

EARLYBIRDS PLAYGROUP

England & Wales · Charity number 1165010

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2016-01-04

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Earlybirds Playgroup
Buckshaft Road
Cinderford
GL14 3DL

Phone 01594824257

Email earlybirdsplaygrouptrustees@gmail.com

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECT OF THE CIO IS:TO PROMOTE AND FACILITATE THE CARE, EDUCATION AND WELLBEING OF YOUNG CHILDREN UNDER COMPULSORY SCHOOL AGE WITHIN THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Activities: At Earlybirds Playgroup we deliver pre school activities in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum to young children aged between 2 and 4 years old. We also hold a parent and toddlers session once a week to give support to young families in the community, as well as providing opportunities for the parents to understand how play can support child development and learning.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- Gloucestershire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£98,147	£91,634	-	-
2024-03-31	£85,266	£101,936	-	-
2023-03-31	£103,471	£95,757	-	-
2022-03-31	£50,578	£56,421	-	-
2021-08-31	£78,076	£75,389	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Margaret Hewis		2022-01-10
Nicola Giles		2024-11-07
Rhiannon Trillo		2020-11-12
Wendy Lewis		2024-09-01

EARLYBIRDS PLAYGROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1165010

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01/04/2024 Period start date To 31/03/2025 Period end date

Charity name: Earlybirds Playgroup

Charity registration number: 1165010 Objectives and

Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>The object of the CIO is to promote and support the care, education and wellbeing of young children of pre-compulsory school age within the Gloucestershire Local Authority area and surrounding communities.</p> <p>Our aim is that, through purposeful play, preschool children are supported to reach their full potential and work towards the Early Learning Goals as set out in the government's <i>Early Years Foundation Stage</i> (EYFS) framework.</p> <p>Earlybirds values imagination, creativity, independent decision-making and child-led learning. We place a strong emphasis on providing a safe, nurturing and welcoming environment that supports the development of self-confidence, independence, social skills and effective communication.</p> <p>By fostering these skills, we enable each child to thrive and be well prepared for their transition to primary school. We continue to work in line with the <i>Curiosity Approach</i> accreditation achieved in the previous year.</p>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>Earlybirds currently operates during school hours, from 9.00am to 3.00pm, Monday to Friday during term time, and is the only playgroup serving the Ruspidge and Buckshaft area. Due to limited local transport links, Earlybirds is the only early years setting accessible to many parents and carers within the local community.</p> <p>Earlybirds receives Local Authority funding for eligible three-year-olds, for up to a maximum of 30 hours per week. Funding is also available for two-year-old children who meet specific</p>

		<p>eligibility criteria. For children who are not eligible for funded hours, or who require additional sessions, fees are set below Gloucestershire County Council funding rates wherever possible.</p> <p>Trustees recognise that Cinderford is an area of economic deprivation and are committed to keeping fees as low as possible to ensure the setting remains inclusive and accessible to all families. To help cover running costs, trustees and staff also organise fundraising activities. We are fortunate to be able to hold a small number of events that allow parents and carers into the setting. Examples include Christmas sponsored sing-alongs and sponsored woodland walks. Activities provided at Earlybirds are led by the children's needs and interests and include, but are not limited to, outdoor play, cooking, and arts and crafts.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	Trustees are aware of the guidance issued by the charity commission on public benefit and have had due regard in relation to this.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	N/A
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	N/A
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	<p>Earlybirds playgroup is lucky to have been supported throughout the year by several parents, carers, and volunteers who have given their time and expertise free of charge. The playgroup welcomes a small number of volunteers into the setting.</p> <p>The trustees meet every half term formally or informally to help support the setting.</p>
Other		N/A

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>We continue to be able to provide local families with a safe, secure and nurturing setting for their 2, 3 and 4-year-olds. Some of our parents/carers would not have access to a provision if we were not available for them.</p> <p>We now fully operate the Curiosity Approach into our curriculum. This enables children to investigate and explore the outdoors and natural world. It encourages them using recycled and natural materials to become aware of the importance of sustainability from a young age. It also encourages imagination and intervention, rather than reliance on plastic toys with one use or purpose.</p> <p>During this period, as a setting we have supported the local food bank as part of our Harvest Festival celebrations. We are also keen to involve our children in local community events such as the annual Christmas Tree Festival.</p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	We applied for the Tesco grant and aligned our fundraising work with the objectives set for the project. All activity has supported the planned outcomes, and we remain on track for full project completion in late 2025.
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	We continue to set budgets and report on the finances at each trustee meeting. A separate Fundraising account remains open so that all monies that have been fundraised from parents, carers and the public can be separated and used purely for resources that will benefit the children. We can then demonstrate to parents and carers how their generosity is being enjoyed by the children at Earlybirds.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	A reserves policy is in place. This will cover the cost of any unforeseen major works to the building as well to enable us to fulfil our redundancy obligations to staff if the setting ever had to close.
Total amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£17,696.60
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	N/A

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	The primary source of funds is the funding for childcare from the Local Authority.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	The principal risk facing Earlybirds financially would be that children do not join the setting. Another risk that the setting faces are increasing utilities. This is a risk every year but due to the positive reputation, communication, and good advertising, luckily this has not been an issue as yet.
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
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Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	The setting has an application form for trustees. Potential trustees are invited to attend a meeting to see if they would be willing to commit and to meet the trustees. Trustees are normally elected at an AGM, However, if the need arises, trustees can be elected as part of a meeting, and the potential trustee is elected by the board of trustees for a period of one year. Key roles - Chair, Treasurer and Secretary are agreed at each AGM as well as Vice-Chair, if possible, unless a vacancy arises.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	On of our committee member attends the Local Authority Early Years Forum, which enables our setting to contribute to Early Years Policy and Procedure within the county. We are members of the Early Years Learning Alliance, giving us a broader outlook and access to national events and awareness of early years trends, policy and development.
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Earlybirds Playgroup
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1165010

