



**CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**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	<b>N/A</b>
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	<b>N/A</b>
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		<b>N/A</b>

## 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	<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. 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.</p> <p>Key roles - Chair, Treasurer and Secretary are agreed at each AGM as well as Vice-Chair, if possible, 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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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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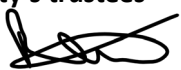
**Other optional information**

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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

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for the year ended 31 March 2025

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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.

.....

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		
	£	£	£	£
<b>Gross receipts</b>				
Fees		4,460		6,359
Grants		92,619		77,465
Fund raising		-		845
Sundries		350		286
Donations		520		-
Interest received		198		311
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		98,147		85,266
<b>Expenditure</b>				
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
<b>EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>		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>