



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Families Like Us trading as Juniors Play Centre

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OVERVIEW

Message from the Chair

Celebrating ten years of Juniors gave us time to reflect on how the charity has grown from the early conception of working with single and lone families in a small shop in Larkhall, into the current form we see today. Our mission to tackle child poverty for every child growing up in Scotland has seen us working to produce services for all families from all different backgrounds. The Juniors team has risen to the challenge and continues to make a positive impact in Hamilton and beyond. Responding to increasing demand on the service with limited funding has been no small task but as always, Juniors makes a little go a long way. It's a privilege to be part of an organisation that works tirelessly to improve the lives of families with small actions making huge differences.

John McDonough, Chair

Our Mission

To remove feelings of isolation and loneliness for families with young children and to eradicate child poverty in Scotland.

We achieve this by offering a warm welcome to all families attending the play centre, creating community within the community by offering friendship and removing stigma and barriers to success by providing bespoke support services designed with families to build capacity and leave no one behind.

Program Highlights

Visitor numbers continue to increase as we greeted 23,989 people through our doors in 2025.

Looking Ahead

In our centenary year we have the benefit of hindsight to see how we have grown, but a chance to pause and think about what comes next.

Coming from a small venue in Larkhall with a seating capacity of 21 people, small play area and a team of two, we have grown to our current location in central Hamilton with a seating capacity of 70+ visitors, large play area incorporating soft play, imagination play and structured play sessions, a bespoke sensory room and community larder and a staff team of 8 plus volunteers and visiting students.

Our success can be attributed to our ability to react and respond to the needs of the families who use our services, offering wrap around whole family care and support when needed in a family friendly space. We've created a strong team of responsive practitioners that ensure every family feels welcomed, safe and included and can respond to challenges as they arise, giving parents/care givers the tools they need, when they need them.

From our humble beginnings we are now seen as a centre of excellence for Early Years and Whole Family Support provision with a strong track record of making meaningful impact in the lives of children and families. This has resulted in many students studying a range of subjects including social work, health visitor, community education, early years, hospitality, choosing our centre to complete valuable industry experience and placements in.

This year we want to expand our reach to deliver our unique style of whole family support across our communities. Thinking about all family members means we can offer a range of support services to a variety of age groups and needs including parent/caregiver advice services within schools and nurseries, to entrepreneurial workshops in high schools, to one off workshops teaching skills and tips including back to work programs, cookery skills or baby feeding groups. We will continue to work with all stake holders to design and deliver sessions and events that meet the needs of the families within our community.

Lesley Robertson
Chief Executive Officer
October 2025

TIMELINE

How do we know we are making an impact on the lives of children and families? By making space for families to tell us what they need, observing children to ensure their needs are met, reflecting on our practise to ensure we are offering the best service and by capturing magical moments as they happen. A picture says a thousand words, so here's a look back at another amazing year at Juniors. Our monthly newsletter sums up the month perfectly and is shared across our network of sponsors, partners and stakeholders.

January 2025 – 1376 visitors

Welcome Happy New Year
Find out what's been happening at Juniors right here!

Great start to the year with new structured play sessions including:
BABY PUPP MOVING MOVIES & SUNDAYS, MEET THE MESSY & BODILY BOOZ BOOZERS.
OUR BABY MASSAGE BLOCK FILLED WITH ADULTS OF THE MOVEMENT AND WE LAUNCHED A NEW ASN ONLY LUNCH ENJOYED FOR PEET SUPPORT.

Unfortunately, January brought some horrendous weather with it. We had a red weather warning for Hamilton the day we were scheduled to host NHS Community Health Partnership for their Jenny & the bear Teddy Bear's Picnic. We rescheduled this for February.

One of our lovely parents sent this post to help some of our younger visitors understand why they were staying at home.

Tomorrow I have no school
A big storm is coming
I will stay home with my family
I will feel safe in my house
The wind might sound noisy
I can do or play with my favourite things in my house
This will help make me feel happy
I will go back to school on Monday

Our adult only ASN night gives parents/carers a chance to relax and talk to others child free! For many this is the only break they get in a week.

Baby Massage
Why is it important?

