

# **‘LITTLE DISCOVERERS’ WEST NORFOLK SCHOOL FOR PARENTS (WNSfP)**

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Charity Registration Number: 1125400

## ***REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025***





## Our Aim

### **Active learning for children with additional needs and their families.**

Little Discoverers, West Norfolk School for Parents (WNSfP) provide support to children under 5, with complex physical and emotional difficulties, and their parents.

Our aim is to enable each child to achieve their maximum potential. We aim to develop children's abilities and confidence in the pre-school years, which will help them at home, school and beyond.

We do this by supporting them to improve their physical skills, their ability to communicate and their personal, social and emotional skills. This is achieved through providing structured play, individually designed programmes for each child based on the ideas of Conductive Education from Peto in Hungary and setting targets that link with the Early Year Foundation Stage of The National Curriculum.

We put parents at the forefront of their child's learning and development and recognise that parents know their child best.

Through working and playing together, families learn to celebrate success and recognise the potential of every child.

Little Discoverers (WNSfP) will strive to ensure that all families in need of a session, have access to our service, particularly those from hard to reach groups.



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## ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity Registration Number: 1125400

The following were Trustees of Little Discoverers West Norfolk School for Parents (WNSfP) during the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025:

- Katharine Fisher (Greatorrex) BEM (Resigned 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024)
- Hazel Colley (Appointed 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025)
- Sue Williamson
- Penny Sheerin
- Emma Fendley
- Andrew McShane (Resigned 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025)

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## WEST NORFOLK SCHOOL FOR PARENTS (WNSfP)

### Background

Following a survey by Scope in 2002, work started to set up a School for Parents in West Norfolk, and since 2005 we have been running a successful West Norfolk School for Parents for children and families in this region, eliminating the need for a long round trip to the closest other School for Parents in Norwich. In 2008 we registered as a charity independent of Scope, but operating as part of Scope's School for Parents network.

We follow national School for Parents guidelines and have our own set of policies that are regularly reviewed and updated.

As a result of a suggestion made by the <sup>1</sup>parents, West Norfolk School for Parents is known as Little Discoverers West Norfolk School for Parents (WNSfP).

By the end of the year under review Little Discoverers had been operational for 20 years.

We are a well-known local charity successfully running Conductive Education sessions for children with complex motor problems and their families in West Norfolk and surrounding areas that is renowned amongst local health professionals and the community.

### Little Discoverers WNSfP

Our purpose is to actively promote and encourage vulnerable children with complex needs aged 0-5 years and their families, to learn skills that help the child to maximise their potential.

We focus on three areas of development; physical, social and emotional and communication so that the child, supported by their family, may have better life opportunities.

We achieve our purpose by running 3 free group sessions a week, for 36 weeks a year. We support up to 24 families at any one time, in 3 separate two-hour sessions, in King's Lynn.

We use a unique, holistic, and multi-sensory form of early education, inspired by methods used at the Peto Institute of Conductive Education (CE) in Hungary (see Appendix 1) and the Early Foundation Stage Curriculum. We are the only people in the West Norfolk area working in this way, with children of this age in a group setting.

Nothing the parents have learnt in their previous life has given them any indication of the complex challenges they will meet and how to overcome them. Parents/carers benefit hugely from the group sessions by meeting other families who may be going through similar circumstances, reducing feelings of isolation, common in a rural county, building a support network of understanding friends and developing a positive bond between the child and parent.

We put parents at the forefront of their child's learning and development and acknowledge that parents know their child best.



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<sup>1</sup> 'Parent' refers to any adult with a parenting role

Including the whole family in a child's development is important to Little Discoverers, so we hold free sibling events in the school holidays so families can meet, have fun and learn together. These events mean that siblings can meet other young carers too and develop their own networks of support.

### **Who can benefit from Little Discoverers ( WNSfP )**

We work from a venue which is based in one of the 10% most deprived areas in England. Due to a lack of resources in West Norfolk there is an inability to provide sufficient support for these vulnerable families.

We provide a free, weekly service for 36 weeks of the year, which removes financial barriers for all families. We may also offer financial transport support if needed. We are positioned within walking distance from many residential areas, a bus route and the King's Lynn town centre. We also have free onsite parking.

Norfolk is a large rural area and that can increase feelings of isolation. The NHS is often stretched and therefore children may only access support from professionals monthly or less and many feel they cannot access 'typical' group sessions due to feelings of marginalisation and social stigma, which impacts the child's social development.



Little Discoverers (WNSfP) provides early therapy/education for children aged 0-5 who have movement difficulties and delayed development, e.g. Cerebral Palsy, Downs Syndrome, genetic conditions and more. The children may suffer from physical problems, motor learning problems, delayed development and demonstrate a wide range of abilities. They may have learning difficulties, visual, hearing and communication problems. Children may have physical problems such as being unable to hold up their heads, focus their eyes, roll, sit, stand, or walk. Children may be unable to open or close their hands, use them for play or self-help activities. Some children have sensory problems, not wanting to touch different textures or being upset by noises.

Some children are deaf or have partial hearing. Many children are unable to communicate; unable to point with their eyes or hands; unable to make noises, sounds/words; unable to use sign language. Many children find it difficult to interact, smile or laugh, be sociable or have fun. They may not be able to make their needs known.

Some of our children do not yet have a formal diagnosis and therefore their families may struggle to access the necessary support to help the child thrive.

We have also supported children who do not have a diagnosis but may have been in hospital for a large proportion of their lives and may not be meeting their milestones because of this e.g. as a result of heart conditions, prematurity, etc.

Many of our children do not yet access 'typical' group settings due to their disability, and this can impact the child's and their family's mental wellbeing.

We have a simple referral process for both professionals and the parents. A child can be referred to Little Discoverers in a variety of ways, for example by a Health Visitor, Therapists, GP or by parents themselves. After first contact, the parent and child will be<sup>2</sup>visited at home and invited to visit the group. Parents are then given time to consider

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<sup>2</sup> If our ability to hold face-to-face visits and meetings is impacted by external events then we use other methods of communication to ensure all enquiries and referrals are responded to.



whether this is the right service for their child. If a Conductive Education approach is not the most appropriate for the child, staff will suggest other support. We aim to reply to any referrals within 5 working days and we have been achieving this.

Since April 2024 – March 2025, we have allocated 8 families with a place within the group.

A further 5 families were given a floating place, attending if there is a space on an ad hoc basis. 7 families remained on our waiting list.

We also had referrals from 8 additional families who were either signposted to other support groups or who chose an alternative placement for their child.

These have come from a variety of sources, including self-referrals, NHS and private health professionals and others.

Since April 2024 until March 2025, we have supported 40 vulnerable families in the West Norfolk area and beyond. We have supported 12 females and 28 males, and our youngest new starter of the year was 6 months old.



We are inclusive of all nationalities and ethnicities and have families who use English as an additional language.

Three of our attending children graduated from Little Discoverers in September 2024 and started school. We have had the pleasure of seeing all families at our sibling events since then and they are doing really well.

Ten of our current attenders will be leaving to attend school in September 2025.

Our annual parent and professional feedback forms show how much the families and local professionals greatly appreciate the support and learning we provide and, as the charity entered its 20<sup>th</sup> year in 2024, we have had the privilege of witnessing first-hand the effects that early intervention and Conductive Education can have on a child's life, as the first cohort of attendees are now adults.

### **How we support the children and their parents**



We are committed to delivering a service that strives for positive outcomes in the areas of physical, social, communication and emotional development. These areas are vital for children to thrive and become integrated individuals that can contribute to society. The early years have been shown to be vital in stimulating the brain to enable the child to maximise their potential. Parents of children with complex health needs and impairments can feel physically and socially isolated leading to increasing emotional difficulties for the parent and the child. Attending a Little Discoverers group gives children therapy for 36 weeks a year in all aspects of their development, regular input that is vital for stimulating the development of new pathways in the brain.

At Little Discoverers' sessions parents and children learn the skills needed to provide motivation and enjoyment of early learning through play. They are supported to break through the isolation barriers of disability and learn to communicate their emotional journey through contact with supportive professionals and other families on a weekly basis.

Children can start with us from birth and many children come to Little Discoverers under the age of twelve months and stay with us until school age. The average time that children stay with us is about 3 years.

Our approach is based on a unique form of early education focussing on all aspects of child development inspired by methods developed at the Peto Institute of Conductive Education in Hungary (see Appendix 1). This is a multi-sensory approach, stimulating the child's senses and encouraging self-learning through activities and experiences that are fun for both children and their parents.

Progress is measured in small changes, for instance making eye contact, moving heads towards toys, progressing onto clapping and smiling.

A slow, structured session gives children time to try and practise new skills, challenging themselves and maximising their potential. Parents feedback that large groups of active children can be intimidating, being fast moving and noisy, so our small groups make it easier for the children.



Each session is planned to involve the children in programmes that look at all aspects of their development - physical, social, communication and emotional. Themes are chosen to make these sessions fun. Development is encouraged through play, songs, art and craft. There is continuity in the staff members, encouraging attachment and the ability of the staff to understand what the child's needs are and the child learning what is required of them.

Children develop socially and emotionally whilst attending our group sessions. Children work well in groups as it relieves the pressures of 'performing' on demand with a 1:1 therapist and enables them to learn through observation. They can also learn vital social skills to prepare them for school.