Charity's principal address	Earlybirds Playgroup Buckshaft Road Cinderford GL14 3DL

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
Rhiannon Trillo	Chair	Moved to Treasurer 24/11/24	
Margaret Hewis	Chair	From 24/11/24	
Nicola Giles		Joined 07/11/2024	
Jodie Bishop			
Matt Bishop			
Sarah Jones	Secretary		
Wendy Lewis		Joined 1/09/2024	
Hannah Tufnell	Treasurer	Left 24/11/2024	
Sally Reader		Left 9/12/2024	

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	N/A
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	N/A

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Accountant	SA Accountancy	5 Victoria Street, Cinderford, GL14 2ET

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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Other optional information

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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees



Signature(s)	
Full name(s)	Rhiannon Trillo
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Treasurer

Date	18.01.2026
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Financial Statements for the year ended

31 March 2025

for

Early Birds

Contents of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Page
General Information	1
Accountants' Report and Client Approval Certificate	2
Income and Expenditure Account	3

Early Birds

General Information
for the year ended 31 March 2025

ADDRESS:

Early Birds Playgroup
Buckshaft Road
Cinderford
Gloucestershire
GL14 3DL

ACCOUNTANTS:

SA Accountancy
5 Victoria Street
Cinderford
Gloucestershire
GL14 2ET

Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2025

Accountants' Report to

Early Birds

In accordance with instructions given to us we have carried out a full examination of the records, bank statements and invoices provided to us and certify that the attached financial statements be a true and accurate record of the transactions of the Early Birds Accounts.

SA Accountancy
5 Victoria Street
Cinderford
Gloucestershire
GL14 2ET

Date:

Client Approval Certificate

We approve the financial statements and confirm that we have made available all relevant records and information for their preparation.

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On behalf of Early Birds

Date:

Early Birds

Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 31 March 2025

	31.03.25		31.03.24	
	£		£	£
Gross receipts				
Fees		4,460		6,359
Grants		92,619		77,465
Fund raising		-		845
Sundries		350		286
Donations		520		-
Interest received		198		311
TOTAL INCOME		98,147		85,266
Expenditure				
Pupil premium	1,407		1,326	
Resources and equipment	782		2,760	
Premises expenses	1,731		5,060	
Rates	4,737		2,200	
Salaries and HMRC	75,805		82,506	
Computer expenses	104		92	
Printing	2,405		2,567	
Subscriptions	250		1,847	
Insurance	1,296		1,330	
Professional fees	352		179	
Training	573		1,039	
Sundry	1,377		480	
Trips	65		-	
Petty cash	750		550	
		91,634		101,936
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		6,513		(16,670)
Balance at 01 April 2024		36,295		(01.04.23)
52,965				
Balance at 31 March 2025	42,808			(31.03.24)

36,295

18,674	Current Account	25,106	
	Fundraising Account	5	121
	Reserves Account	17,697	17,500
	Total funds	<u>42,808</u>	<u>36,295</u>

EARLYBIRDS PLAYGROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1165010

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01/04/2023 Period start date To 31/03/2024 Period end date

Charity name: Earlybirds Playgroup

Charity registration number: 1165010

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>The object of the CIO is to promote and facilitate the care, education, and wellbeing of young children under compulsory school age within the Gloucestershire Local Authority and surrounding areas.</p> <p>Our objective is that through play, preschool children will be able to reach their maximum potential and achieve their early learning goals as set out in the government's Early Years Foundation Stages framework. Earlybirds embrace imagination, creativity, independent decision-making and child-led learning. The focus is very much on providing a safe, caring and welcoming environment in order to allow the development of self-confidence, independence, and social skills and being good communicators so that each child can thrive and be prepared for the transition to primary school. We achieved Curiosity Approach accreditation.</p>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>Earlybirds currently operates during school hours of 9am to 3pm Monday to Friday during term time and is the only playgroup operating in the Ruspidge/Buckshaft area. The lack of local transport means that it is the only setting accessible to many parents and carers in the vicinity. Earlybirds receive funding from the Local Authority for up to a maximum of 30 hours per week for 3-year-olds. Funding is also available for 2-year-old children who meet certain criteria. For those children not eligible for funding or who require additional hours, the fees are kept below GCC funding rates. Trustees recognise that</p>

		<p>Cinderford is an economically deprived area and we try to keep fees as low as possible so that it can remain accessible. In order for Earlybirds to cover running costs trustees and staff also arrange fundraising activities, for which we are lucky enough to be able to arrange a few events to allow parents and carers into the setting. Examples of these events are Christmas sponsored singalong and sponsored woodland walks.</p> <p>Activities provided are led by the children's interest which include, but not limited to, outdoor play, cooking and arts & crafts.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	Trustees are aware of the guidance issued by the charity commission on public benefit and have had due regard in relation to this.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	N/A
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	N/A
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	<p>Earlybirds playgroup is lucky to have been supported throughout the year by a number of parents, carers, and volunteers who have given their time and expertise free of charge. The playgroup welcomes a small number of volunteers in to the setting.</p> <p>The trustees meet every half term formally or informally to help support the setting.</p>
Other		N/A

