

PLAYSKILL

England & Wales · Charity number 1198233

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2022-03-14

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

Contact

Address C/o Adeyfield Free Church Centre
Maylands Avenue
Hemel Hempstead
Hertfordshire
HP2 4GZ

Phone 01442793306

Email adminoffice@playskill.org

Website <https://playskill.org/>

Activities

Objects: 1) TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL DIFFICULTIES / DISABILITIES THROUGH THE PROVISION OF SUPPORT, EDUCATION AND PRACTICAL ADVICE. 2) TO ADVANCE IN LIFE AND HELP CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL DIFFICULTIES/DISABILITIES THROUGH: (A) THE PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL AND LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES PROVIDED IN THE INTEREST OF SOCIAL WELFARE, DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THEIR CONDITIONS OF LIFE AND THE LIFE OF THEIR FAMILIES; (B) PROVIDING SUPPORT AND ACTIVITIES WHICH DEVELOP THEIR SKILLS, CAPACITIES AND CAPABILITIES TO ENABLE THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN SOCIETY AS MATURE AND RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUALS. 3) TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION AND SUPPORT OF CARERS AND SIBLINGS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL DIFFICULTIES / DISABILITIES AND OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND OTHER RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL STAFF IN ALL AREAS RELATING TO THE WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL DIFFICULTIES / DISABILITIES AND OF THEIR FAMILIES.

Activities: To promote and protect the physical and mental health of children and young people with difficulties/disabilities with support, education, practical advice, recreational and leisure time activities designed to improve their conditions of life and that of their families. Also provide support and activities to develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities

Geography

- Hertfordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£599,482	£504,505	£378,283	31
2023-12-31	£541,007	£520,164	£283,306	36
2022-12-31	£395,562	£425,306	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Brijesh Satishkumar Babla		2024-11-20
Charlotte Jane Kohnhorst		2021-11-10
Claire Lancaster		2025-11-12
Dr Dipti Mahendra Amin		2024-11-20
Emma Shumake		2023-11-15
Melody Cox		2025-11-12
Terasha Young		2024-11-20
Timothy Patrick Jones		2024-11-20
Vicky Greig		2023-11-15

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England & Wales - Charity number 1198233

Accounts

PLAYSKILL

Annual report and financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Charity registration number 1198233

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Reference and administrative information

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Trustees

S J Soloway (Chair) (Retired November 2024)
N Parish (Retired November 2024)
C Kohnhorst (Appointed Co-Chair – November 2024)
C Neale (Retired November 2024)
L Sharpe (Secretary)
A York (Retired November 2024)
V Greig (Appointed Co-Chair November 2024)
V Lalsodagar (Retired November 2024)
V Parmar
E Shumake
T Young (Appointed November 2024)
B Babla (Appointed November 2024)
T Jones (Appointed November 2024)
D Amin (Appointed November 2024)

Charity registered number
1198233

Principal address	Postal Address
Sheraton House Lower Road Chorleywood WD3 5LH	C/o Adeyfield Free Church Centre Maylands Avenue Hemel Hempstead HP2 4GZ

CEO
Niki Michael

Independent examiner
Freeman Baker Associates
The Old Church
48 Verulam Road
St Albans
AL3 4DH

Bankers	
Barclays Bank plc Croydon 2 Leicestershire LE87 2BB	The Co-operative Bank Skelmersdale WN8 6WT

Metrobank
113 High Street
Watford
WD17 2DQ

PLAYSKILL

Chairs' foreword

For the year ended 31 December 2024

2024 was a busy and meaningful year for Playskill.

We supported 82 unique families with over 4,000 hours of therapeutic sessions. 126 people attended training, 523 joined respite events, and our graduate groups grew to 55—reflecting the ongoing demand for our work.

Our heartfelt thanks go to our incredible staff and 36 dedicated volunteers. Their passion, professionalism, and willingness to embrace change have helped us develop our services to be even more effective and accessible.

Our Fundraising Team had a brilliant year, raising over £599,000—support that is especially valued in what are very challenging times for many charities. This funding has enabled us to sustain our core services and provide enriching events for families, including *Springfest* at The Royal Masonic School for Girls, SEN days at DJ's Play Jungle and Aldenham Farm, sibling outings to Ringo's Snow Centre, and grown-up events like Paint & Sip and Top Golf. Fundraising efforts ranged from golf days and marathons to swimming Loch Lomond!

In November, we said goodbye to four longstanding trustees—Nina Parish, Chris Neale, Andrew York, and Stuart Soloway, our Chair for 10 years—and thanked them for their dedicated service. We were pleased to welcome four new trustees—Dipti Amin, Brijesh Babla, Tim Jones, and Teresha Young—each bringing valuable expertise and enthusiasm.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to reaching more families across Hertfordshire and continuing to evolve in response to their needs. Thank you for being part of the Playskill journey—we couldn't do it without you.

Charlotte Kohnhorst and Vicky Grieg (Co-Chairs of Trustees)



The image shows two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first signature, on the left, is 'Charlotte Kohnhorst' and the second, on the right, is 'Vicky Grieg'.