Although Conductive Education is typically adult led, we aim to allow the child to achieve their targets whilst being led by their own personality, likes and interests, e.g. we have worked with a child who struggles to join in with activities, therefore we have supported the child by providing pictures of Paw Patrol to maintain their focus. The child looks through the pictures whilst taking part in the therapy exercises.

We also allow the child to be independent whenever possible and give them frequent choices so that they may feel in control of their own learning. For example, a child is given a choice between two different rods, bells, and plates. The children then use hand/eye gesture and/or speech to communicate their preferences.

Observations of older children include listening skills, playing alongside other children, sharing / turn taking, co-operative play and their response to the team. At the end of each session, we list the achievements of each child and applaud these.

The families learn the skills necessary to transfer the learning taking place in the session into the home and into the wider community of everyday activities, including making the transition and integration into nursery. They receive information in many different





formats - through physical activity, through illustrated information sheets and through exchanging knowledge with other parents about their child's impairment and how to empower their child in many every day and formal learning areas.

The parents support each other, and the children make friends in an environment where they are having fun while they learn new skills. The staff work with referring professionals and monitor the outcomes of the children on a daily basis and twice a year create updated Individual Education Plans for each child.

Some of our children attend nursery school when they get a little older and still continue to come to Little Discoverers for a session each week.

As a result of generous donations, we have been able to purchase specialist sensory and other equipment. This equipment is invaluable and continues to make a big impact on the way we can deliver our sessions.

As well as the regular sessions, we run several sessions to provide family and sibling support when the wider family is invited. These days help our groups of families keep in touch and help provide wider support to the children and their siblings. By putting on six family and sibling sessions a year, we hope to include the entire family in learning and involve the siblings in all aspects of their brother's or sister's development. It also gives the sibling a chance to be involved and feel important. The inclusion of the whole family is fundamental to the core values of the Little Discoverers approach. The family and sibling sessions are held during school holidays.

We always encourage professional and parental feedback, and we operate an annual formal feedback process and analyse professional and parental feedback forms to help us identify areas for improvement – this feedback continues to be highly positive. (see Monitoring Outcomes).

## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Trustee and Management Group are all volunteers.

Our main costs are associated with employing and maintaining the skill levels (training) of the 4 part-time members of the Team, the costs of room hire where the Council provides direct support by charging us reduced room hire costs, and the running costs of the sessions including purchase of resources and equipment.

The voluntary Trustee and Management Group is responsible for the quality of our service provision, fundraising and approving all expenditure. All of the Policies integral to the running of the charity are reviewed annually, by the Trustee and Management Group, to ensure we continue to reflect and demonstrate best practice. All other policies are reviewed when needed.

Our staff are subject to annual appraisals, the outcomes of which contribute to decisions on any pay increases that we decide we can afford to pay. Team Member annual appraisals are undertaken by the Team Leader and the Team Leader's annual appraisal is carried out by a Trustee. All staff appraisals are reviewed by at least 2 of the Trustee group.



Our sessions with the children are planned and run by our Team Leader and the two Team Members who each take it in turn to plan and run sessions on a three-week rota. These are all part time roles aligned to the timings of the individual sessions with the children. In addition, the Charity employs a part time Admin Supervisor, who provides support in office-based tasks and supports the sessions when required.

Trustees attend 6-weekly staff meetings and Trustees and members of the Management Group also observe some sessions and provide feedback.

The Trustees and members of the Management Group monitor feedback from families and professionals and from nurseries and schools when children transfer to them. All the feedback continues to be positive and constructive.

There are monthly Trustee / Management Group meetings that the Team Leader also attends. We do not hold meetings during August and December. The focus of these meetings continues to be on maintaining standards and establishing stable funding to ensure our long-term ongoing viability and as part of this, raising our visibility in the Region as an independent charity.

## SAFEGUARDING

Any concerns for a child's safety or welfare (child protection issues) will be reported without delay, recorded in writing, dated, signed and given to the Safeguarding Designated Person (SDP) who will process the concern and inform those who need to know.

Parents/carers will be informed of safeguarding issues and referrals as long as there is not a concern that doing so may make the child vulnerable to significant harm or it is a concern of sexual abuse.

Little Discoverers has a responsibility to pass on concerns in relation to the safety of the child to the local appropriate Children's Service. If the situation is judged to be an emergency, then the police will be called first.

There were no safeguarding issues to report during the year.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE AGM

Chairperson Report Little Discoverers WNSfP AGM 22nd May 2025 Another amazing year for Little Discoverers, with lots of smiles, laughter, achievements, and fun events taking place.

Our wonderful sessions have been providing the children with opportunities to develop their skills at their own pace, and we have seen some truly remarkable achievements this year. Our waiting list has grown, but thanks to some generous families who offered to share their space, we have been able to work with more children who desperately need our support.

Our sibling sessions, taking place 6 times a year, have been as popular as ever, with the highlights being the Summer Trip to Church Farm and the Christmas Party.

This year saw our first ever Ball held in June 2024 at the Town Hall, fantastically organised by Kat Hunter; it was a brilliant evening and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

Big thanks to Kat for all her hard work in organising the event.

Keeping her hand in with event organising, she then arranged a birthday party in February 2025 for Little Discoverers' 20th Birthday.

This was attended by both current and past attendees, and everyone had a lovely time.

At the beginning of April 2025, we were immensely proud to be awarded with the High Sheriff of Norfolk Award in recognition of great and valuable services to the community. David Flux (who was the High Sheriff at the time) personally presented the award after visiting a session with his wife Lisa.

Our 4 staff members have been as dedicated as ever this year, with Kat, Pauline and Lauren continuing to provide high quality sessions throughout the year, planning for each child's personal next steps with meticulous thought; whilst Mandy has taken on even more of the administration and is streamlining many of our systems and processes.

The 4 of them make a wonderful team!

Little Discoverers has seen some changes this year, but with the support and dedication of the Management Committee, Trustees and staff, these have been as seamless as they could be.

The biggest change was in January 2025, when Katie Fisher stepped down as Chairperson of the charity (which she founded 20 years ago), to focus on setting up the Adapted Sports Hub.

Christine Ivory took up the role from January, having been introduced to the charity through her Grandchild's attendance at sessions, with myself, Hazel Colley, taking on the Vice-Chair role; we warmly welcome Christine and her wealth of knowledge to Little Discoverers.

Due to Christine's work commitments, these roles are due to switch from May 2025.

We also said a sad farewell to Trustee Andrew McShane at the end of March after he relocated, and longstanding committee member Kevin Parker is due to step down in May 2025.

Both will be greatly missed, and I would like to thank them for all their invaluable support, advice and dedicated service to Little Discoverers over many years.

I was introduced to Little Discoverers in 2018 when my son, Max, who was then 9 months old, started weekly sessions, what I didn't realise then was the impact that attending those sessions would have, not only for Max, but also for the whole family.

Max defied the odds, achieving milestones we were told he wouldn't reach, and I firmly believe this is because of input from Little Discoverers.

I joined the committee as a parent representative so that I could give something back to the charity for everything they had given to us, before covering Kat's (Team Leader) maternity leave.

I resumed my place on the committee after this and became a trustee and vice-chair recently.

I am in a unique position, having seen the charity from all angles, as a parent, staff member and committee member and am excited for the future as Chair of this incredible charity.

The charity couldn't run without the many, many hours volunteered by the Trustees and Management committee, between them volunteering well over 1000 hours of time per year.

The support and dedication of the committee and trustees, as well as the cohesion between themselves and the staff team is immeasurable.

This year has seen times of sickness that has meant committee members and trustees have attended sessions to support the staff team; it's nice for them to see a session running and meet some of the families we work with and is thoroughly enjoyed by those who have helped to cover sickness so that sessions can remain running as normal.

Sessions running 3 times a week, case studies written, staff meetings held every 6 weeks, management meetings held once a month, appraisals undertaken, trustee meetings occurring when necessary, events organised, sessions planned, funding forms and grant applications completed, training completed, the list goes on, but none of it would be possible without the Staff, Committee and Trustees and I would like to thank all of them for everything they do to enable Little Discoverers to be the amazing charity that it is.

Hazel Colley Vice-Chair



## OUR TEAM LEADER'S ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

### Introduction

We've done it! This year Little Discoverers celebrated 20 years of providing therapy and education for pre-school aged children, with complex development delays, and their families.

A huge achievement for all involved and it is a wonderful opportunity for us to reflect on the hundreds of children who have benefited from our service.

### Sessions at Little Discoverers

At the very heart of our charity are the children we work with and their families.

We run sessions at Little Discoverers to help children with complex, developmental delays learn physical, communication, personal, social and emotional skills to help them to be as independent as possible at school and in their lives beyond.

The methods of Conductive Education that are used to achieve this are a major element of what makes this service so special. We work with a child with no expectations of limitation based on their medical diagnosis. We use their enjoyment and things they love to motivate them, and we focus on the progress they are making, no matter how small the achievement may seem.



Our multi-sensory approach encapsulates the child's attention and builds focus, determination and expectation. Children love attending our sessions and this in turn makes their attending parent/carer happy.



The safe space we provide our families, so that their children can be themselves, make mistakes and learn, is so hugely valued and this is evident in our exceptional attendance and wonderful feedback.

It's impossible to correctly portray the sessions at Little Discoverers through words, it's truly something that must be seen to be believed.

The three-way relationship between, child, parent/carer and staff member is unmatched. The enthusiasm of the staff, passion and heartfelt praise drives the parent and child to continue attending and to apply their learning at home. We give families the skills to work with the child and in turn build a bond that lasts a lifetime.

