



RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2023
FOR
STEPPING STONES
PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

Stepping Stones Pre-school Playgroup

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Year ended 31st August 2023

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Stepping Stones Pre-school Playgroup
Year ended 31st August 2023

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of Stepping Stones Pre-school playgroup for the year ended 31st August 2023.

Respective responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

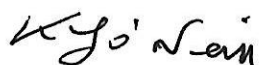
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. The accounts do not comply with applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Kerry O'Neill BA (Hons) FCCA
KJO Accountancy Services Limited

28th May 2024

Chartered Certified Accountants
Fairmile, Whitsbury Road
Tinkers Cross
Fordingbridge
Hampshire
SP6 1NQ

Stepping Stones Pre-school Playgroup
Year ended 31st August 2023

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The Charities Acts requires the officials, as charity trustees, to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of its financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing the accounts the trustees should show best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- follow applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP, disclosing and explaining any departures in the accounts, and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which are such to disclose, with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the Charity at any time, and to enable them as trustees to ensure that the accounts comply with Charity law. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the Charity's assets and ensuring their proper application in accordance with Charity law, and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of error, fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Board of Trustees



Lorraine Thompson

.16./...05../2024

Stepping Stones Pre-school Playgroup
Year ended 31st August 2023

Trustees Report

Reference and Administration

The charity name:	Stepping Stones Pre-school play group
Charity Number:	1030424
Ofsted	511673
Address:	Avonway Community Centre 36 Shaftesbury Street Fordingbridge Hampshire SP6 1JF
Telephone	01425 653517

Names of the trustees who managed the trust during the year

Lorraine Thompson	Chairperson
Clare Paterson	Secretary
Helen Chubb	Treasurer

Objectives and Activities

The object of the charity is to enhance the development and education of children under statutory school age by encouraging parents to understand and provide for their needs of their children through community groups.

Public benefit

Stepping Stones preschool is for the provision of affordable Early Years educational childcare, for the public benefit, for all children aged 2-5 years from Fordingbridge and the surrounding area. It is delivered by providing fully qualified staff and suitable resources and equipment in accordance with EYFS guidelines. It is a non-profit making organisation run by a parent committee comprising of unpaid volunteers (Trustees) where any funds raised are reinvested into the preschool to improve and enhance the provision of childcare within the community. Flexible hours are offered within the opening times of 8.45am-4pm to suit individual requirements.

Review of the Year

2022/ 2023 has been a difficult year as we continue to try and recover financially. As is often the case, Autumn 2023 numbers were low after children left to start school but they gradually picked up over the year. However, overheads have remained high, including rent and staffing costs. We have tried to retain our higher than normal staffing ratio's to help with additional needs within the setting. We have ended the year with a deficit which we were able to cover with savings.

However, staff and committee have worked hard so far in the year 2023/ 2024 to review finances and to fundraise. The government have opened up funding for more two year olds and have increased the funding rates so we have been looking at how these changes will affect us, how we can plan for the future and start to build up our reserves again. Our numbers for September 2024 look very good, higher than previous years, so we are optimistic that we can achieve this.

In addition we have been looking at changing the management model of the pre-school. Remaining a charity but changing to a Company limited by guarantee and we have made good progress towards this aim.

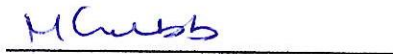
As mentioned, we receive Government funding for children's hours. In addition to this we receive some Special Educational Needs and Early Years Pupil Premium funding to support eligible children. This is used to support those children in receipt of the funding either in the pre-school setting or in the home. Additional income comes

from extra hours taken up by parents and we are looking at ways of increasing the uptake of these hours. Fundraising remains an important part of our income and we are very grateful for all the support we receive from our local community. We will continue to seek out appropriate grants for specific improvement projects.

Reserve policy

We aim to hold cash at bank of not less than one term's operating costs in unrestricted funds. These funds are required to meet immediate every day running costs, for example staff cost.

Approved by the Trustees on 16/05/2024 and signed on its behalf by



Helen Chubb
Treasurer

Stepping Stones Pre-school Playgroup
Year ended 31st August 2023
Receipts and Payments account:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	2022 £
RECEIPTS				
Nursery income				
& HCC NEG funding	78,170	-	78,170	75,475
Donations	2,159	-	2,159	-
Outings/Events	-	-	-	230
Fund raising activities	739	-	739	742
Other Nursery receipts	180	-	180	104
Furlough grant	-	-	-	-
Bank interest	53	-	53	5
<u>TOTAL RECEIPTS</u>	81,301	-	81,301	76,556
PAYMENTS				
Rent	16,586		16,586	15,637
Staff costs	67,243		67,243	56,816
Staff uniforms	304		304	84
Insurance	970		970	942
Consumables and food vouchers	632		632	1,735
Equipment	1,430		1,430	25
Administration	5,125		5,125	3,516
Repairs and renewals	74		74	209
Membership subscriptions	359		359	397
Independent Examination	480		480	456
Outings & Events	-		-	788
<u>TOTAL PAYMENTS</u>	93,203	-	93,203	80,605
<u>SURPLUS /EXCESS OF PAYMENTS</u>				
<u>OVER RECEIPTS</u>	- 11,902	- -	11,902 -	4,049
Cash funds brought forward	18,958 -		18,958	23,007
TOTAL CARRIED FORWARD	7,056 -		7,056	18,958

Stepping Stones Pre-school Playgroup
Year ended 31st August 2023
Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds
Notes	£	£
MONETARY ASSETS		
Pre-school Current account	2,460	-
Santander savings account	2,965	-
HSBC Fundraiser account	1,624	-
Pre-school Petty cash	7	-
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TOTAL MONETARY ASSETS	7,056	-
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DEBTORS		
Owed from parents	494	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
LIABILITIES		
PAYE tax & NI	564	
Pension	128	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
FIXED ASSETS		
Equipment	5,000	

Approved on behalf of the Trustees



Lorraine Thompson
Chairperson



Helen Chubb
Treasurer

Date 12/06/24.