Our Baby Massage classes teach new parents/carers a series of massage strokes over the course of four weekly classes. These strokes can be beneficial for babies experiencing symptoms such as colic, reflux and constipation. The strokes are designed to condition baby's muscles, promote movement, demonstrate safe touch and enhance communication between baby and caregiver.

But it's so much more....

These classes give new parents the chance to connect with others, discuss their labour, support each other through the hard times of feeding, lack of sleep and recovery.

Baby massage class means so much more to our parents and us.

Spotlight on activities at Juniors
What's it all about?

Our mission is to break down the barriers and challenges that prevent children from having a wonderful childhood. One way we do this is by providing daily fun packed activities that all children can take part in.

Babies (and parents...) enjoying a relaxing time at Baby Play.

We made our own Nappy for Burns Night!

Lots of fun at our Movers & Shakers with the puppets.

New artwork and loose parts for the new year.

Services available at Juniors:
Community Larder open to all, daily stay & play sessions, 2 x weekly additional support needs (ASN) stay & play sessions after school, baby massage classes, one to one support, school and nursery visits, social services contact visits, weekly supper club, weekly walk & talk session, adult only ASN group, all free of charge for families in need. More services and activities are coming soon.



Feb 2025



Welcome

To our monthly newsletter

Find out what's been happening at Juniors right here!

ALL ABOUT THE LOVE THIS MONTH...

POOR BEAR CAME TO BRIBE PLAY FOR CUCKLES. KIDS OF ALL AGES MADE VALENTINES CARDS. WE HAD A TEDDY BEARS PICNIC WITH OUR BUS PARTNERS JESSIE AND THE BEAR. A MAGICAL ENCANTO DAY WITH MIRABELLE. ARTS AND CRAFTS FOCUSED ON THE EVER CHANGING WEATHER OF SCOTLAND AND DISTRIBUTED CHOCOLATES TO ALL OUR VISITORS TO SHARE THE LOVE.



The kids created their very own post office to deliver all the valentine's cards.

Notice our amazing weather wall in the background covering all the weather February threw at us!



Even the team felt the love as they each got a lovely box of chocolates to enjoy.



Encanto Day

Every child deserves a bit of magic in their lives

We have a range of full body mascots and real-life characters that visit our centre on a weekly basis, giving children the opportunity to meet and interact with their favourite characters.

We are in the privileged position of sharing these magical moments and appreciate every family who attend and let us share in their memory making.

Some little ones (and adults) can be a little overwhelmed when meeting their favourite character for the first time, but our responsive staff know just what to do to help everyone feel comfortable and included.

Your continued support allows us to keep delivering these special activities.

Spotlight on activities at

What's it all about?

Our mission is to break down the barriers and challenges that prevent children from having a wonderful childhood. Collaboration is key to ensuring no one is left behind. Here are some of the ways we work with others.



The founder of Scottish Online Lessons, Kathleen Brennan has given us a free log-in code to give to our supported families to access education support online. This resource has been invaluable to both our home-schooling families and those struggling with homework at home.



We put up one post asking for the community's help to ensure every child received an Easter Egg and the response was immediate. Donations have started pouring in already!



This lovely activity delivered by our NHS Community Health partners offered smoking cessation advice in a gentle and supportive way to families looking to give up smoking or vaping. Families were offered free nicotine replacement products and access to free swimming lessons for those trying to quit.



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March 2025

Welcome

To our new monthly newsletter

Find out what's been happening at Juniors right here!

WHAT IS MOTIV TO START WITH...

WE'VE HAD INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, WORLD BOOK DAY, PANCAKE DAY, SUPER MARIO DAY, PAULI KNOW YOUR NAME & TROUBLE, ST PATRICK'S DAY, GLOBAL RECYCLING DAY, WORLD SLEEP DAY, AND MORE AND MORE! (MOTHERS' DAY WAS NOT IN MARCH, ITS THE START OF SPRING)

OUR IMAGINATION HAS BEEN PUSHED TO THE LIMITS TO MAKE SURE WE DELIVERED A FUN PICKED MONTH.

Starting with International Women's Day, every woman attending Juniors received a luxury box of chocolates thanks to Stewart's Luxury Foods, and for the winners, a goody bag full of OSMO products.