We use rhythmical intention to aid a child to make movements that a typically developing child may achieve easily. Our voices, music and the rhythm we use allows the child to contemplate the movement and actively achieve it whilst having fun. When we hear music, we typically want to move, so we use this theory and apply it to everyday tasks that we may take for granted, such as standing, dressing or rolling.





This year we have seen some phenomenal progress from the children we have supported. Here are just a few examples...

(We have been given permission to share the stories of these children by their parents, however, data protection is paramount to us at Little Discoverers, so we have decided to change their names to protect their identities.)

William joined us at just 18 months old after his mother felt that he was delayed in several areas of development. He did not yet have a diagnosis, however he was not yet crawling or taking steps. He also had glue ear and was not making sounds or showing any signs of independent communication. He would smile from the safety of his mother, but William was quite withdrawn and needed constant reassurance.

William is now nearly 3 years old and has a diagnosis of Smith-Magenis Syndrome. This syndrome can include intellectual disability, facial abnormalities, difficulty sleeping, and numerous behavioural problems such as self-harm.

William took some of his first steps at a Little Discoverers session, he can climb the stairs, feed himself finger foods and we are currently working on his balance and coordination. William's family have recently undergone levels 1 and 2 of a Makaton sign language course and they also joined Little Discoverers for the level 3 too. Through repetitive use at home and during sessions, William now knows more than 100 signs. His newfound communication will significantly reduce feelings of frustration which are so common with his syndrome. Mum and Dad are so thankful for Little Discoverers and the whole family has truly benefitted from their attendance.

Robin was referred to us at eight months old following a brain injury from birth and an epilepsy diagnosis. Robin has Cerebral Palsy that causes tightness in all four of his limbs and trunk. When we first met him, he would be held like a baby and cried when he was not with his mother. Mum wanted to help him to develop, but she did not feel she had the skills to do so.

Our methods of Conductive Education have helped Robin to learn physical skills such as holding his head up, to sit, open his hands on command and weight bear. Robin gets so excited when he enters our building with Mum for a session. He loves the songs and takes part in them with increasingly less support from Mum. He can stamp his legs at the sensory tray and loves to clap his hands and be bounced for our Bouncing Babies song. He has a special bond with the staff and often will cuddle them and lean in to kiss their cheeks. He can now bum shuffle around the room and is beginning to get into a four point kneel position for crawling. He is beginning to say words such as "go!" and "more!" and he is so happy and alert for our two-hour session. We have provided support for the whole family, as they have learnt more about Robin's diagnosis and his expected upcoming challenges with his sight. Mum now feels she has the tools to help Robin to develop physically and reach his capacity. They practice the songs at home as a whole family and Robin's sisters love attending our family events too.

We are extremely fortunate to know these children, some of which on our register are quite literally one in a million. Their achievements are the best feedback we could possibly receive, and we are so proud of their resilience and hard work at home and during our sessions.

## Our Voluntary Committee

This year, more than ever it seems, we have reflected on the importance of our incredible, voluntary committee.



The six trustees, alongside the 7 committee members and 3 volunteers dedicate countless hours of their personal time, for free, to simply keep Little Discoverers running and support vulnerable children and their families in West Norfolk.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2024, Katie Fisher, our founder and Chairperson of 20 years stepped down to focus on her role as Trustee of the Adapted Sports Hub project.

Katie has been the main cog in the Little Discoverers machine for so long, we all hope that the charity would continue to thrive without her ever-present driving force.

In the summer of 2024, we started to advertise for a new Chairperson to take over Katie's role. Christine Ivory has a background of teaching in both mainstream and specialist settings, and over her career has taught children from 2-18 years old and beyond. She has taught in Higher Education for 25 years and her areas of specialism are the early years, autism and Art Education.

We are thrilled to welcome Christine to the charity and our wonderful committee have been a brilliant source of encouragement and help as she settles into her new role this year.

As of May 2025, Hazel Colley will be running for the Chair position and Christine will be stepping into the Vice Chair role to focus on her career.

Hazel has invaluable experience as a parent with a child with complex needs and she is excited to give back to the charity that supported her family during her son's pre-school years.

Hazel also has a unique insight into the day-to-day running of the charity, as she covered the Team Leader's maternity leave in 2021-2022.

It's safe to say that with the outstanding band of volunteers we have at Little Discoverers, we are sure to continue providing our service for many years to come. Without whom, we would simply cease to exist and so many local families would lose out on such a huge support system. Thank you for your continued dedication.

We are currently looking to expand our committee and invite anyone interested in giving back to your local community, supporting young children to reach their potential, and working with a fantastically knowledgeable and supportive team, to get in touch.

We also would like to welcome any current or past attending parents/carers to our committee to give first hand feedback, to help us improve our service.



## Family Events:



We have had the best time exploring our local community this year and experiencing new activities with our past and present families from Little Discoverers!

Every year we hold 6 family events during the school holidays so that our families may meet and mingle, they can access places that they may not feel comfortable or able to attend on their own and young carers can meet and feel like they are part of a community.

In May 2024 and February 2025, we visited Tumble Teds. Tumble Teds is a session that allows the children to explore the gym equipment at local sports centre Alive Lynnsport. The sprung floor, trampoline, foam pit and soft climbing equipment encourages movement, fun, and social interaction.

Our annual summer trip to Church Farm did not disappoint in July 2024 and we had a record of 113 attendees! It was a beautifully sunny day, the children (and adults!) enjoyed meeting the animals, exploring the play equipment inside and out and getting messy in the hay barn and sandpit.

In October 2024 we decided to try something new and hosted a pottery painting session. We set up a fun and exciting play area in our session room with games, colouring and more. 30 children were then called into a separate room a few at a time to have a relaxed experience of painting pottery items. The children were allocated £5's worth of items to paint and the parent/carer could choose to upgrade their item by paying Glazed Designs directly. Many parents commented how they would never take their child



with disabilities to a session like this outside of Little Discoverers. For some, this is because it is often expensive, and their child did not benefit from the rigid and controlled setting of painting at a table.

We allowed the children to be themselves, to take as long as they needed and to paint wherever they felt comfortable. For some parents, this session allowed them to create heartfelt keepsakes such as hand and footprints that would be treasured forever.



As always, our Christmas party is one of our biggest highlights of the year! For the third year running, we visited Little Sharks, a Soft Play Centre in King's Lynn. We hired the space so that it was exclusively for our families. This eliminated any worry of perhaps not feeling 'accepted' in the public and allowed our children to be safe and comfortable.

There was something for everyone with enormous slides and climbing equipment, to quieter zones, interactive spaces and a sensory

room.

The families were invited to bring a small gift along and then they could meet Father Christmas and Mrs Claus! Each family had a private meeting and were able to take all the time they needed for their little ones to feel relaxed and truly experience the magic of Christmas.



## Fundraising

Every year fundraising is getting more challenging for us at Little Discoverers. With inflation, our expenditure budget for this year was more than £65,000. This has increased by more than £30,000 in the last 7 years and our upcoming budgets are higher still. This is a tremendous amount of money to raise for a small local charity that relies heavily on a voluntary management team.

We are so thankful to our friends and families for helping us in this momentous task and your generosity and determination is phenomenal. Here are some of the heroic fundraising examples we have witnessed this year...

In August 2024, a sibling of a former attending child took on the mammoth Three Peak Challenge. Ben Eldridge age 13, along with his dad Matt Eldridge, climbed Ben Nevis, in Scotland which stands at 1,345m, Scafell Pike in England, which is 978m and then 1,085m to the top of Snowdon, in Wales, walking a total of 23 miles in 36 hours.

Ben said the charity is really important and they helped his little sister, Emilia, develop her physical skills, begin to walk, and get her ready for school. Thank you so much Ben for your kindness, determination and support!

Seven-year-old Cynthia Waterfield from Hunstanton worked hard over the summer this year to raise money for Little Discoverers.

Cynthia's little sister, Terrienne, has been attending sessions for two years and has worked so hard to improve her physical, communication, personal skills and more during this time. She has come on leaps and bounds, and Cynthia is especially proud of her.

Cynthia decided on her own accord, that she wanted to do something to give back to the charity that had helped her sister and so she got stuck into making loom band bracelets! Cynthia then sold the bracelets in her family's sweet shop, Thompsons Candy and Cream, which is based in Hunstanton and raised an incredible £250!



A real first for Little Discoverers this year was our fundraising ball! 100 guests dressed in their best black-tie attire and went to the Town Hall in King's Lynn on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024.

Each guest was welcomed into the stunning stone hall with a glass of bubbles.

All around was information about the charity, a thank you for our sponsors and supporters, and even videos of the sessions to home in on what we were all there for.

Local photographer, Lou's Lens, donated her time and took welcome photos of the guests next to our beautiful table plan, gifted by Steele Media.

Our charity ball sponsors included The Hunstanton Lions Club, Averille Morgan Osteopath, Double G Clothing, PJ Heat Exchangers Ltd, RWE (King's Lynn Power Station), Stephenson Smart Accounting and our main sponsor, Adrian Flux.

The tables were laid out in Little Discoverers' colours of white and blue with an added showbiz gold. Children's handprints were on the table numbers and stunning flower arrangements filled the centre, arranged and donated by Julie Morters. It was truly an elegant evening with a three-course banquet, followed by teas and coffees.