Welcome from the CEO

For the year ended 31 December 2024

I am delighted to introduce our 2024 Annual Report, demonstrating once again the vital impact our work continues to make to the lives of families raising a child with a physical disability/delay. This year we supported over 80 unique families through our Specialist Early Intervention programmes, hosted a record number of families at social events and saw an increase in the number of graduate families continuing to turn to us after their child has moved on from our groups.

In an effort to truly understand the changing landscape for local families we conducted a consultation piece of work to survey their views on our current service provision. What we learnt will help shape how and where we support them going forward and give us the opportunity to rationalise our plans for growth and development next year, continuing our focus to be a truly needs led organisation.

Good governance remains at the core of our work with the recruitment of 4 new trustees with a range of skills and lived experience of our work. Stuart Soloway, our long-standing Chair stood down in November after a decade of dedicated service to the charity with fellow trustees Vicky Grieg and Charlotte Kohnhorst stepping into Co-Chair roles.

We were also privileged to have been selected as one of 10 local voluntary sector organisations to take part in Hertfordshire Community Foundation's, Building Effectiveness Programme which will support work on our new 3-year business plan.

Our fantastic stewardship of existing relationships resulted in our first ever golf day being held at The Grove in October, a resounding success supported with matched funding by Helping Herts. We also want to thank Moor Park Golf Club for selecting us as their Charity Partner for the second consecutive year and to Postcode Places Trust for choosing us as a Millionaire's Row beneficiary. We continue to provide our services free to families despite receiving no statutory funding and want to thank all of our funders for continuing to make this possible.

The current climate is undoubtedly the most challenging the families we support have faced in the 20 years I have been working in the disability sector. Cuts to local services and the cost-of-living crisis disproportionately affect families of disabled children. The need for us to continue our work could never be more pressing. Helping to build resilient families able to weather the storms and challenges ahead is paramount to our mission and I am proud to lead an organisation where every trustee and staff member remains dedicated to this work. I want to thank them, our volunteers and funders for continuing to believe in and champion our work.



Niki Michael
CEO

PLAYSKILL

Trustees' Report

For the year ended 31 December 2024

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's constitution, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) effective 1 January 2015.

Structure

The Charity was established by a charitable trust deed on 12th February 2008 but converted to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 14th March 2022.

Independent Examiner

The Trustees appointed Freeman Baker Associates to review Playskill's financial statements and we thank them for their helpful comments during the execution of their duties. In setting our objectives and planning our activities the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The main objectives of Playskill as laid out in the Constitution are:

- 1) To promote and protect the physical and mental health of children and young people in the United Kingdom with physical difficulties/disabilities through the provision of support, education and practical advice.
- 2) To advance in life and help children and young people with physical difficulties / disabilities through:
 - a) The provision of recreational and leisure time activities provided in the interest of social welfare, designed to improve their conditions of life and the life of their families;
 - b) Providing support and activities which develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals.
- 3) To advance the education and support of carers and siblings of children and young people with physical difficulties/disabilities and of the general public and other relevant professional staff in all areas relating to the well-being of children and young people with physical difficulties / disabilities and of their families.

Playskill provides its services free of charge to children with special needs aged one to five years at the point of need, irrespective of colour, race, gender or creed.

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Trustees' Report (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Objectives and Activities

Objective 1

To expand our existing services across current family beneficiaries.

In 2024:

We surveyed the families we support to gather their views of our work, where we were excellent and where we could improve. Parent/carers told us that our group sessions helped them to build confidence, skills and provided a peer-to-peer network vital for their wellbeing. They asked for more opportunities for social interactions for the wider family and an increased presence during the school holidays.

In 2025 we will:

- Increase our social events programme across major school holidays
- Expand our sibling programme of events
- Build the skills of the therapeutic staff team to enhance the outcomes of the children/families we support

Objective 2

To increase our reach to c100 families in Hertfordshire currently not accessing our services.

In 2024:

Working with local stakeholders we obtained data that identified how many families of children with physical disabilities/delays under 5 were living in Hertfordshire and where they were in the County. Of the families that meet our criteria but are currently living outside of our base areas of Hemel Hempstead and Watford many have expressed travel as a barrier to accessing our group sessions.

In 2025 we will:

- Remove group attendance as the only gateway to accessing additional services form Playskill
- Recruit a new full-time role; Family Support Lead to include the provision for outreach work to those families currently unable to attend physical groups
- Expand our online Parent Training programme to meet the needs of the harder to reach families

Objective 3

To attract and retain the highest quality staff members.

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Trustees' Report (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

In 2024:

We surveyed our staff team to help create our organisational values of:

- Respect
- Kindness
- Collaboration
- Whole Family
- Supportive

In 2025 we will:

- Make a commitment to our staff team's Continuous Professional Development (CPD) to support Playskill's growth and development agenda.
- Our Senior Management Team will be staffed with expertise across critical areas including clinical, fundraising, leadership and governance
- Continue to prioritise staff wellbeing to ensure Playskill remains a valued and desired workplace for anyone wanting to improve the outcomes of physically disabled children and their families.