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	

<p>Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.</p>	<p>Para 1.20</p>	<p>We continue to be able to provide local families with a safe, secure and nurturing setting for their 2, 3 and 4 year olds. Some of our parents/carers would not have access to a provision if we were not available for them.</p> <p>We now fully operate the Curiosity Approach into our curriculum. This enables children to investigate and explore the outdoors and natural world. It encourages them through the use of recycled and natural materials to become aware of the importance of sustainability from a young age. It also encourages imagination and intervention, rather than reliance on plastic toys with one use or purpose.</p> <p>During this period, as a setting we have supported the local food bank as part of our Harvest Festival celebrations. We are also keen to involve our children in local community events such as the annual Christmas Tree Festival.</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

<p>Achievements against objectives set</p>	<p>Para 1.41</p>	
<p>Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set</p>	<p>Para 1.41</p>	
<p>Investment performance against objectives</p>	<p>Para 1.41</p>	
<p>Other</p>		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	Earlybirds have had to dip into the reserves to allow certain large maintenance to be completed such as having the fence repaired. We continue to set budgets and report on the finances at each trustee meeting. A separate Fundraising account remains open so that all monies that have been fundraised from parents, carers and the general public can be separated and used purely for resources that will benefit the children. We can then demonstrate to parents and carers how their generosity is being enjoyed by the children at Earlybirds.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	A reserves policy is in place. This will cover the cost of any unforeseen major works to the building as well to enable us to fulfil our redundancy obligations to staff if the setting ever had to close.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£17,500
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	N/A

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	The primary source of funds is the funding for childcare from the Local Authority.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	The principal risk facing Earlybirds financially would be that children do not join the setting. Another risk that the setting faces are increasing utilities. This is a risk every year but due to the positive reputation, communication, and good advertising, luckily this has not been an issue as yet.
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	The setting has an application form for trustees. Potential trustees are invited to attend a meeting to see if they would be willing to commit and to meet the trustees. Trustees are normally elected at an AGM, However, if the need arises, trustees can be elected as part of a meeting, and the potential trustee is elected by the board of trustees for a period of one year. Key roles - Chair, Vice-Chair etc are agreed at each AGM unless a vacancy arises.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	Our manager attends the Local Authority Early Years Forum, which enables our setting to contribute to Early Years Policy and Procedure within the county. We are members of the Early Years Learning Alliance, giving us a broader outlook and access to national events and awareness of early years trends, policy and development.
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Earlybirds Playgroup
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1165010

Charity's principal address	Earlybirds Playgroup Buckshaft Road Cinderford GL14 3DL

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Rhi Trillo	Chair		
2	Hannah Tuffnell	Treasurer		
3	Sarah Jones			
4	Matt Bishop			
5	Jodie Bishop			
6	Margaret Hewis			
7	Sally Reader			
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16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	N/A
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	N/A

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Accountant	SA Accountancy	5 Victoria Street, Cinderford, GL14 2ET

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

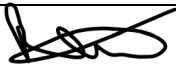
Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

Other optional information

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

	Signature(s)		
	Full name(s)	Rhiannon Trillo	
	Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
	Date	27.1.2025	

Financial Statements for the year ended

31 March 2024

for

Early Birds

Contents of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Page
General Information	1
Accountants' Report and Client Approval Certificate	2
Income and Expenditure Account	3

Early Birds

General Information
for the year ended 31 March 2024

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Buckshaft Road
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ACCOUNTANTS:

SA Accountancy
5 Victoria Street
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Gloucestershire
GL14 2ET

Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Accountants' Report to

Early Birds

In accordance with instructions given to us we have carried out a full examination of the records, bank statements and invoices provided to us and certify that the attached financial statements be a true and accurate record of the transactions of the Early Birds Accounts.

SA Accountancy
5 Victoria Street
Cinderford
Gloucestershire
GL14 2ET

Date:

Client Approval Certificate

We approve the financial statements and confirm that we have made available all relevant records and information for their preparation.

.....
On behalf of Early Birds

Date:

Early Birds

Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 31 March 2024

	31.03.24		31.03.23	
	£	£	£	£
Gross receipts				
Fees		6,359		6,763
Grants		77,465		92,740
Fund raising		845		1,763
Sundries		286		2,132
Interest received		311		73
		<hr/>		<hr/>
TOTAL INCOME		85,266		103,471
Expenditure				
Pupil premium	1,326		3,340	
Resources and equipment	2,760		5,262	
Premises expenses	5,060		3,766	
Rates	2,200		2,311	
Salaries and HMRC	82,506		74,415	
Computer expenses	92		178	
Printing	2,567		2,262	
Subscriptions	1,847		1,178	
Insurance	1,330		388	
Professional fees	179		-	
Training	1,039		553	
Sundry	480		-	
Petty cash	550		2,104	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
		101,936		95,757
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		<u>(16,670)</u>		<u>7,714</u>
Balance at 01 April 2023	52,965	(01.04.22)		45,251
Balance at 31 March 2024	<u>36,295</u>	(31.03.23)		<u>52,965</u>
Current Account	18,674			4,109
Fundraising Account	121			181
Reserves Account	17,500			48,675
Total funds	<u>36,295</u>			<u>52,965</u>

Financial Statements for the year ended

31 March 2024

for

Early Birds

Contents of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Page
General Information	1
Accountants' Report and Client Approval Certificate	2
Income and Expenditure Account	3

Early Birds

General Information
for the year ended 31 March 2024

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ACCOUNTANTS:

SA Accountancy
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Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Accountants' Report to

Early Birds

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SA Accountancy
5 Victoria Street
Cinderford
Gloucestershire
GL14 2ET

Date:

Client Approval Certificate

We approve the financial statements and confirm that we have made available all relevant records and information for their preparation.