Following speeches and videos from Katie Fisher (Chairperson) and the Team Leader, our own trustee Andrew McShane tried his hand at auctioneering. Our live auction, alongside a silent auction, featured such prizes as spa days, log cabin getaways and a stay in a luxury 10 bed house in Norfolk!



We had hoped to break even as this was our very first event of this magnitude – we were blown away when the final figures showed that, after expenditure, we made a profit of around £6,500.

We partied until midnight with local band, The Walks, and Josh Maddocks Magician sprinkled some extra magic on the occasion too, providing his services for free. It was a night to remember and one we hope to do again in a few years' time.



### **Our Local Supporters**

Following fundraising ball, we continue to develop our relationship with local power station RWE in King's Lynn. This year they have gone above and beyond in their support for Little Discoverers, and at Christmas purchased more than £600 of toys and equipment for our children to use in the sessions.

They have also said that they will decorate our session room at the South Lynn Community Centre, which will help our space to be inviting, fresh and clean for our families.

PIL Membrane kindly spent time with us this year and decided that they too would like to support us, by purchasing equipment to help our sessions. A vibrant and inviting screen was purchased with our logo to shield distracting equipment from our children until we were ready to reveal it. This simple, yet fantastic piece of equipment has so far helped our children to focus and they have loved naming the items on the screen too!

Alongside this kind purchase, PIL Membrane also held a raffle and donated the proceeds to our charity. They also plan to purchase additional equipment in the future.

There are many wonderful local companies in King's Lynn and beyond who have been extremely generous this year. The Team Leader contacted J Peek Flooring Ltd. during the summer, as we were struggling with our carpet tiles coming away from the floor and causing trip hazards. Jason came to measure the space and upon learning more about the charity, decided to donate his time and labour for free so that we could build a safe space for our children to work in.

Following a donation from the Priory Rotary, the charity was able to purchase the materials so that Jason and his team could get to work transforming our space for both soft activities on a carpet and messy activities on our new vinyl floor. Our room looks incredibly smart, and it is so much more practical for our sessions.



## Families Supporting Families



One of the elements that makes Little Discoverers a truly special place to be is the support network that is formed between parents and carers.

This year we have received an influx of referrals, and this has created a lengthy waiting list, with no expected date of when we might be able to allocate new spaces. So, we reached out to our families and asked if anyone would be willing to share their space so that another family may access our service fortnightly. We had four wonderful families come forward to help. Little Discoverers is such a vital part of our family's lives and therefore to share their space with another is a real act of kindness.

At Little Discoverers we celebrate every achievement, no matter how small. We give feedback at the end of every session about what each child has achieved and instil a 'can do' attitude into every day. This in turn then becomes the narrative for our families. They learn to look for the positives in their child's progress, and a milestone that takes that little bit longer to achieve becomes even more special.

As a staff member, it's a pleasure to watch parents and carers enjoying their children and building bonds that'll last a lifetime. A perhaps unexpected bonus is that we also get to witness the bonds made between parents and carers and other children in the session. More than ever this year we have noticed our parents working with children who aren't their own, watching avidly as they take their first steps or say/sign their first word. Each session is so filled with positivity and every child feels valued. The children also mimic this attitude and will clap and cheer for their friends' achievements too. It's a truly wonderful sight to behold.

This year we have received some incredible comments from our families in our annual feedback forms. Here are a few of our favourites...

"Without the support of Little Discoverers I feel my daughter wouldn't be where she is today, staff have gone above and beyond."

"Their support has been incredibly helpful and has enabled us to connect with other families alike. I cannot thank you enough."

"We're so grateful to everyone involved in this charity and we feel lucky to have found you!"

"This group is incredible. The amount of support myself and my son have been given is amazing. I would of struggled massively with his diagnosis if it wasn't for our weekly sessions."





## Our 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

What a year full of growth, generosity, learning, music, mess, singing, signing and so much more!

On Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2025, we finally celebrated 20 years of our charity, Little Discoverers, West Norfolk School for Parents... and what a party it was!

We hired the Dersingham Village Centre and set up rainbow-coloured balloons, streamers, disco lights and bunting. One of our very generous attending parents, Rachel Crossley, designed and made our stunning birthday cake, biscuits and cupcakes which were enjoyed by our 100 guests.

Tropics Two donated their time and sold fish and chips in the snow and the rain! They even gave away soft fish toys for our children to help us celebrate.

Dessert was provided by Sweet As Emporium, run by two previously attending parents. They discounted their delicious treats and gave their time for free



There was a bring-and-buy sale table of nearly new toys, books, games and specialist equipment, along with collection buckets available for donations to Little Discoverers.

We also showcased our brand new OmiVista, an interactive floor projector to encourage movement, focus and turn taking. This item was purchased with the money raised at our first ever fundraising ball and donations. It's an incredible piece of equipment and the children have already had the best time exploring it!

Josh Maddocks, a local magician from King's Lynn also donated his skills to Little Discoverers for the second time in just eight months! He astounded children and adults alike with his incredible card tricks and magic whilst looking the part in his trademark red suit jacket and top hat.

We couldn't celebrate 20 years without commending our founder and Chair of 2 decades for her dedication and hard work. Katie Fisher has always been a lover of music and sign language, so the families, committee members and friends of Little Discoverers all took part in a secret mission to learn Makaton signs to Take That's, Rule the World, as a special thank you gift.

What the guests of the party didn't know, was that they weren't just going to sign along to a recording of the song, but to a 55-piece live choir! It was an incredible moment and the highlight of the event to see Your Choir donating their performance whilst the guests came together to sign along to the powerful lyrics. A true delight!



A huge thank you must be said to the whole committee for their input, patience, planning and help on the day – the event wouldn't have been the same without the help of you all!

## **2024-2025**

There is too much to include in just one report to truly reflect on the year of achievements, fun, friendship and support we have had. Each year our charity grows in recognition, and this brings equal challenges and successes. In the coming year we hope to be able to reduce our waiting list by reviewing the place of each family annually. This will ensure that we are giving support to the most vulnerable people in our community, whilst ensuring our current children have the skills and confidence to take their next steps to pre-school, nursery or primary school.

We continue to be astounded by the results of working with methods of Conductive Education and we are so proud of the families and children who have worked so hard this year. Little Discoverers is nothing without the hard work of the people we support, and it is a joy to witness. Let's see what the next year brings!



## MONITORING OUTCOMES

Children attending Little Discoverers sessions have varying abilities due to the nature of their disability and age. Progress is very individual to each child, so each child has an individual programme and their achievements are celebrated at the end of each session and then recorded in each child's individual learning journal.

Our feedback indicates that we are continuing to successfully deliver in the key 'Outcome' areas of:

- Physical skills
- Social Skills
- Communications

In addition, we encourage informal feedback through comments in our Visitors Book and formal feedback through our questionnaires (now online) designed to capture Parents' and Professionals' views on the effectiveness of our approach to supporting each child's development.

The results of this year's parent and professional questionnaires feedback are shown below.

### 1. Parent Feedback

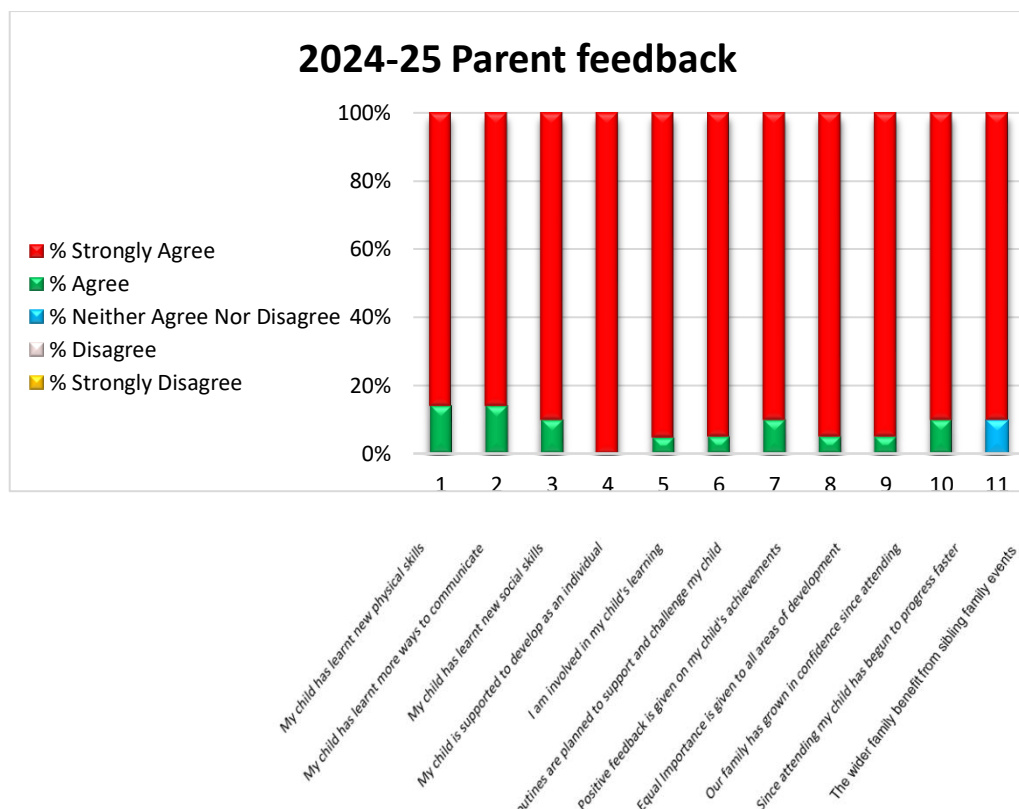
#### Responses to our questionnaire statements.