Social media went crazy and comments on the day assured us everyone felt special and thoroughly enjoyed the day.



Shannon McGreehan

Most wholesome little day
Best place & staff always
going above & beyond

International Women's Day wouldn't be complete without celebrating our amazing strong female team!



Celebrating International Women's Day

The team chose an inspiring female from each session to shine a spotlight on and celebrate. First up we have Paula (pictured above). Mum of two amazing kids, Paula has championed Juniors by sharing our services with others and bringing groups of parents who previously only talked online, to meet face to face and create a community and support network. Paula, we think you're awesome!

Second fabulous female is Lorraine, Gran of two. This wonderful person brings her grandchildren every week & plans to organise a charity fundraiser for Juniors in October. We think you rock!

And finally, we have the beautiful Robyn, Mum of one. Robyn was having a rubbish week and told us winning this meant the world to her today.



Spotlight on activities at

What's it all about?

Our mission is to break down the barriers and challenges that prevent children from having a wonderful childhood. One way we do this is by providing daily fun packed activities that all children can take part in.



Whether it's Pancake Day and we're trying new foods for the first time...



or thinking about our planet and how we can sustainably source creative materials



Here at Juniors, we ensure all events are fun and place children at the heart of everything we do, giving our youngest visitors opportunities they may miss out on otherwise.



Services available at Juniors:

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April 2025 – 1747 visitors



April 2025

Spring into Spring @ Juniors

What have we been up to this month?

APRIL FOOLS, AUTISM AWARENESS WEEK, DINOSAUR DAY all in the first week.

Spring break began with a MINI ZOO VISIT followed by NATIONAL UNICORN DAY, NATIONAL SIBLING DAY and NATIONAL PET DAY.

Easter week was EASTER GAMES, BONNET AND BASKET MAKING, EGG DECORATING AND ROLLING, EASTER BUNNY EGG HUNT and FINALLY 5 EASTER PARTIES!

We celebrated 'EVERY KID HEALTHY' week with TASTY TUESDAY, WELLNESS WEDNESDAY, THOUGHTFUL THURSDAY and FAMILY FRIDAY, PROMOTING HEALTHY CHOICES, POSITIVE MENTAL WELLBEING AND INCLUSION.

To end the month we had NATIONAL SUPERHERO DAY, MAKE A WISH DAY, NATIONAL GOLF DAY and NATIONAL SPACE DAY.

EVERY DAY HOLDS SOMETHING NEW AT JUNIORS.

Our Easter campaign saw over 2000 eggs distributed across Scotland including South Lanarkshire, Central Glasgow, Fife, Ayr and Edinburgh. Generous local businesses and sponsors donated eggs and with the help of our partners in social services and other third sector organisations we delivered children in need an Easter treat.

We will be launching our 'Happy Homework' club in May to take the stress out of homework for families. Whether its lack of knowledge, resources or patience, we'll help put the fun back into learning.

DONATE TODAY!

Families Like Us SC10

Sort Code: 802260

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Or scan the QR code



Fundraising Challenge!

Aviva Community Fund have challenged us to raise as much money as we possibly can in the next 30 days AND THEY'LL MATCH IT!!

We need your help PLEASE...

By donating as much or as little as you can, we can ensure support will always be available at Juniors for those most in need.

Hi Alex,

Thank you so much for your support every single time I asked for and thank you for making things easier.

Love you xx

12/04

Help us help families and make Scotland the best place to grow up in.



Spotlight on activities at Juniors

Spring break madness

Our mission is to break down the barriers and challenges that prevent children from having a wonderful childhood.



Autism Awareness Day gave us an opportunity to celebrate differences and embrace inclusivity & diversity. We finished the week by reading 'Amazing me, amazing you' at our Bookbug session.



Our creative juices were flowing for Easter as we created awesome Easter Bonnets. Baskets and decorated boiled eggs for rolling (which stunk the place out!).



The Easter Bunny can have a well-deserved break now till next year.



Children and adults alike loved having the chance to handle animals as we welcomed Kevin's Mini Zoo to the centre. This was made possible by the kind support of a private sponsor who funded the visit.



Starting them young for International Golf Day! The next Tiger Woods in the making.



Messy Monkeys creating their 'Make a wish' jars.

