

# **Knockando Playgroup**

## **Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2025**

### **Reference and administrative information**

#### **Charity name**

Knockando Playgroup

#### **Charity number**

SCO14667

#### **Address**

Knockando Primary School, Aberlour, Moray, AB38 7RY

#### **Current trustees**

Craig Marshall	Chair
Lizzie Young	Secretary
Sean Wood	Treasurer

#### **Other trustees who served during the year**

Alastair Sinclair	Retired 04/06/2024
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#### **Appointment of trustees**

The playgroup committee, which normally meets bimonthly during term time, are the charity's trustees. Membership of the committee is open to all parents and guardians of children attending the playgroup. Trustees are elected at the annual general meeting, which is held in June. There must be a minimum of three trustees.

#### **Charitable purposes**

To provide educational care facilities for children of pre-school age in Knockando and the surrounding area.

## **Activities and achievements**

During the 2024-25 financial year, Knockando Playgroup continued to provide essential early learning and childcare for children in our local rural area. We began the academic year in August 2024 with 10 children on our roll and had two more join us in January 2025, giving us a roll of 12 to end the year. We also welcomed a new practitioner to our staff in October 2024, who has quickly become an invaluable member of the team.

One major event year was our unannounced Care Inspectorate inspection, which took place on 25 October. This was a very positive inspection, resulting in an overall rating of "Very Good". We received very useful feedback after the inspection and were able to work with the inspector to look at areas for improvement. We continue to work towards making the setting the very best we can for the children and families in our care.

Throughout the year, we have continued to split our time between the indoor and outdoor areas, always looking at how we can further develop what we offer. Off the back of our inspection, we have changed our 'cosy corner' indoors, and outdoors we have added construction play opportunities with a stone pit, mud pit and diggers. We are still regularly spending sessions at the woods and are in discussion with the new owners of Knockando Estate, the Ditchley Foundation, about the possibility of taking ownership of the woods area. This would allow us to develop and use the area freely, without the need to seek permission from them.

Over the course of the year, we have covered a vast range of different topics and learning areas, all following the children's interests. These have included nature and the environment around us, growth cycles of both animals and plants, our SHANARRI passports (wellbeing indicators), cooking and baking, construction, gardening and books, to name just a few.

The children engaged with celebratory activities during the year such as Burn's Day, World Book Day, and Halloween, and we invited parents in for a festive visit before our Christmas party, as well as for a pancake party on Pancake Day. Trips and other events included seeing a drama production in Lossiemouth, a picnic on the beach, a visit to Landmark adventure park, and our sports day and graduation to finish off the year.

Although we are not a school nursery and are run separately, we continue to be involved and included in the life of Knockando Primary School, which helps significantly with children's transition to P1. Our Moray Council Early Years team have been regular visitors to us this year, advising and supporting us and the children. The roles of Moray Council staff are changing next year due to funding cuts, and it is unlikely that we will continue to receive the same level of support, but we are waiting to hear the outcome. We have also had visits from other external agencies, allowing us to provide the best support for the children in our setting.

As a staff, we have been maintaining professional development through development days and training, alongside working through our improvement areas for the year. These have been: Intentional and Responsive Planning, and Leadership. Self-evaluation is an important part of our day-to-day routine as we work to provide the best possible experience for all the children. Parent feedback also plays a key role in how we continue to develop the setting.

Overall, it has been a busy, enjoyable and rewarding year. The playgroup team would like to thank all parents and the committee for their support during this session, and the trustees are likewise grateful to the staff for their dedicated work and the positive outcomes they have facilitated for the children.

### **Financial review**

With funding primarily provided by the Moray Council, our income was also supplemented by our own fundraising activity. Expenditure covered staff salaries, administration costs, educational supplies and upgrading facilities and equipment. Producing a surplus for the year, we were able to maintain adequate cash reserves to protect our ability to provide our charitable services to local families on an ongoing basis.

### **Reserves policy**

The trustees' policy is to maintain reserves at a minimum of three months of normal running costs in order to meet commitments and to cover any unexpected expenditure. Reserves at the end of the year exceeded the target.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf:

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 (Mar 21, 2026 14:47:39 GMT)