The parent feedback questionnaires were completed in paper form and parents were asked to complete the form at the end of the session whilst on the premises. This enabled us to gain feedback from all the families accessing our sessions. If they could not stay to complete the form, they were able to access online. We also invited families that have attended within the year in question to complete a feedback form online

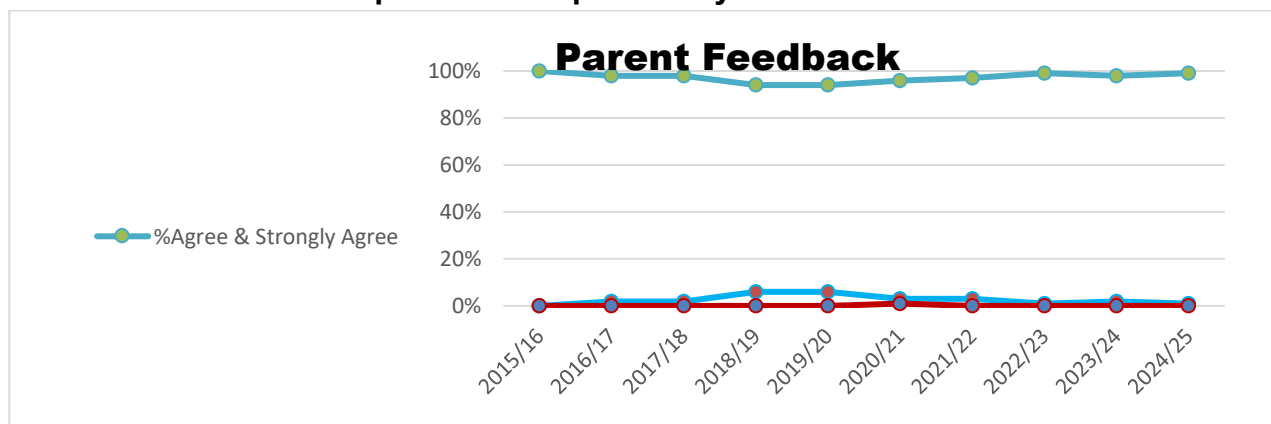
21 questionnaires were completed by parents, exceeding the 20 in 2023-24.

In total, in response to the 11 statements in each of the 21 returned questionnaires:

- 99% (98% in 2023-24) of all parent responses Strongly Agreed or Agreed with the statements
- 1% (2 % in 2023-24) of responses Neither Agreed nor Disagreed
- 0% (Nil in 2023-24) Disagreed with the statements.



### Comparison with previous years Parent feedback



Staff members and some Committee members discussed the findings from the feedback forms at a meeting and concluded that the findings were very positive and reflected the hard work and commitment of everyone involved in providing the sessions to the families.

The 1% result of Neither agree nor disagree was due to the fact that there are some families without wider family so could not comment on the benefit of families coming together at sibling events.

## 2. Professional Feedback

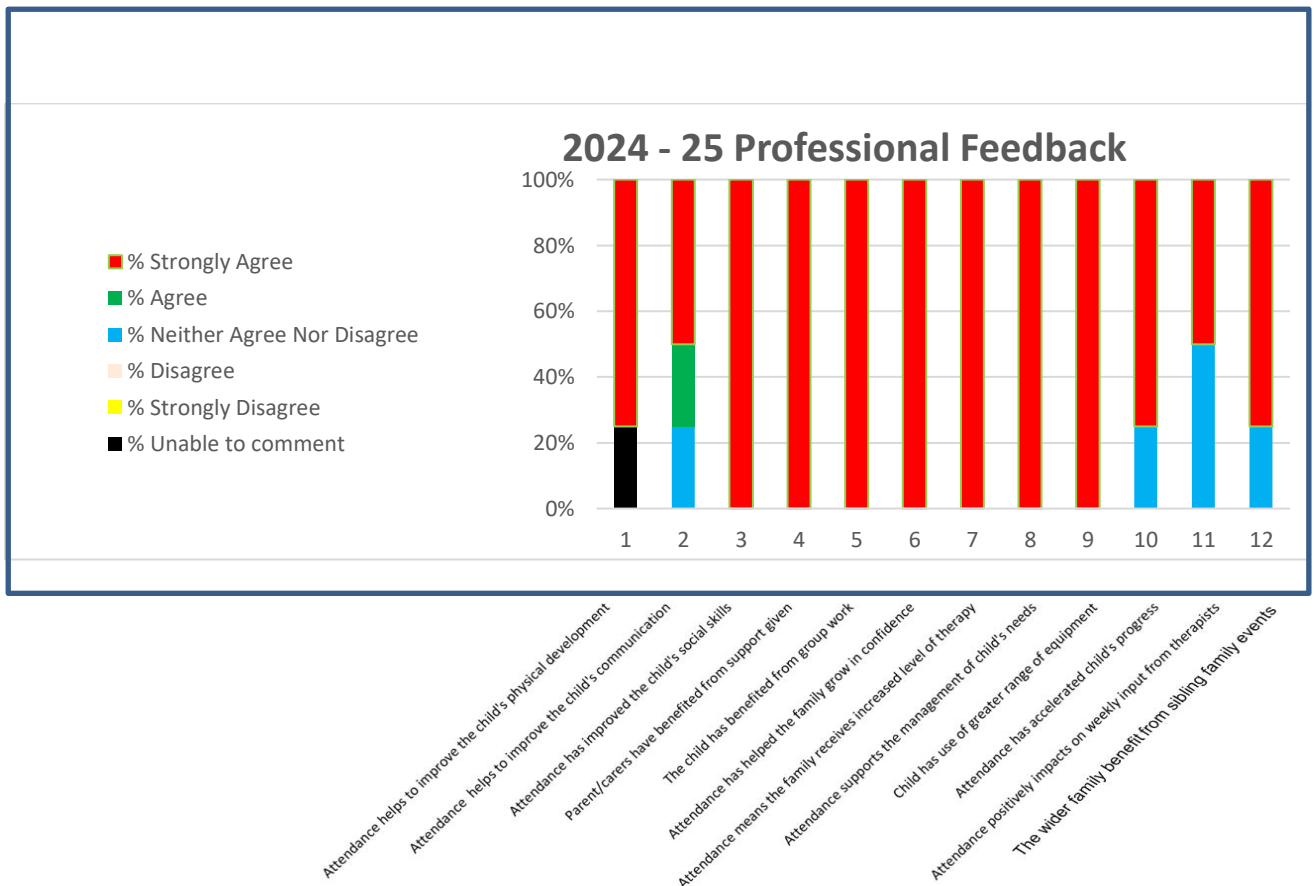
### Responses to our questionnaire statements.

The questionnaires were completed online and returned to Little Discoverers by professionals, who had visited the children and their families at Little Discoverers during the year in question.

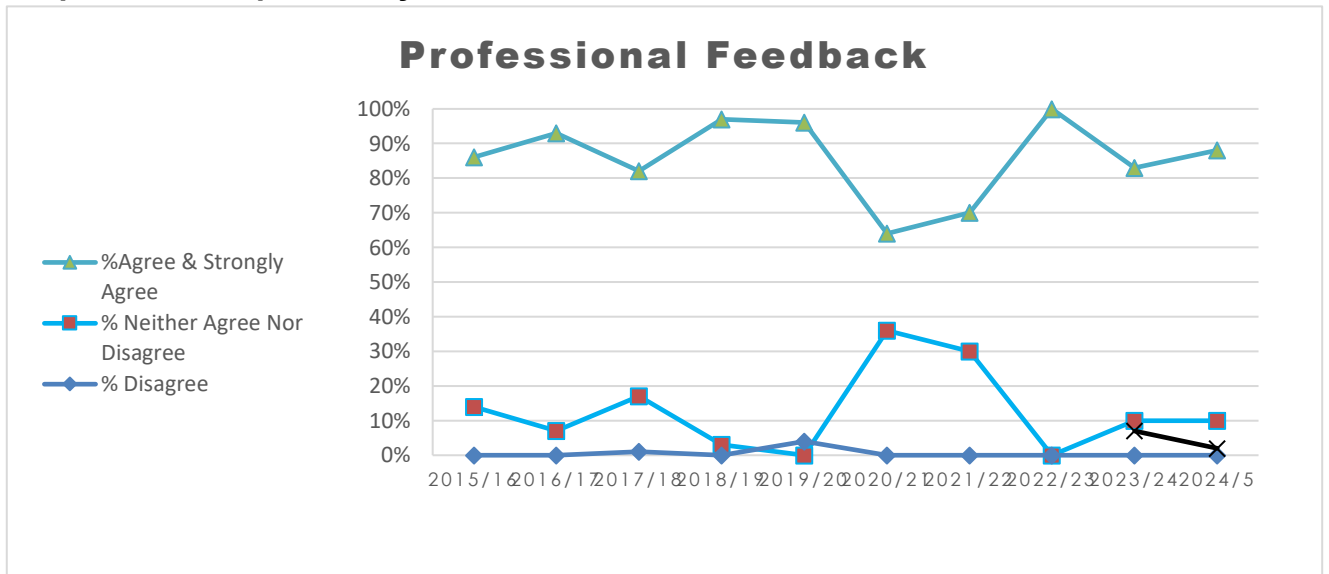
- 4 questionnaires were returned, a reduced response in comparison to the 7 in 2023-24.  
The reason for the reduction in responses was due to the fact that there are less professionals at QEH that visit us and the families during sessions.