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On behalf of Early Birds

Date:

Early Birds

Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 31 March 2024

	31.03.24		31.03.23	
	£	£	£	£
Gross receipts				
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TOTAL INCOME		85,266		103,471
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Pupil premium	1,326		3,340	
Resources and equipment	2,760		5,262	
Premises expenses	5,060		3,766	
Rates	2,200		2,311	
Salaries and HMRC	82,506		74,415	
Computer expenses	92		178	
Printing	2,567		2,262	
Subscriptions	1,847		1,178	
Insurance	1,330		388	
Professional fees	179		-	
Training	1,039		553	
Sundry	480		-	
Petty cash	550		2,104	
	<hr/>	101,936	<hr/>	95,757
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		<u>(16,670)</u>		<u>7,714</u>
Balance at 01 April 2023	52,965	(01.04.22)		45,251
Balance at 31 March 2024	<u>36,295</u>	(31.03.23)		<u>52,965</u>
Current Account	18,674			4,109
Fundraising Account	121			181
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Total funds	<u>36,295</u>			<u>52,965</u>

EARLYBIRDS PLAYGROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1165010

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01/04/2022 **Period start date** **To** **31/03/2023**
Period end date

Charity name: Earlybirds Playgroup

Charity registration number: 1165010

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>The object of the CIO is to promote and facilitate the care, education, and wellbeing of young children under compulsory school age within the Gloucestershire Local Authority and surrounding areas.</p> <p>Our objective is that through play, a learning rich environment and appropriate adult interventions and support, children will be able to reach their maximum potential and are secure in their early learning as outlined in Development Matters, the government's curriculum guidance for the Early Years Foundation Stage. Earlybirds embrace imagination, creativity, independent decision-making and child-led learning. The focus is very much on providing a safe, caring and welcoming environment in order to allow the development of self-confidence,</p>

		<p>independence, and social skills</p> <p>and being good communicators so that each child can thrive and be prepared for</p> <p>the transition to primary school. We are currently working through our Curiosity Approach accreditation.</p>
<p>Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.</p>	<p>Para 1.17 and 1.19</p>	<p>Earlybirds currently operates during school hours of 9am to 3pm Monday to Friday during</p> <p>term time and is the only playgroup operating in the Ruspidge/Buckshaft area.</p> <p>The lack of local transport means that it is</p> <p>the only setting accessible to many parents and carers in the vicinity.</p> <p>Earlybirds receive funding from the Local</p> <p>Authority for up to a maximum of 30 hours</p> <p>per week for 3-year-olds. Funding is also</p> <p>available for 2-year-old children who meet</p> <p>certain criteria. For those children not eligible for funding or who require</p> <p>additional hours, the fees are kept below</p> <p>GCC funding rates. Trustees recognise that</p> <p>Cinderford is an economically deprived area and we try to keep fees as low as possible so that it can remain accessible. In order for Earlybirds to cover running costs trustees and staff also arrange fundraising activities, which we are lucky enough to be able to arrange a few events to allow</p>

		<p>parents and carers into the setting.</p> <p>Activities provided are led by the children's interest which include, but not limited to,</p> <p>outdoor play, cooking and arts & crafts.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	<p>Trustees are aware of the guidance issued</p> <p>by the charity commission on public benefit and have had due regard in relation</p> <p>to this.</p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	N/A
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	N/A
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	<p>Earlybirds playgroup is lucky to have been supported throughout the year by a number of parents, carers, and volunteers who have given their time and expertise free of charge.</p> <p>The playgroup welcomes a small number of volunteers in to the setting.</p>

		The trustees meet every half term formally or informally to help support the setting.
Other		N/A

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>We continue to be able to provide local families with a safe, secure and nurturing setting for their 2, 3 and 4 year olds. Some of our parents/carers would not have access to a provision if we were not available for them.</p> <p>We are working towards our Curiosity Approach accreditation to support our values and the way we nurture the children we support.</p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of		

fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

<p>Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period</p>	<p>Para 1.21</p>	<p>Earlybirds continue to be in a stronger financial position than the previous year. We have continued to set budgets and reports on the finances at each trustee meeting. As a result we have been able to further enhance our reserves fund slightly as set out in our Reserves Policy.</p> <p>A separate Fundraising account remains open so that all monies that have been fundraised from parents, carers and the general public can be separated and used purely for resources that will benefit the children will enjoy. We can then demonstrate to parents and carers how their generosity is being enjoyed by the children at Earlybirds.</p>
<p>Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held</p>	<p>Para 1.22</p>	<p>A reserves policy is in place. This will cover the cost of any unforeseen major works to the building as well enable us to fulfil our redundancy obligations to staff if the setting ever had to close.</p>
<p>Amount of reserves held</p>	<p>Para 1.22</p>	<p>£48,675</p>
<p>Reasons for holding zero reserves</p>	<p>Para 1.22</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	N/A

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	The primary source of funds is the funding for childcare from the Local Authority. The playgroup has held a Christmas fair this year to raise money for valuable resources.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	The principal risk facing Earlybirds financially would be that children do not join the setting. This is a risk every year but due to the positive reputation, communication, and good advertising, luckily this has not been an issue as yet.
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	<p>The setting has an application form for trustees. Potential trustees are invited to attend a meeting to see if they would be willing to commit and to meet the trustees.</p> <p>Trustees are normally elected at an AGM,</p> <p>However, if the need arises, trustees can be elected as part of a meeting, and the potential trustee is elected by the board of trustees for a period of one year.</p> <p>Key roles - Chair, Vice-Chair etc are agreed at each AGM unless a vacancy arises.</p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	

The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Earlybirds Playgroup
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1165010
Charity's principal address	Earlybirds Playgroup Buckshaft Road Cinderford GL14 3DL