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May 2025 – 1356 visitors



May 2025

Is summer nearly here?

What we've been up to this month

BLOOMING BABIES, PAINTING WITH NATURE, FLOWER POWER YOGA, IN THE GARDEN WITH PETER RABBIT celebration flowers & springtime in week one.

WOMEN'S HEALTH WEEK WAS MINDFULNESS FOR MUMMIES FOLLOWED BY SENSORY SLIME, and INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES, our focus was on women accessing better health care and sharing mindfulness techniques to improve wellbeing.

FOR BOYS & GIRLS WEEK WE HAD BABY BUTTERFLIES, WORLD BEE DAY, BUS BOOGIE and THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR, LEARNING ABOUT ALL THINGS CREEPY CRAWLY.

BY THE END OF THE MONTH OUR FOCUS WAS ON SUMMER HOLIDAYS WITH SAND PLAY, ADVENTURE CAMPING, TELEVISIONS PLAYING IN THE SUNSHINE and FINISHED WITH BOING ON A BEAR HUNT.

We found ourselves in the middle of a media circus this month as Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse prepared for their by-election on June 5th.

The publicity we received has increased footfall to the centre and gave people a platform to direct questions to each candidate.

We hosted a spontaneous fundraiser at local bar Ora with live singers Jane Henderson and Zoe Richards and DJ Brian. A great night was had by all with all acts and venue offering their time free of charge, and we raised a further £350 towards the Aviva Fund.

DONATE TODAY!

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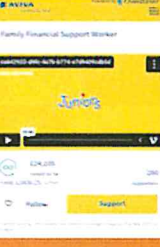
Or scan the QR code



The Aviva Community Fund total so far is £24,105. An estimated £1436.25 is expected through Gift Aid, so as things stand we will receive a minimum of £25,541.25 of additional funding.

Thank you to every one who donated.

There's still time if you'd like to donate.



Spotlight on activities at Juniors

Juniors has been under the spotlight this month as we participated in politic debates and asked local candidates what they propose to do for our area.



Then Colin McKay joined us to page the mood of people in Hamilton.

<https://news.sky.com/story/politics/scummed-the-mood-in-crucial-by-election-battleground>

We went along to BBC debate night and asked the question of when Hamilton charities can expect more funding.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m002cwmg>



The month began with Lesley on Sarah Knight's podcast discussing the importance of resilience in business and the third sector.

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/080SEpZZZ8M4QpXa0vPbb7si?si=ad8dd7f92834772>



Lesley was interviewed for radio, giving her views on the struggles of charities within South Lanarkshire.



Monica Lennon, Davy Russell and Anas Sarwar joined us from the Labour Party to discuss issues faced with local charities.



And finally, First Minister John Swinney and Katy Loudon spent the day hearing from visitors and staff alike about the importance of grass roots projects and the impact we make.

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What else can you pack into the summer holidays?

- The whole staff team completed their pediatric first aid training.
- Arnold Clark donated £5000 to create a sensory room which is under construction with pictures to follow
- Baby massage taster sessions
- New tummy time baby classes
- New homework club for schools returning
- ASN stay & play sessions with summer activities
- Partnership with the new team at REACH Autism
- School students coming for placement in the new term
- Promoting biscuits in local Asda stores
- Back to school events giving out school essentials to families in need
- VIP Peter Kay tickets won by Chelsea Fairley!
- Nominated to receive £500 from Tesco Stronger Starts team
- Received an incredible review on TikTok which has increased our footfall immensely
- Enjoyed the shade while everyone else was basking in the inhumane temperatures we experienced throughout the summer!



Thank you for your continued support.

SUMMER 2025 – 6739 visitors over June, July & August



School holidays @ Juniors

How much fun can one town have?

We began June with:

• Child Safety Week

We covered choking hazards, had a safety scavenger hunt, how to stay safe sessions, Fireman Sam visit and finished with Fireman Piggy Wiggy for book bug.

• Great Big Green Week

Babies in nature session encouraged adults to get outdoors with their little ones, a 'What's good for the environment' quiz, International Day of Play, a toy & clothes swap day and for book bug we had our very own story of Junior goes green.