In total, in response to the 12 statements in each of the 4 returned questionnaires:

- 88 % (83% in 2023-24) of all professional responses 'Strongly Agreed' or 'Agreed' with the statements.
- 10% (10% in 2023-24) responses were Neither Agree Nor Disagree
- 2% ( 7% in 2023-24) of responses were unable to Comment.



## Comparison with previous years Professional feedback



Staff members and some of the Committee discussed the findings from professional feedback forms at a meeting and concluded that there has been an increase in professionals answering Agree/ Strongly Agree (from 82% to 88%), with a stable result in Neither agree nor disagree of 10%, Unable to Comment decreased from 7% to 2%.

They were able to conclude that this is due to the fact that some of the professionals felt that they were unable to comment on two of the questions we asked.

When asked if “attending Little Discoverers has had a positive impact on the level of weekly input required from therapists”, they felt that the children still need the same level of support from the professional. However, they have commented that the sessions certainly support the child’s development.

Some also felt that they were not able to comment of whether the child’s wider family have benefited from attending sibling/ family events, as this was not discussed with the family.

We had a similar response last year, so it has been decided to remove statement 12, regarding the impact of sibling/family events, from the professional feedback forms from next year going forward.



## OUR LOCATION

Little Discoverers spent 18 years based at the Dutton Pavilion at Lynnsport in King's Lynn, and we are very grateful to Lynnsport and its staff for their support during this time.

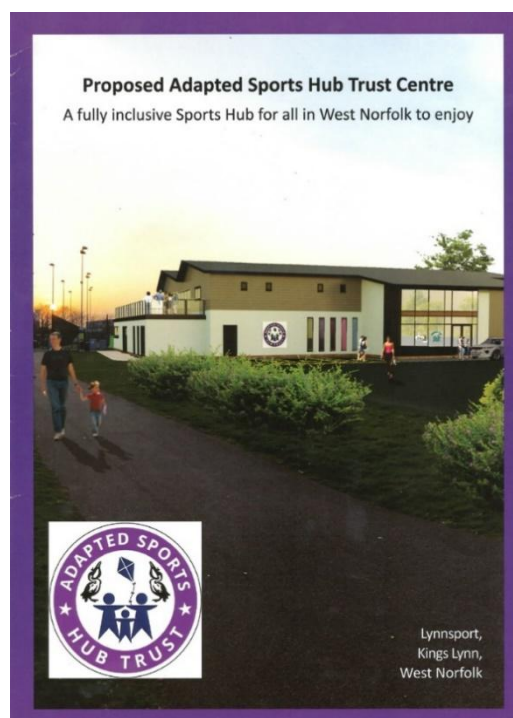
However, faced with space constraints at the Dutton for running sessions and for the storage of our materials and equipment, at Easter 2022 we relocated to the South Lynn Community Centre. This was offered to us by the Council as they could see how we had outgrown the Dutton and the problems of working there.

From a practical point of view the South Lynn Centre is a much better home for Little Discoverers at present, but a major problem is that being remote from the Lynnsport site it does not foster inclusion in the local community or sports world.

Looking further to the future we have identified the possibility of moving into a purpose built 'Hub' that would meet our and others' needs in West Norfolk and surrounding areas. The vision is for a purpose-built Hub at Lynnsport which would be fully accessible, support inclusiveness, reduce barriers, tackle inequalities and provide a route for children to move seamlessly into activities which will assist them to keep active, fit and having fun. This will provide support for the children's lives after Little Discoverers.

If built, then Little Discoverers and others would rent space in it. In the meantime, the Council looked to see if a revamp of the main Lynnsport could be achieved that would support the aims of the CIO. This has now been decided to not be possible.

The proposed plans for the Adapted Sports Hub were passed by the King's Lynn Borough Council in 2024 and work is proceeding to turn the vision into a reality. All support will be welcomed.



## HOW WE COMMUNICATE

### OUR WEBSITE

[www.littlediscoverers.co.uk](http://www.littlediscoverers.co.uk)

The web site was designed and is maintained for us by Simon Adams, son of Linda Adams who was a Member of the Management Group.

Photos of children taking part in sessions are included on the web site where parents have given written permission for this purpose.

The website and video show clearly what takes place in a Little Discoverers' session and how the children and carers benefit. The web site continues to be very helpful to potential families and funders.

### OUR YOU TUBE CHANNEL

As an additional online resource, we have our very own Little Discoverers YouTube Channel, primarily to provide something that parents can access at home if they are unable to attend our sessions. It also enables parents to view wonderful memories, advice, tips, and a way of sharing the hard work they are doing in sessions with family, friends, and professionals.

We now have over 87 videos in total, including some that show the parents activities they can try at home such as speech skills, story massage, fine motor skills, Makaton signs and so much more. They are not only informative but continue to be a great success with the children.

Our most viewed video on You Tube was our recording of "Rule The World", along with Makaton signing, to celebrate our 20 year anniversary in February 2025. This had 294 views

### SOCIAL MEDIA

We have around 60 likes per month on our posts and 500 followers on our public Facebook page.

On Instagram we have 320 followers and our most viewed video has around 5,500 views.

We have around 2.5 k views on our page in an average month.

We are also 'friends' with our current families and have a group for past attendees. Most of our families are choosing to use Facebook to communicate with us, using the Facebook messenger service as the primary source for contact. Several parents have shared events or donated equipment on both our current and past attendees' pages, which are relevant to all families. It is lovely to see the support that our families give each other via the social media platform, and to see that it continues long after families have moved on from Little Discoverers.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

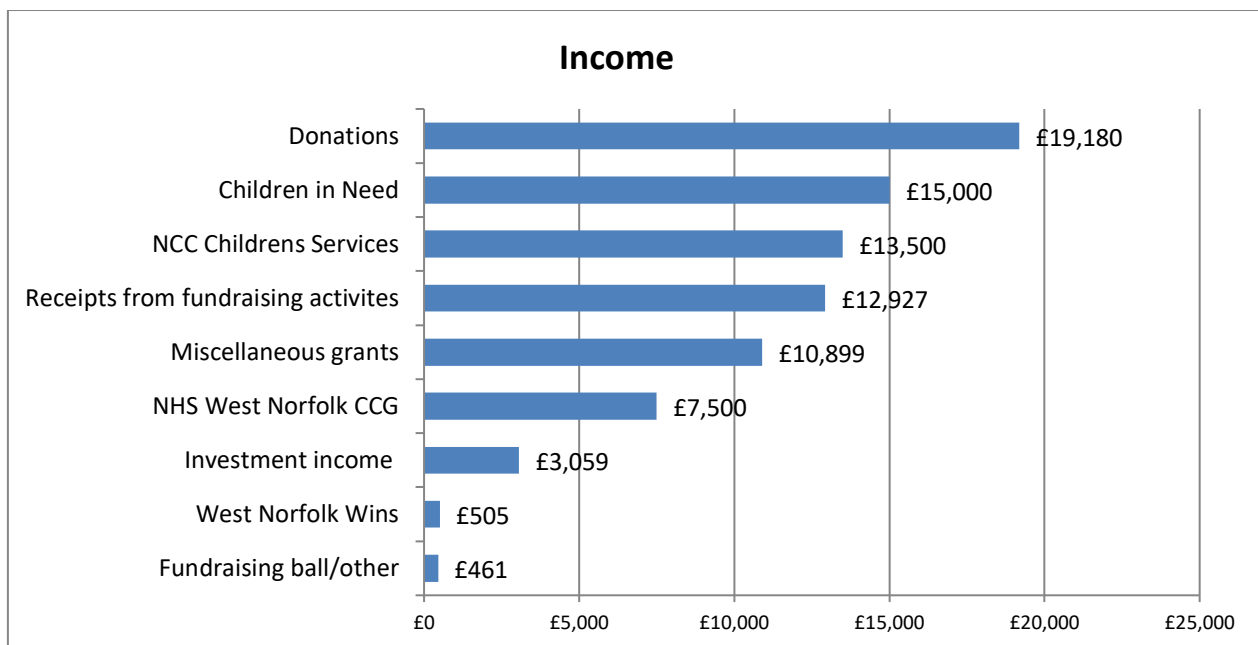
### Financial Review 2024 - 2025

During this financial year we have made a profit of £8,600 (2023 – 2024 £25,602), which is lower than last year and is mainly due to an increase in expenditure. In all areas, both income and expenditure, have been within the budget set at the beginning of the financial year, with the exception of donations and fundraising - which have both double budget expectations, training expenditure and assets purchased.

Our total closing bank balances are £128,241 (2023 – 2024 £119,641) an increase of 7%.

### Income

During this period income received totalled £83,031 which is slightly down compared to last year, (2023-2024 £84,881)



This year our largest source of income has been donations, at an amazing £19,180 (2023-2024 £16,847). This includes Gift Aid which has been claimed by Little Discoverers and via Just Giving - a total of £3,181. Of the 134 individual donations received, 13 donors gave £500 and over, during the year.