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Rhi Trillo			
2	Hannah Tufnell			
3	Sarah Jones			
4	Matt Bishop			
5	Jodie Bishop			
6	Margaret Hewis			
7	Sally Reader		November 2022	
8				
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16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Corporate trustees - names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	N/A
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	N/A

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

	Type of adviser	Name	Address
	Accountant	SA Accountancy	5 Victoria Street, Cinderford, GL14 2ET

	Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)		

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

Other optional information

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

	Signature(s)	H M Tufnell	
	Full name(s)	Hannah Tufnell	
	Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Treasurer	
	Date	27/01/2024	

Financial Statements for the year ended

31 March 2023

for

Early Birds

Contents of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Page
General Information	1
Accountants' Report and Client Approval Certificate	2
Income and Expenditure Account	3

Early Birds

General Information
for the year ended 31 March 2023

ADDRESS:

Early Birds Playgroup
Buckshaft Road
Cinderford
Gloucestershire
GL14 3DL

ACCOUNTANTS:

SA Accountancy
5 Victoria Street
Cinderford
Gloucestershire
GL14 2ET

Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2023

Accountants' Report to

Early Birds

In accordance with instructions given to us we have carried out a full examination of the records, bank statements and invoices provided to us and certify that the attached financial statements be a true and accurate record of the transactions of the Early Birds Accounts.

SA Accountancy
5 Victoria Street
Cinderford
Gloucestershire
GL14 2ET

Date:

Client Approval Certificate

We approve the financial statements and confirm that we have made available all relevant records and information for their preparation.

.....

On behalf of Early Birds

Date:

Early Birds

Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 31 March 2023

	31.03.23		01.09.21 to 31.03.22
	£	£	£
Gross receipts			
Fees		6,763	5,493
Grants		92,740	40,964
Fund raising		1,763	90
Sundries		2,132	170
Donations		-	200
Interest received		73	2
		-----	-----
TOTAL INCOME		103,471	46,919
Expenditure			
Pupil premium	3,340		-
Resources and equipment	5,262		8,289
Premises expenses	3,766		5,234
Rates	2,311		2,641
Salaries and HMRC	74,415		34,183
Computer expenses	178		-
Printing	2,262		-
Subscriptions	1,178		-
Insurance	388		-
Professional fees	-		1,200
Training	553		250
Sundry	-		216
Petty cash	2,104		755
	-----	95,757	-----
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		<u>7,714</u>	<u>(5,849)</u>
Balance at 01 April 2022	45,251	(01.09.21)	51,100
Balance at 31 March 2023	<u>52,965</u>	(31.03.22)	<u>45,251</u>
Current Account	4,109		11,609
Fundraising Account	181		39
Reserves Account	48,675		33,603
Petty cash	-		-
Total funds	<u>52,965</u>		<u>45,251</u>

Financial Statements for the year ended

31 March 2023

for

Early Birds

Contents of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Page
General Information	1
Accountants' Report and Client Approval Certificate	2
Income and Expenditure Account	3

Early Birds

General Information
for the year ended 31 March 2023

ADDRESS:

Early Birds Playgroup
Buckshaft Road
Cinderford
Gloucestershire
GL14 3DL

ACCOUNTANTS:

SA Accountancy
5 Victoria Street
Cinderford
Gloucestershire
GL14 2ET

Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2023

Accountants' Report to

Early Birds

In accordance with instructions given to us we have carried out a full examination of the records, bank statements and invoices provided to us and certify that the attached financial statements be a true and accurate record of the transactions of the Early Birds Accounts.

SA Accountancy
5 Victoria Street
Cinderford
Gloucestershire
GL14 2ET

Date:

Client Approval Certificate

We approve the financial statements and confirm that we have made available all relevant records and information for their preparation.

.....
On behalf of Early Birds

Date:

Early Birds

Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 31 March 2023

	31.03.23		01.09.21 to
	£	£	31.03.22
			£
Gross receipts			
Fees		6,763	5,493
Grants		92,740	40,964
Fund raising		1,763	90
Sundries		2,132	170
Donations		-	200
Interest received		73	2
		-----	-----
TOTAL INCOME		103,471	46,919
Expenditure			
Pupil premium	3,340		-
Resources and equipment	5,262		8,289
Premises expenses	3,766		5,234
Rates	2,311		2,641
Salaries and HMRC	74,415		34,183
Computer expenses	178		-
Printing	2,262		-
Subscriptions	1,178		-
Insurance	388		-
Professional fees	-		1,200
Training	553		250
Sundry	-		216
Petty cash	2,104		755
	-----	95,757	-----
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		<u>7,714</u>	<u>(5,849)</u>
Balance at 01 April 2022	45,251	(01.09.21)	51,100
Balance at 31 March 2023	<u>52,965</u>	(31.03.22)	<u>45,251</u>
Current Account	4,109		11,609
Fundraising Account	181		39
Reserves Account	48,675		33,603
Petty cash	-		-
Total funds	<u>52,965</u>		<u>45,251</u>

EARLYBIRDS PLAYGROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1165010

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01/09/21 Period start date To 31/03/22 Period end date

