norm.

The Breakfast Club numbers can vary from 5 to 12 we still provide a pick up service when required. The After School Club numbers can vary from 16 to 25. The Nursery numbers can vary from 3 to 9.

John Hogg

Roslin Report

Roslin numbers have been steadily increasing throughout the year, averaging 16-18 Wednesday and Friday, 25-32 Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

We are now encouraging a lot more free play and child lead play – the children get to decide what they want to play with, if they want to go outside, or if they don't want to play an activity they don't have to. We have set aside an area for our older children to have a "teen club" this is a private area away from the younger children so they can watch movies have time to chat etc. The children are absolutely loving the changes within the club, this is reflected in our numbers and also feedback from the children and the parents is very positive. We are also offering an open snack. The children get to choose what they want for snack, and also get to serve themselves.

We have taken part in a few fundraising events this year, We raised over £200 for Marie Curie Nurses, and also raised over £50 by doing a bake sale for the Sick Kids. We also took part in the Roslin Fancy dress Parade. The children came up with the idea of dressing up as a deck of cards which we did and we were awarded first prize. We will be participating again this year.

Our play leader Vicky has recently returned from maternity leave and is embracing the changes within the club. The children and staff are delighted to have her back.

Gemma Hogg
Play Worker

From The Board

Chair Person's Report

Once again we are reporting a very exciting year in the Loanhead After School Club. The staff team are developing their talents, and the ideas they have are being actively used to the benefit of the children using the service. This is obviously working to such an extent that we are receiving comments that LASC provides "The best care in Midlothian".

Irene, as always has been tireless in her promotion of the centre both nationally and internationally.

The new satellite at the St Margaret's/Loanhead campus is continuing to be very popular with children and parents alike.

The dedication of Irene and her team must be applauded by everyone who has children at LASC and I personally wish to thank Irene and her staff for the care she gives to not only to my child but all the other children and young people in their care.

Recognition is also due to the Board of Directors whose collective aim is to work together for the benefit of our children and parents. This year the Board were delighted to be chosen as finalists for a 25th Anniversary Volunteers Centre Award (Midlothian). The lavish award ceremony was held in Newbattle Abbey College where a certificate was presented, this can now be added to the number of accolades already adorning the centre walls.

As Chairperson I also represent LASC on the board of LCLC, this is the link that allows both boards to work together for the common aim. This year we are hoping that the funding bid from the big Lottery for the Log Cabin will go ahead. One of the main aims for this project will be to give a self contained area for the 1 year olds.

Anne Grant
Chairman

Treasurer's report

The LASC has once again performed well and we are showing a slight excess. Next year, we will be looking at having to replace one of the minibuses so the slight excess we had set aside this year will be used for that. We have also managed to retain the monies set aside to cover three months of running the project should we need to. We continue to offer the pension scheme to the staff as well as fund training opportunities for all.

We are in the process of setting up a system whereby all fees are paid at the Loanhead site and we hope most parents will set up payments directly with their banks or by vouchers.

Janet Philp
Treasurer

Our Staff Team 2008-2009

Staff Name	Title	Qualifications
Irene Hogg	Project Manager	SVQ Level 4 Early Years Care and Education (including Playwork), D32/33/34 Assessor/verifiers awards, PDA Unit Effective Leadership
Veronica Wood	Office Manager	ECDL Administration
Nicola Quinn	Admin Support Assistant	
Trevor Hannant	Marketing/Admin Support (P/T)	
Lynda Stoddart	HR Manager (P/T)	
Eilidh Denholm	Senior Play Leader (Nursery & 2 year old room)	SVQ Level 3 Playwork SVQ Level 3 Management 3 Units of Children's Care Learning and Development (Level 3)
Vicky Lynch	Play Leader (Roslin) Currently on maternity Leave	SVQ Level 3 Early Years Care and Education SVQ Level 3 Management
Lisa Watson	Play Leader (Community Nursery -3-5 room)	SVQ Level 4 Early Years Care and Education NC Childcare and Education HNC Childcare and Education
John Hogg	Manager (Ramsay Campus)	SPA Children's Care and Play SVQ Level 3 Playwork
Samra Akram	Senior Play Worker (Senior Special Needs)	SVQ Level 2 Playwork SVQ Level 3 Playwork
Laura McGinty	Senior Playworker	NC Childcare and Education HNC Childcare and Education SVQ Level 3 management
Yvonne Todman	Senior Playworker	SVQ Level 2 Playwork SVQ level 3 Playwork
Johnny Hogg	Playworker/Sports Coach	HNC Sports Coaching and Sports Development HND Sports Coaching and Sports Development Working towards SVQ level 3 Playwork
Lisa Webster	Senior Playworker	HNC Early Education and Childcare
Gemma Hogg	Playworker	Working towards SVQ level 3 Playwork
Marie Dickson	Playworker	Working towards SVQ level 3 Playwork
David Owens	Playworker	SVQ level 3 Playwork HNC Working With Communities
Sarah Black	Playworker	SPA Children's Care and Play Working Towards SVQ Level 3 Playwork
Nikki Hamilton	Playworker	SPA Children's Care and Play Working towards SVQ level 3 Playwork
Jessica Coull	Playwork Assistant	Working towards NPA
Alan Duffin	Playwork Assistant	Working towards HNC Sports Coaching and Sports Development
Erin Glen	Playwork Assistant	Working towards B Ed Primary Education
Lesley Smart	Play Leader (Breakfast Club)	SVQ 2 Playwork
Nathan Hunt	Playwork Assistant	Working towards Care In The Community
May Quinn	Playworker	Scheme of Excellence

Our Committee 2008-2009

Anne Grant -Chair
Janet Philp—Treasurer
Lynn McFadyen

Kathleen Stables—Secretary
Christine Boal

Joanne Adair
Connie Williamson
Carol Bald
June Judge

Margaret Robertson
Sarra Laycock
Lynn McNeil
Lynda Stoddart