### **A massive thank you to everyone who has donated.**

We received our second instalment of the Children in Need grant at £15,000, NCC children's services grant was £13,500 and from NHS West Norfolk CCG we have received £7,500 - the actual grant is £10,000 for the year but the final quarterly payment was not received until after the year end. Miscellaneous grants totalled £10,899 (2023-2024 £16,935) the two largest grants were from Baily Thomas Trust and Norfolk Community Foundation. Investment income was £3,059 (2023-2024 £2,379). The final fundraising ball ticket sales were £450 making the total ticket sales for the ball £4,750.00. Other income was £11.

Each month we receive donations via West Norfolk Wins, this is a lottery run by The Borough Council of King's Lynn and supports many local charities of which we are one. This year we have received £505 (2023-2024 £450).

Finally, we received £12,927 in fund raising activities (2023-2024 £7,705). What a brilliant achievement by all who have fundraised for Little Discoverers – you are all absolutely amazing.

## **Expenditure**

The total expenditure for the year is £74,431 (2023-2024 £59,279) an increase of 25%.

Our largest expense is salaries (including Social Security payments) at £42,514 (£37,988 2023-2024). We have 4 paid employees who have been superb and in recognition of this we were able to give a pay rise this year, we have also increased hours for our administrator, to help reduce the Trustees duties and this is working brilliantly. Pension contributions have therefore increased to £1,423 (2023-2024 £1,268).

Rent payable is £8,248 (2023-2024 £7,378) the previous year was reduced, due to the move from the Lynnsport site to South Lynn.

Training costs are £1,070 (2023 – 2024 £1,234) this includes the second Makaton training at £900 plus room hire for the training at £94.

With the success of the Ball we purchased a projector, which displays moving pictures onto a flat surface at £7,365, we have also replaced the flooring and purchased 5 laptops, a total spend on assets of £11,752 (£3,720 2023-2024).

Sundry costs (including sundry expenses, fundraising ball expenses and refreshments) are £5,566 (2023- 2024 £3,754) all individual expenditure is below £500 except the cost of the summer sibling session at Church Farm, Stow Bridge at £917 (the best attendance to date). An analysis of sundry expenditure shows sibling sessions cost £1,770, Just Giving fees (monthly and transactional) £542, DBS checks for staff and volunteers £260, promotional items £290, staff uniform £170, replacement equipment £173, our 20<sup>th</sup> birthday party costs were £403, miscellaneous items £275.

All other costs are within acceptable levels and as expected and budgeted.

## **Budget analysis**

	<b>2024-2025 budget</b>	<b>2024-2025 actual</b>	<b>2024-2025 Variance</b>	<b>2023 – 2024 budget</b>	<b>2023-2024 actual</b>
<b>Income</b>	£67,581	£83,031	£15,450	£47,720	£84,881
<b>Expenditure</b>	£65,855	£74,431	£8,576	£54,214	£59,279
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	£1,726	£ 8,600	£6,874	(£6,494)	£25,602

## **Reserves**

Our total funds available to spend without restrictions is £121,123, we have £7,118 in restricted balances.

We review our Reserves Policy annually and have increased our contingency figure in April 2024 to £29,500 (2023-2024 £22,500). This is the amount needed to bridge any possible delays in receiving promised grants or managing payment in arrears contracts or to cover essential activities whilst sourcing income.

## **Summary**

This has been a successful year, maybe not as good as last year but still a very good result. Our funding from Children in Need along with the NHS and NCC gives us a good start but these are not guaranteed. Without the massive support received from our donors and fund raisers, we could not run this fantastic charity. Thank you to everyone for your continued support.

## **Other information**

The trustees, management team and our members of staff will continue to carefully and regularly review the financial position and will strive to find ways to continue the good work.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Stephenson Smart for their continued support. They have endorsed our financial management and accounting practices and are confident that they meet all the requirements as set out by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

# **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT AND EXAMINED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Charity registration number 1125400

**Little Discoverers, West Norfolk School for Parents**

**Unaudited Financial Statements**

**Year ended 31 March 2025**

Stephenson Smart (East Anglia) Limited  
Chartered Accountants  
22-26 King Street  
King's Lynn  
Norfolk  
PE30 1HJ



**Little Discoverers, West Norfolk School for Parents**

**Organisation Information**

**Year ended 31 March 2025**

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<b>Registered charity name</b>	Little Discoverers, West Norfolk School for Parents
<b>Charity registration number</b>	1125400
<b>Principal office</b>	c/o Alive Lynnsport Greenpark Avenue King's Lynn Norfolk PE30 2NB
<b>Trustees</b>	Mrs H Colley (appointed 01 January 2025) Mrs K Fisher (resigned 31 December 2024) Mr A McShane (resigned 19 March 2025) Mrs S Williamson Mrs P Sheerin Mrs E Fendley
<b>Accountants</b>	Mr D Jastrzebski Stephenson Smart (East Anglia) Limited Chartered Accountants 22-26 King Street King's Lynn Norfolk PE30 1HJ
<b>Bankers</b>	CAF Bank Limited 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ

**Little Discoverers, West Norfolk School for Parents**

**Financial Statements**

**Year ended 31 March 2025**

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Notes to the accounts	4
Detailed receipts and payments account	5

**Little Discoverers, West Norfolk School for Parents**

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Little Discoverers, West Norfolk School for Parents**

**Year ended 31 March 2025**

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I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Little Discoverers, West Norfolk School for Parents ('the charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the summary of receipts and payments and the statement of assets and liabilities.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the trustees of the charity 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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

As permitted by Direction 2, issued by the Charity Commission the firm for which I work has provided the charity with bookkeeping services during the year ended 31 March 2025. As a consequence I have followed the requirement of the FRC's Ethical Standard when undertaking this assignment.

An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the accounts. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently I express no audit opinion on the accounts and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

**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:

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.



Dan Jastrzebski ACA CTA  
Stephenson Smart (East Anglia) Limited  
22-26 King Street  
King's Lynn  
Norfolk  
PE30 1HJ  
8th September 2025

Little Discoverers, West Norfolk School for Parents

Receipts and Payments Account

Year ended 31 March 2025

	2025			2024
	£	£	£	£
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
<b>Receipts</b>				
Donations	17,419	1,761	19,180	15,647
Funding	14,005	-	14,005	22,950
Grants	12,699	20,700	33,399	31,900
Receipts from fundraising activities	12,927	-	12,927	7,705
Investment Income	3,059	-	3,059	2,379
Other Income	461	-	461	4,300
	<u>60,570</u>	<u>22,461</u>	<u>83,031</u>	<u>84,881</u>
<b>Payments</b>				
Charitable activities	52,251	20,931	73,182	58,181
Governance costs	1,248	-	1,248	1,098
	<u>53,499</u>	<u>20,931</u>	<u>74,430</u>	<u>59,279</u>
<b>Net receipts/(payments)</b>	<u>7,071</u>	<u>1,530</u>	<u>8,601</u>	<u>25,602</u>
Fund transfers	-	-	-	
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for year</b>	<u>7,071</u>	<u>1,530</u>	<u>8,601</u>	<u>25,602</u>
Cash funds at 31 March 2024	114,052	5,589	119,641	94,039
<b>Cash funds at 31 March 2025</b>	<u>121,123</u>	<u>7,119</u>	<u>128,242</u>	<u>119,641</u>

Little Discoverers, West Norfolk School for Parents

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Year ended 31 March 2025

	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
<b>Monetary assets</b>				
CAF Gold Account	120,126	7,119	127,245	118,067
CAF Cash Account	858	-	858	808
Petty cash	139	-	139	766
<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>121,123</b>	<b>7,119</b>	<b>128,242</b>	<b>119,641</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Pension contributions	302	-	302	223
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>223</b>

CLIENT APPROVAL

We approve the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 and confirm that we have made available all relevant records for their preparation.

Mrs H Colley on behalf of Little Discoverers, West Norfolk School for Parents  
01 August 2025

Little Discoverers, West Norfolk School for Parents

Notes to the accounts

Year ended 31 March 2025

1 Restricted Funds

	Balance at 31 March 2024	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2025
Musical Sessions	1,492	-	(100)	-	1,392
Marsh Charitable Fund	-	700	(34)	-	666
Hunstanton Lions	13	-	(13)	-	-
Sibling sessions	3	511	-	-	514
Children in Need	1,525	15,000	(13,082)	-	3,443
Crowdfunder	507	-	(507)	-	-
George Watling Charity	1,299	-	(919)	-	380
Rotary Club of King's Lynn	750	500	(1,250)	-	-
Bespak Fund	-	750	(26)	-	724
Bailey Thomas Charitable Trust	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
	<u>5,589</u>	<u>22,461</u>	<u>(20,931)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,119</u>

Fund

Musical Sessions  
Marsh Charitable Fund  
Hunstanton Lions  
Sibling sessions  
Children in Need  
Crowdfunder  
George Watling Charity  
Rotary Club of King's Lynn  
  
Bespak Fund  
Bailey Thomas Charitable Trust

Purpose and restriction

To provide musical sessions  
For IT services  
To assist parents with travel costs  
To provide sibling sessions  
For team leaders salary  
For play equipment, refreshments and consumables  
To provide sibling sessions  
To provide sibling session at church farm and  
replacement flooring in South Lynn Community Centre  
For new equipment and session resources  
For team members salary