• Music Week

We had our musical instruments out (including pots and wooden spoons), we created our own instruments using recycled materials, danced with scarves, discoed with Blippi and heard Tip Tap went the crab.

• Create Week

This week involved using our imagination to create rhymes, songs and stories. We had baby rhyme time, draw us a story, puppet play, adventures with dragons and for book bug the kids took turns telling us the story of themselves.

These sessions were designed to help prepare families for the summer holidays with safety tips and ideas they could explore at home.

The ACW hosted an evening of wrestling with all profits going to Juniors. They raised an amazing £800.00 on the night.



Donate today
Every penny helps
a family in need.



Just scan the QR code to donate any amount or you can transfer donations to:

Families Like Us SC10

Sort Code: 802260

Account: 12792865

Thank you for your support.

Swing into Summer

Nonstop fun throughout the holidays!

July/August saw us in full holiday swing with nursery graduations, sports week, games galore week, what makes a good friend week and finally our end of summer party week.



If that wasn't enough, we decided to revamp the play area and create a new office/meeting space

This has doubled the play space available.

There is a new Sensory room coming in SEPTEMBER



We're delighted to announce our very first Juniors BABY is due in November. Congratulations to our Supervisor Kat and husband Stewart. We can't wait to meet our favourite Juniors baby.



September 2025 – 3103 visitors



Sep 2025

Donate today!
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Account: 12072865

Welcome

To our *monthly newsletter*

Find out what's been happening at Juniors right here!

FOR OUR BIRTHDAY MONTH...

"WE'VE HAD SNACK-TEMBER, STARS WEEK, PIRATES WEEK, AUTUMN COUNTRY AND OUR BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS ALL PACKED INTO ONE MONTH!"

KIDS HAVE TRIED NEW FOODS, DRESSED AS A PIRATE, LOOKED UP TO THE STARS AND MADE BEAUTIFUL AUTUMN PICTURES.

We threw a huge birthday party for ourselves, but who to invite? We invited our families to enter their name into a draw, allowing us to pick 60 families to come and share our celebrations with us. What an amazing day to celebrate our charity and what it means to the families in the community.



Visitor numbers were a huge 3103 this month!
Up 496 on last month.



Juniors is 10!

Happy Birthday
Us...
Juniors

From a little shop in Larkhall with seating for 21 people...



To a new but empty space in Hamilton with potential seating for 100 people!



We now average 103 visitors a day.



Spotlight on activities at

What's it all about?

We have still stayed true to our original mission of removing feelings of isolation and loneliness, but our delivery has grown rapidly to address any barriers families may experience when accessing play opportunities for their children.



Snack-tember gave children the chance to try new fruits and talk with families about healthy snack choices.



We don't have any old tiger coming for tea, we have a Pirate Tiger!



We work with the whole family, offering wrap around care to build capacity for parents/carers to ensure the needs of the child are being met.



Tummy time set up for stars week for our youngest visitors and their families.



Services available at Juniors:

Community Larder open to all, daily stay & play sessions, 2 x weekly additional support needs (ASN) stay & play sessions after school, baby massage classes, one to one support, school and nursery visits, social services contact visits, weekly supper club, weekly walk & talk session, adult only ASN group, all free of charge for families in need. More services and activities are coming soon.

October 2025– 2906 visitors

Juniors
Get ready to PLAY

Oct 2025

Donate today!
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HALLOWEEN PREPARATIONS ALL MONTH
We've had Pumpkin Week (which included Breast Cancer Awareness week, WITCHES AND WEREWOLFS WEEK, MONSTERS WEEK AND FINALLY A WHOLE WEEK OF HALLOWEEN FUN) CONCLUDING WITH OUR EVER-POPULAR HALLOWEEN PARTIES.
A MONTH FULL OF COSTUMES, GAMES AND SPOOKY FUN!

We partnered with NHS Community Health Partnership to deliver Breast Cancer Awareness Week alongside our Pumpkin Week. Laura stayed all day, showing females how to check themselves and what to do if you have concerns.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

What is Breast Cancer? It's a disease where the cells in the breast grow out of control. It can spread to other parts of the body. It's important to know the signs and symptoms and to get checked if you're worried.