Charity name: Earlybirds Playgroup

Charity registration number: 1165010

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>The object of the CIO is to promote and facilitate the care, education, and wellbeing of young children under compulsory school age within the Gloucestershire Local Authority and surrounding areas.</p> <p>Our objective is that through play, preschool children will be able to reach their maximum potential and achieve their early learning goals as set out in the government's Early Years Foundation Stages framework. Earlybirds embrace imagination, creativity, independent decision-making and child-led learning. The focus is very much on providing a safe, caring and welcoming environment in order to allow the development of self-confidence, independence, and social skills and being good communicators so that each child can thrive and be prepared for the transition to primary school.</p>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>Earlybirds currently operates during school hours of 9am to 3pm Monday to Friday during term time and is the only playgroup operating in the Ruspidge/Buckshaft area. The lack of local transport means that it is the only setting accessible to many parents and carers in the vicinity. Earlybirds receive funding from the Local Authority for up to a maximum of 30 hours per week for 3-year-olds. Funding is also available for 2-year-old children who meet certain criteria. For those children not eligible for funding or who require additional hours, the fees are kept in line with GCC funding rates, usually just below. Trustees recognise that Cinderford is an economically</p>

		deprived area and we try to keep fees as low as possible so that it can remain accessible. In order for Earlybirds to cover running costs trustees and staff also arrange fundraising activities. Activities provided are led by the children's interest which include, but are not limited to, outdoor play, cooking and arts & crafts. The setting is currently working towards its Curiosity Approach accreditation. By following The Curiosity Approach we are creating a culture of curiosity, awe and wonder into the heart of our setting.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	Trustees are aware of the guidance issued by the charity commission on public benefit and have had due regard in relation to this.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	Earlybirds playgroup is lucky to have been supported throughout the year by a number of parents, carers, and volunteers who have given their time and expertise free of charge. Earlybirds welcomes volunteers and students into the setting. A local resident within the community has been very generous and has carried out the PAT testing free of charge again. The trustees meet every half term formally and as required informally to help support the setting.
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	

<p>Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.</p>	<p>Para 1.20</p>	<p>The setting continues to thrive post-pandemic. Numbers are rising and were above the level prior to the pandemic.</p> <p>With a return to normality this has allowed us to help children reach their full potential prior to starting their next step of primary school.</p> <p>We have continued to be a hub for the community for parents, including our increasingly successful stay and play tots sessions. This has provided a space for parents and their children to safely engage with others.</p> <p>We recruited a new manager in January 2022. She has qualified teacher status and was keen to lead the group through their curiosity approach accreditation, bringing much experience to the setting. Further support she has been able to provide has been guiding staff who are currently completing their apprenticeship, as she is a qualified assessor.</p> <p>In addition to fundraising for the setting we have also supported a number of charities, for example, children in need and more.</p> <p>In December we were able to take part in the local church's christmas tree festival.</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

<p>Achievements against objectives set</p>	<p>Para 1.41</p>	
<p>Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set</p>	<p>Para 1.41</p>	
<p>Investment performance against objectives</p>	<p>Para 1.41</p>	
<p>Other</p>		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<p>Earlybirds continue to be in a strong financial position. This is because the treasurer has continued to work hard on monitoring income and expenditure closely, so that Earlybirds stays financially sustainable. She has also continued to set budgets and reports on the finances at each trustee meeting. As a the result we have been able to further enhance our reserves fund as set out in our Reserves Policy.</p> <p>A separate Fundraising account remains open so that all monies that have been fundraised from parents, carers and the the general public can be separated and used purely for resources that will benefit the children will enjoy. We can then demonstrate to parents and carers how their generosity is being enjoyed by the children at Earlybirds.</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	A reserves policy is in place. This will cover the cost of any unforeseen major works to the building as well enable us to fulfil our redundancy obligations to staff if the setting ever had to close.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£33,602.64
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	N/A

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	<p>The primary source of funds is the funding for childcare from the Local Authority.</p> <p>Funds are also raised through fundraising activities such as raffles. These events are run both online and in person at the setting.</p>
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	The principal risk facing Earlybirds financially would be that children do not join the setting. This is a risk every year but due to the positive reputation, communication, and good advertising, luckily this has not been an issue as yet.

Other		
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Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	The setting has an application form for trustees. Potential trustees are invited to attend a meeting to see if they would be willing to commit and to meet the trustees. Trustees are normally elected at an AGM, However, if the need arises, trustees can be elected as part of a meeting, and the potential trustee is elected by the board of trustees for a period of one year. Key roles - Chair, Vice-Chair etc are agreed at each AGM unless a vacancy arises.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Earlybirds Playgroup
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1165010
Charity's principal address	Earlybirds Playgroup Buckshaft Road Cinderford GL14 3DL

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Rhiannon Trillo	Chair		Early birds
2	Hannah Tufnell	Treasurer		Early birds
3	Sarah Jones			Early birds
4	Matt Bishop			Early birds
5	Jodie Bishop	Acting manager until Jan 2022, deputy manager from this point		Early birds
6	Margaret Hewis	Manager	Started Jan 2022	Early birds
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	16			
	17			
	18			
	19			
	20			

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	N/A
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	N/A

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Accountant	SA Accountancy	5 Victoria Street, Cinderford, GL14 2ET

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)			

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

--

Other optional information

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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s) HM Tufnell

Full name(s) Hannah Tufnell

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc) Treasurer

Date 12/01/23

Financial Statements for the shortened period

From 1 September 2021 to 31 March 2022

for

Early Birds

Early Birds

Contents of the Financial Statements
for the shortened period
From 1 September 2021 to 31 March 2022

	Page
General Information	1
Accountants' Report and Client Approval Certificate	2
Income and Expenditure Account	3

General Information
for the shortened period
From 1 September 2021 to 31 March 2022

ADDRESS:

Early Birds Playgroup
Buckshaft Road
Cinderford
Gloucestershire
GL14 3DL

ACCOUNTANTS:

SA Accountancy
5 Victoria Street
Cinderford
Gloucestershire
GL14 2ET

Accountants' Report to

Early Birds

In accordance with instructions given to us we have carried out a full examination of the records, bank statements and invoices provided to us and certify that the attached financial statements be a true and accurate record of the transactions of the Early Birds Accounts.