Little Discoverers, West Norfolk School for Parents

Detailed receipts and payments account

Year ended 31 March 2025

	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
<b>Receipts</b>				
Donations	17,419	1,761	19,180	15,647
Funding:				
NCC Children's Services	13,500	-	13,500	10,000
NHS West Norfolk CCG	-	-	-	12,500
West Norfolk Wins	505	-	505	450
Grants:				
Norfolk Community Foundation	4,999	-	4,999	-
Marsh Charitable Fund	-	700	700	-
Geoffrey Watling Charity	-	-	-	1,500
Children In Need	-	15,000	15,000	15,000
Marshland Charitable Trust	-	-	-	600
Tesco Grant	-	-	-	800
Rank Foundations Grant	-	-	-	250
National Lottery Grant	-	-	-	8,000
Rotary Club of King's Lynn	-	-	-	750
NHS Additional Grant	200	-	200	5,000
Bailey Thomas Charitable Trust	-	5,000	5,000	-
NHS Nor & Wave ICB Grants	7,500	-	7,500	-
Receipts from fundraising activities	12,927	-	12,927	7,705
Investment Income:				
Bank Interest	3,059	-	3,059	2,379
Other Income	461	-	461	4,300
	60,570	22,461	83,031	84,881
		-		
<b>Payments</b>				
Costs of charitable activities:				
Wages and salaries	24,432	18,082	42,514	36,111
Pension Contributions	1,423	-	1,423	1,268
Social security expense	-	-	-	1,877
Rent payable	8,247	-	8,247	7,446
Equipment and musical sessions	12,058	534	12,592	4,185
Insurance	940	-	940	873
Training and expenses	1,070	-	1,070	1,554
Membership fees	35	-	35	30
Travel	221	-	221	202
Printing, postage and stationery	109	32	141	267
Computer and website	-	-	-	154
Telephone	85	-	85	442
General expenses	3,283	2,283	5,566	3,366
Bank charges	60	-	60	61
Management expenses	18	-	18	169
Covid-19 and cleaning expenses	270	-	270	176
Governance costs:				
Payroll and accountancy costs	1,248	-	1,248	1,098
	(53,499)	(20,931)	(74,430)	(59,279)
<b>Net receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>7,071</b>	<b>1,530</b>	<b>8,601</b>	<b>25,602</b>

## APPENDIX 1 –CONDUCTIVE EDUCATION

Conductive Education (CE) is a holistic integrated therapy/education system which is primarily useful for children with physical disabilities that have impacted on a wide area of their development. Conditions such as Cerebral Palsy, Downs Syndrome and genetic conditions.

Andras Peto, the founder of CE, viewed children with neurological conditions as a whole, focussing not only on the body but also on the personality. He therefore chose methods of facilitation that not only made actions possible, but also developed the personality, the wish, desire and ability to be active and increased their confidence. CE perceives these children as facing a challenge of learning rather than needing treatment for a medical condition.

CE is based on the premise that despite damage to the nervous system, the brain has a degree of plasticity which gives it the capacity to form new neural connections which may take over from the damaged areas. However, an active learning process stimulated by a multi-sensory approach, using Rhythmical Intention (the staff use a phrase such as “I put my feet flat” to trigger a number of cognitive processes) and working in groups, is needed for this to happen.

Children without disabilities often learn quickly how to make use of their environment, how to connect with it and use it as a tool in their development. They learn to adapt and respond to the environment and its demands; in addition, they learn to influence it, thus having an active interaction with the environment.

This situation however is different for children with neurological conditions. Disturbed mobility is accompanied by a challenge in their ability to perceive and understand. The impeded movement can restrict or prevent interactions with people and objects which would normally assist their development. This can result in negative experiences and frustrations which in turn affect personality. The dysfunction of the personality in turn restricts physical development and so a circle begins. CE aims to break this circle using group working, multi sensory input, facilitation using aids and equipment and programmes specific to the needs of the individual children.

The learning environment is critical to the success of skill development. The programme/sessions are structured, supportive, designed to maintain interest, to motivate, to reinforce learning, to praise and to challenge. It is important to also focus on transferring what is learned to the home environment by giving the parents the necessary skills and confidence.

Conductive Education is fun for both child and parent/carer.

## APPENDIX 2 – PARENT AND PROFESSIONAL OBSERVATIONS

### 1. Parent Observations

#### **Selection of Parents' Comments from the 2024-2025 Questionnaire**

E loves coming to the group each week, he has learnt so much and developed lovely relationships with the adults and children.

The staff are so patient and caring towards all the children and its lovely to see just how far all the children have come with support of the staff.

Without the support of Little Discoverers, I don't feel my daughter wouldn't be where she is today, staff have gone above and beyond.

The team work very hard and know each child well to help them improve. The family recognise the hard work and input of the team.

Definitely an improvement in confidence and talking and social skills since attending group, first rate input and hard work by the team.

I would like to thank Little Discoverers for supporting F and his family.

Their support has been incredibly helpful and has enabled us to connect with other families alike. I cannot thank you enough.

This group is incredible. The amount of support myself and my son have been given is amazing. I would (have) struggled massively with his diagnosis if it wasn't for our weekly sessions.

### 2. Professional observations.

#### **Selection of Professionals' comments from the 2024-2025 Questionnaires**

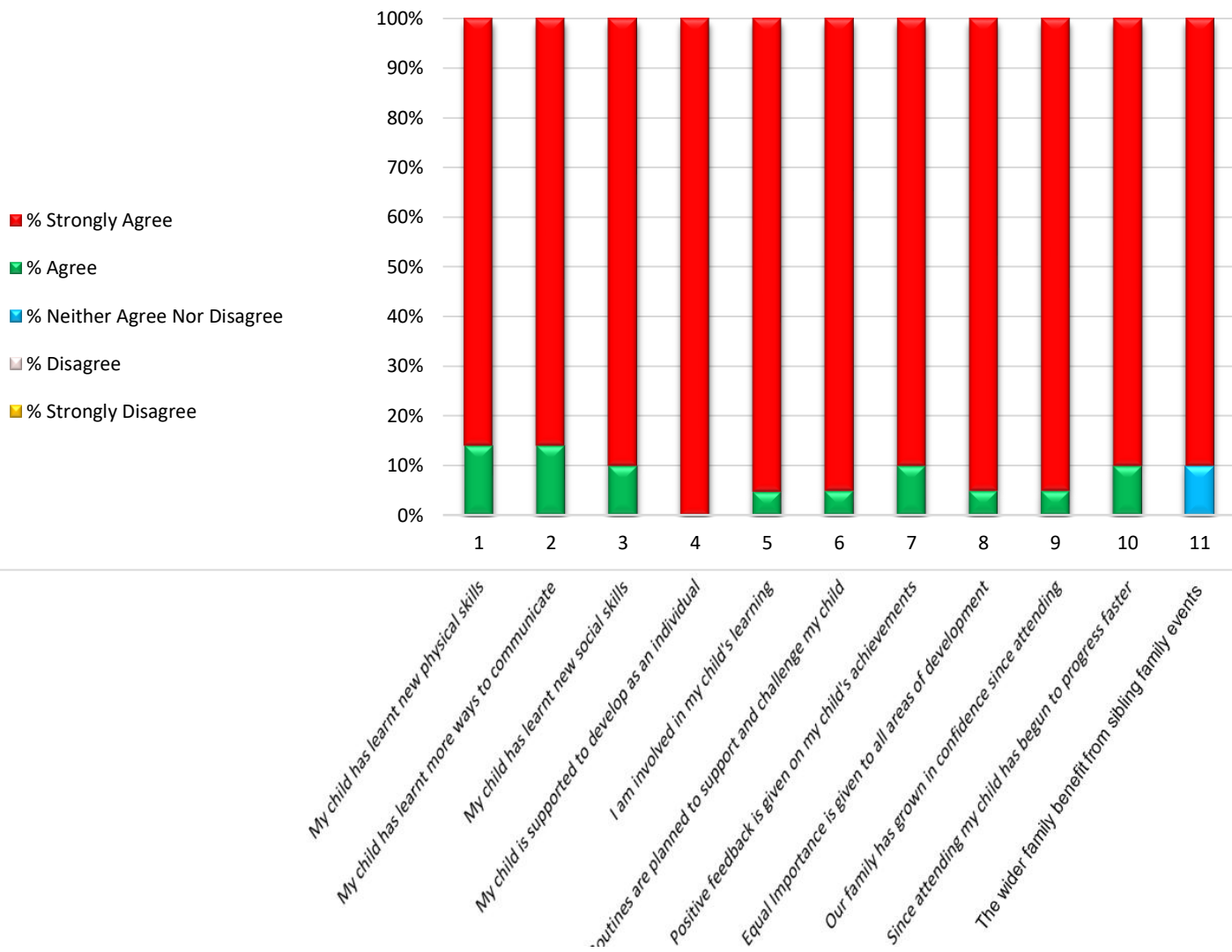
Z has a life limiting condition, and although her progress will be slow, she benefits from the activities in this session to maintain range of movement. The sessions have also provided Mum with a place that she can share her thought and feeling. She has also found a good supportive network.

So delighted that the needs of both Mum and baby have been met so well. Mum has always spoken so highly of Little Discoverers, the activities and the sense of belonging. Being amongst other parents who are on a similar journey helps to ease the feelings of isolation.

I am currently supporting a family who attend your group, they had spoken very highly of it, and I now understand why. Little Discoverers is an amazing group for families to attend, with brilliant activities and fantastic staff members. The group has a very warm and welcoming atmosphere.

APPENDIX 3 – ENLARGED VERSIONS OF THE PARENT AND PROFESSIONAL FEEDBACK CHARTS

2024-25 Parent feedback



## 2024 - 25 Professional Feedback