How to check your breasts: Look for changes in size, shape, colour, or texture. Feel for lumps or thickening. Check for redness, swelling, or pain.

When to get checked: If you're 50 or over, get checked every two years. If you're 40-49, get checked every year. If you're under 40, get checked if you're worried.

What to expect: The doctor will look at your breasts and feel for lumps. They may also do a mammogram. It's a painless test that uses X-rays to look at the inside of your breasts.

Sainsburys donated lots of surplus stock to us including brand new TV's and electrical goods to distribute to families in need.



Halloween! Minions Special...

Here at Juniors, we take Halloween VERY SERIOUSLY! The team pick a different theme every year and this year we went with Despicable Me.

Halloween gives us the opportunity to play and let our imaginations run wild. We are so fortunate that we work in a space that allows us to do this every day.

But for some families, Halloween means extra expense, anxiety and pressure to participate in extra curricular activities. We try to alleviate some of these issues by:

Providing costumes for families

Stocking the larder with treats

Creating 'please do not knock, baby sleeping' signs

Free tickets to Halloween events for supported families

Spotlight on activities at What's it all about?

Our mission is to break down the barriers and challenges that prevent children from having a wonderful childhood. Halloween themes give us the opportunity to explore imagination, try on new personas, and have a great time.



We had a coven of witches making potions with Kayley.

Spiderman went to the local Asda to give away goodie bags.

Juniors
Get ready to PLAY



We had some very sleepy bunnies at our Halloween party this year...



We opened our very own sensory room that families can book throughout the day.



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November 2025 – 2285 visitors

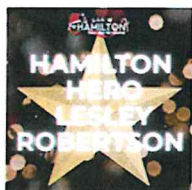
Juniors
Get ready to PLAY

Nov 2025

Donate today!
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Welcome
To our *monthly newsletter*
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WE BURST INTO NOVEMBER WITH...
PUMPKIN WEEK (which included Breast Cancer Awareness week, WITCHES AND WEREWOLFS WEEK, MONSTERS WEEK AND FINALLY A WHOLE WEEK OF HALLOWEEN FUN) CONCLUDING WITH OUR EVER-POPULAR HALLOWEEN PARTIES.
NO POST ABOUT THE HISTORY OF HALLOWEEN, ANOTHER PLEASANT MONTH OF FUN AND PROSPERITY!



We received the news that our founder Lesley Robertson has been nominated this year's Hamilton Hero! Lesley is invited to switch on the Christmas Lights for Hamilton Town Centre, and we are so proud to share the stage with our mascot, performing a Christmas sing-along complete with our snow machine!

STV News came to speak to some of our families about the upcoming budget, how it may affect them and what their concerns were.



Celebrating Our first Juniors Baby!

Congratulations Katrina & Stewart on the arrival of your beautiful baby girl Rosslyn.

Although we work with babies and children every day, this one was special...

Katrina has been part of the Juniors team for over 7 years and the whole team were completely invested in this little person before she even existed.



Enjoy your maternity leave Kat and we can't wait to see Rosslyn can come along to baby classes and have fun at Juniors!

Spotlight on activities at What's it all about?

Our mission is to break down the barriers and challenges that prevent children from having a wonderful childhood. One way we do this is by providing daily fun packed activities that all children can take part in.

We didn't just sing a rainbow; we made our very own using found objects in the play centre!



One of our sponsors kindly donated this incredibly enormous advent calendar for our children to count down to Christmas!



Juniors
Get ready to PLAY



Lesley and Leona switching on the Christmas Lights in Hamilton. Let the festivities begin!



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December 2025– 1131 visitors Closed over Christmas Holidays



Dec 2025

Welcome

To our **monthly newsletter**

Find out what's been happening at Juniors right here!

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IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS WITH...

SANTA WEEK, SNOW WEEK AND OUR COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS WEEK, BREAKFAST WITH SANTA, BRUNCH WITH ELSA AND ANNA, 2 X CHRISTMAS PARTIES AND MULTIPLE CHRISTMAS SING-ALONGS!

ALL THIS INCLUDING OUR CHRISTMAS APPEAL IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SOUTH LANCESHIRE SOCIAL SERVICES FOR WINTER CLOTHING FOR KIDS, ATTENDING COMMUNITY EVENTS AND ACTIVELY SPREADING CHRISTMAS CARE ACROSS HAMMILLTON!