SA Accountancy
5 Victoria Street
Cinderford
Gloucestershire
GL14 2ET

Date:

Client Approval Certificate

We approve the financial statements and confirm that we have made available all relevant records and information for their preparation.

.....
On behalf of Early Birds

Date:

Early Birds

Income and Expenditure Account
for the shortened period
From 1 September 2021 to 31 March 2022

	01.09.21 to 31.03.22		31.08.21
	£	£	£
Gross receipts			
Fees		5,493	9,772
Grants		40,964	64,954
Fund raising		90	2,287
Sundries		170	953
Donations		200	108
Interest received		2	2
		<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL INCOME		46,919	78,076
Expenditure			
Resources and equipment	8,289		7,654
Premises expenses	5,234		3,247
Rates	2,641		2,011
Salaries and HMRC	34,183		57,620
Refreshments	-		40
Insurance	-		491
Professional fees	1,200		682
Training	250		3,482
Sundry	216		162
Petty cash	755		-
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		52,768	75,389
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		<u>(5,849)</u>	<u>2,687</u>
Balance at 01 September 2021	51,100	(01.09.20)	48,413
Balance at 31 March 2022	<u>45,251</u>	(31.08.21)	<u>53,316</u>
Current Account	11,609		31,176
Fundraising Account	39		2,916
Reserves Account	33,603		17,003
Petty cash	-		5
Total funds	<u>45,251</u>		<u>51,100</u>

Financial Statements for the shortened period

From 1 September 2021 to 31 March 2022

for

Early Birds

Early Birds

Contents of the Financial Statements
for the shortened period
From 1 September 2021 to 31 March 2022

	Page
General Information	1
Accountants' Report and Client Approval Certificate	2
Income and Expenditure Account	3

General Information
for the shortened period
From 1 September 2021 to 31 March 2022

ADDRESS:

Early Birds Playgroup
Buckshaft Road
Cinderford
Gloucestershire
GL14 3DL

ACCOUNTANTS:

SA Accountancy
5 Victoria Street
Cinderford
Gloucestershire
GL14 2ET

Accountants' Report to

Early Birds

In accordance with instructions given to us we have carried out a full examination of the records, bank statements and invoices provided to us and certify that the attached financial statements be a true and accurate record of the transactions of the Early Birds Accounts.

SA Accountancy
5 Victoria Street
Cinderford
Gloucestershire
GL14 2ET

Date:

Client Approval Certificate

We approve the financial statements and confirm that we have made available all relevant records and information for their preparation.

.....
On behalf of Early Birds

Date:

Early Birds

Income and Expenditure Account
for the shortened period
From 1 September 2021 to 31 March 2022

	01.09.21 to 31.03.22		31.08.21
	£	£	£
Gross receipts			
Fees		5,493	9,772
Grants		40,964	64,954
Fund raising		90	2,287
Sundries		170	953
Donations		200	108
Interest received		2	2
		<hr/>	<hr/>
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Resources and equipment	8,289		7,654
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Refreshments	-		40
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Professional fees	1,200		682
Training	250		3,482
Sundry	216		162
Petty cash	755		-
		<hr/>	<hr/>
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EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		<u>(5,849)</u>	<u>2,687</u>
Balance at 01 September 2021	51,100	(01.09.20)	48,413
Balance at 31 March 2022	<u>45,251</u>	(31.08.21)	<u>53,316</u>
Current Account	11,609		31,176
Fundraising Account	39		2,916
Reserves Account	33,603		17,003
Petty cash	-		5
Total funds	<u>45,251</u>		<u>51,100</u>

EARLYBIRDS PLAYGROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1165010

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From **01/09/20** To **31/08/21**

Charity name: **Earlybirds Playgroup**

Charity registration number: **1165010**

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>The object of the CIO is to promote and facilitate the care, education and wellbeing of young children under compulsory school age within the Gloucestershire Local Authority and surrounding areas.</p> <p>Our objective is that through play, pre-school children will be able to reach their maximum potential and achieve their early learning goals as set out in the government's Early Years Foundation Stages framework. Earlybirds embrace imagination, creativity, independent decision making and child-led learning. The focus is very much on providing a safe, caring and welcoming environment in order to allow the development of self-confidence, independence, and social skills and being good communicators so that each child can thrive and be prepared for the transition to primary school.</p>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>Earlybirds is open Monday-Friday during term time and is the only playgroup operating in the Ruspidge/Buckshaft area. The lack of local transport means that it is the only setting accessible to many parents and carers in the vicinity.</p> <p>Earlybirds receive funding from the Local Authority for up to a maximum of 30 hours per week for 3 year olds. Funding is also available for 2 year old children who meet certain criteria. For those children not eligible for funding or who require additional hours the fees are kept below GCC funding rates. Trustees recognise that Cinderford is an economically deprived</p>

		<p>area and we try to keep fees as low as possible so that it can remain accessible. In order for Earlybirds to cover running costs trustees and staff also arrange fundraising activities, however this year this was impacted with the pandemic.</p> <p>Activities provided are led by the children's interest which include, but not limited to, outdoor play, cooking and arts & crafts.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	Trustees are aware of the guidance issued by the charity commission on public benefit and have had due regard in relation to this.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	<p>Earlybirds Playgroup has been lucky to be supported by a number of parents, carers and volunteers during the year who have given their time and expertise free of charge. Unfortunately, the pandemic had an impact on volunteers being in the setting, but volunteers did start attending again when rules allowed.</p> <p>A local resident very generously carried out our PAT testing again this year free of charge. Trustees meet regularly both formally and informally to help support the setting.</p>