Our annual appeal 'winter wear for weans' has become a huge operation with us clothing and receiving gifts for over 200 children and providing food cards for 100 families.

Thank you to everyone who made this possible, from local families, nurseries, businesses, community groups and special shout out to Primark who donated pyjamas and socks for all the children.

Comments like these let us know we have brought Christmas cheer to our community. Off for a well-deserved break now!

Have a great Christmas and New Year! (comment)

Thank you for all the support and help you have given us this year. (comment)

Thank you for all the support and help you have given us this year. (comment)



Santa!!!

I know him...

Our very own Santa has been incredibly busy this month with

- Keep fit with Santa
- Breakfast with Santa
- Christmas lights show
- Attending multiple parties and groups
- Arriving in a float for our Christmas extravaganza!

Now he must deliver everyone's gifts for Christmas.



Spotlight on activities at Juniors

What's it all about?

Our mission is to break down the barriers and challenges that prevent children from having a wonderful childhood. Christmas can be a particularly difficult time for families living on a budget. Here are some of the events we delivered to alleviate pressures for families.



Continental breakfast for breakfast with Santa event.



Decorating Christmas biscuits (and pancakes because they're a favourite...)



How cute are these carol singers from a local nursery?!!



Christmas songs at one of our parties, complete with instruments!



Everyone outside to see Santa and his friends arrive in style!



Services available at Juniors:

Community Larder open to all, daily stay & play sessions, 2 x weekly additional support needs (ASN) stay & play sessions after school, baby massage classes, one to one support, school and nursery visits, social services contact visits, weekly supper club, weekly walk & talk session, adult only ASN group, all free of charge for families in need. More services and activities are coming soon.

We closed Friday 19th December for two weeks to allow the team time to relax and enjoy the holidays with their families. A well-deserved break after a very busy season.

Total number of visits to the centre - 23989

Total number of families supported - 3900

SPONSORS, FUNDERS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

FUNDERS

Scottish Children's Lottery

SSE

The Big Lottery

The Robertson Trust

The Volant Trust

SPONSORS

CleanMe

JB Marketing

Northwest Roofing

Rocca

Sainsburys

Scotwaste

Stewarts Scotland

The Regus Business Centre

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Hamilton Bid

The Rocca Foundation

Social Services

Local primary, high schools and nurseries

Liber8

Routes2Work South

NHS Community Health and Social Care Partnership

Community Links

ARCH

University West Of Scotland, South Lanarkshire College, Queen Margaret University,

Glasgow Clyde College

Local MSP's Christina McKelvie & Monica Lennon

REACH Autism

Kear Campus

PAMIS

Women's Aid East Kilbride

Sainsburys Hamilton, Asda Scotland Wide

BOARD MEMBERS

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Charity Advisor

Kenny Lane

THANKS

The Families Like Us/Juniors family wish to thank everyone involved for their continued support allowing us to best serve the families of Hamilton and the wider community. Without your help, support and time we would be unable to provide a lifeline to those most in need.

To our board members, thank you for sticking with us through some nerve-wracking times and working tirelessly to ensure we have the funds necessary to deliver our services. Your advice, time and patience are priceless.

To our sponsors and funders who continue to understand our vision and come on this adventure with us by providing not only much needed financial support but also offering services to help us keep the building running smoothly, promoting our service, and buying our coffee and cookies range, you are our superheroes.

To the staff team and volunteers who constantly offer a warm welcome, friendship and respect to every person who steps through the doors and who always give 100% to deliver our vision of a better future for families, we salute you!

To our partnership organisations, your skills, talent and information are invaluable to us and our families we refer to your service. Thank you for promoting us and referring families to our service as we share resources, information and time with each other to best meet the needs of our community.

And finally, to the families who continue to utilise Juniors Play Centre and all additional services, without you we would have no purpose or joy. Your willingness to share your hardest and best days, your ideas for projects, your commitment to us as an organisation gives us the motivation to continue pushing forward to make Scotland the best place for children to grow and families to flourish. Thank you for being part of our community where no one is left behind.

Families Like Us/Juniors

SC043484