Other		
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Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>Primarily the setting was able to remain open fully during the pandemic. This meant that children of key-workers and vulnerable children were able to attend and allow a level of normality during the uncertain period. This also meant key-workers were able to continue to provide the key support needed during this time.</p> <p>Stay and play (parent and tots session) re-opened when allowed which provided a space to safely engage with other parents and children.</p> <p>The lease for the setting was extended for 5 years during this year meaning security for the foreseeable future, enabling the continuity for families wishing to attend the setting.</p> <p>A staff member has started an</p>

		apprenticeship in childcare.
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	Due to the pandemic we decided not to pursue new fundraising activities this year. These have been reintroduced for the next academic year.
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

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Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<p>Earlybirds continue to be in a stronger financial position than previous year. This is because the treasurer has continued to work hard on monitoring income and expenditure closely, so that Earlybirds stays financially sustainable. She has also continued to set budgets and reports on the finances at each trustee meeting. As a result we have been able to further enhance our reserves fund slightly as set out in our Reserves Policy.</p> <p>A separate Fundraising account remains open so that all monies that have been fundraised from parents, carers and the general public can be separated and used purely for resources that will benefit the children will enjoy. We can then demonstrate to parents and carers how their generosity is being enjoyed by the children at Earlybirds.</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	A reserves policy is in place. This will cover the cost of any unforeseen major works to the building as well enable us to fulfil our redundancy obligations to staff if the setting ever had to close.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£17003
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	N/A

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	<p>The primary source of funds is the funding for childcare from the Local Authority.</p> <p>Funds are also raised through fundraising activities such as raffles, this year these were online due to Covid-19.</p> <p>Ordinarily the setting would hold a summer and Christmas fayre and hold other</p>
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		fundraising events.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	The principal risk financially would be children not joining the setting. This is the same every year but due to reputation, communication and good advertising, luckily this has not been an issue as yet.
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more	Para 1.25	The setting has an application form for trustees. Potential trustees are invited to attend a meeting to see if they would be willing to commit and to meet the trustees. Trustees normally are elected at an AGM, however if the need arises, trustees can be elected as part of a meeting, the potential trustee is elected by the board of trustees

trustees		for a period of one year. Key roles - Chair, Vice-Chair etc are agreed at each AGM unless a vacancy arises.
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Earlybirds Playgroup
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity	1165010

number	
Charity's principal address	Earlybirds Playgroup Buckshaft Road Cinderford GL14 3DL

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Hannah Tufnell	Treasurer		Earlybirds
2	Rhi Trillo	Chair (since July 21)		Earlybirds
3	Jess Simonds	Secretary	Sept 20 - Nov 20	
4	Emily Skillern	Vice-Chair	Sept 20 - Nov 20	
5	Lorna Shepard	Chair	Sept 20 - Nov 20	
6	Matt Bishop		February 21 - current	
7	Sarah Jones		July 21 - current	
8	Jodie Bishop			
9	Rachel Hopkins	Chair (Nov 20 - July 21)	Sept 20 - July 21	
10	Laura Howlett		Sept 20 - July 21	
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Corporate trustees - names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	N/A
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	N/A

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

	Type of adviser	Name	Address
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	Accountant	SA Accountancy	5 Victoria Street, Cinderford, GL14 2ET
	Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)		

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

Other optional information

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

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Full name(s)

--	--

Position (eg
Secretary, Chair,
etc)

--	--

Date

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Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

for

Early Birds

Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

	Page
General Information	1
Accountants' Report and Client Approval Certificate	2
Income and Expenditure Account	3

Early Birds

General Information
for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

ADDRESS:

Early Birds Playgroup
Buckshaft Road
Cinderford
Gloucestershire
GL14 3DL

ACCOUNTANTS:

SA Accountancy
5 Victoria Street
Cinderford
Gloucestershire
GL14 2ET

Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

Accountants' Report to

Early Birds

In accordance with instructions given to us we have carried out a full examination of the records, bank statements and invoices provided to us and certify that the attached financial statements be a true and accurate record of the transactions of the Early Birds Accounts.

SA Accountancy
5 Victoria Street
Cinderford
Gloucestershire
GL14 2ET

Date:

Client Approval Certificate

We approve the financial statements and confirm that we have made available all relevant records and information for their preparation.

.....
On behalf of Early Birds

Date:

Early Birds

Income and Expenditure Account
for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

	31.08.21		31.08.20	
	£	£	£	£
Gross receipts				
Fees		9,772		6,200
Grants		64,954		80,102
Fund raising		2,287		2,080
Sundries		953		960
Donations		108		-
Interest received		2		4
		<hr/>		<hr/>
TOTAL INCOME		78,076		89,346
Expenditure				
Resources and equipment	7,654		4,995	
Premises expenses	3,247		1,987	
Rates	2,011		1,524	
Salaries and HMRC	57,620		51,839	
Refreshments	40		305	
Insurance	491		303	
Professional fees	682		445	
Training	3,482		703	
Sundry	162		-	
	<hr/>	75,389	<hr/>	62,101
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		<u>2,687</u>		<u>27,245</u>
Balance at 01 September 2020		48,413	(01.09.19)	
21,168		<hr/>		
Balance at 31 August 2021		<u>53,316</u>	(31.08.20)	<u>48,413</u>
Current Account	31,176			26,554
Fundraising Account	2,916			4,853
Reserves Account	17,003			17,001
Petty cash	5			5
Total funds	<u>51,100</u>			<u>48,413</u>

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

for

Early Birds

Contents of the Financial Statements
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	Page
General Information	1
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