Objective 4

To develop a sustainable funding model.

In 2024:

We were delighted to have been chosen to participate in Hertfordshire Community Fund's Building Effectiveness programme, supporting the development of our new 3-year Business Plan. This will form the basis of a sustainable model for growth, more vital as we face an increasingly challenging funding landscape. 2024 saw our highest recorded income which will allow us to invest in more diverse fundraising programmes in order to reduce our reliance on restricted funds. We know there are more families in need of our services and income needs to grow to continue to meet this demand.

In 2025 we will:

- Invest in Playskill solus events to maximise stewardship and income potential
- Grow our unrestricted income stream
- Develop our Corporate Fundraising programme working with local companies invested in the work we do

Our People

Playskill is its people, our outstanding work with families would not be possible without the brilliant team that surrounds them.

PLAYSKILL

Trustees' Report (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

In 2024:

- We recruited a new Senior Management Team with expertise across vital areas of Playskill's work including Clinical, Fundraising, Leadership and Governance
- We continued to support the professional development of key staff by introducing a more user-friendly eLearning platform
- We participated in management and leadership programmes delivered by NCVQ, Hertfordshire Community Foundation, the Cranfield Trust and the Windsor Leadership Programme
- Our staff survey found that 81% of staff found their colleagues supportive

Staff Remuneration Policy

The pay of all staff is reviewed annually by the Remuneration Committee and benchmarks against similar sized charities. A new pay and reward strategy is currently being developed.

Volunteers

This year Playskill has benefitted once again from the generosity of our volunteer base. Alongside our Board of Trustees, we have also had corporate and community volunteer support across our family social events, through the delivery of parent training and help to raise much needed funds and awareness of our work. In total, 36 volunteers have donated 1,246 hours of their time to help us drive the organisation forward and we thank them whole heartedly for their incredible efforts.

Financial Review

Income	Expenditure	Net Surplus 2024	Net Surplus 2023
£599,482	£504,505	£94,977	£20,843

Income

Total income raised in 2024 was £599,482 compared with £541,007 in 2023 (11% increase) due to the uplift in our Corporate, Challenge and Events income. We were delighted to have partnered with local organisations helping to raise our profile and income throughout the year. We also hosted our first solus charity golf day at the prestigious Grove Golf Club, generously match funded by Helping Herts.

Expenditure

Total expenditure for the year was £505,287, down from £520,164 in 2023 by reducing our overhead costs through the careful management of external suppliers.

Summary of Reserves

The total reserves as at 31st December 2024 were £378,283 (2023 figure £283,306).

Of these reserves, £6,450 was the cost of fixed assets, £45,440 was restricted by donors, leaving unrestricted reserves of £332,843.

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Trustees' Report (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Reserves Policy

Playskill is totally reliant on charitable funding thus ideally, unrestricted reserves of six to eight months operating costs plus some partial funding to ensure vital core services to families can continue are held to allow for the necessary lead in time to securing funding and planning for future expansion. Unrestricted free reserves totalled £332,843 as of 31st December 2024 (2023: £134,278). Following a reserve policy update to cover the cost of honouring staff redundancy and other contractual liabilities of the charity within the reserve policy, the remaining reserves equate to 4.9 months of cover, which the Trustees consider to be adequate for the charity's needs. The Trustees will review the Reserves Policy annually.

Financial sustainability and going concern.

The Trustees have reviewed the accounts, fundraising and activity plans for 2025 and our current reserves position and based on these figures have a reasonable expectation that Playskill will remain a going concern for the 12 months from the signature date of these accounts.

Risk Management

Playskill identifies its risk profile through the Senior Management Team. This covers strategic and operational risk and is reviewed by the Trustees at each quarterly Board meeting via our comprehensive risk register. Risks rated high are:

1. Difficulty in filling child group places

Recently acquired data tells us there are approximately 150 pre-school children with physical disabilities eligible for Playskill services resident in Hertfordshire. We currently support c45-50 unique families per term. We are also aware that many of the families are living in parts of the County not in easy reach of our current locations and that families struggle with transport both in terms of poor links East to West and because many cannot afford driving lessons or run a car. Our largest referrer has confirmed transport difficulties as the largest barrier to families travelling to us. This has resulted in a complete evaluation of our work and the way in which we are best able to meet the emerging needs of the families we support. In the past a guaranteed place in one of our groups was the only entry into the charity and the route to accessing further services but this year as we saw more families turning away a place because of their inability to travel, we have concluded that denying them all services as a result was in opposition to the organisations values. Instead, we knew we could (at relatively low cost) offer 1:1 online support, access to training - predominantly delivered online and spaces on social events often scattered more widely across the County. We will be piloting these options in 2025 and monitoring take up closely.

2. Loss of major grants funding

We have an exceptionally experienced fundraising team, strengthened this year with the recruitment of a Corporate Fundraising specialist. Our fundraising and communications strategy is based on diversifying our income focusing on building our unrestricted funding to

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Trustees' Report (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

reduce our reliability on restricted trust/foundation giving. We have begun to make notable inroads in 2024 and will continue in 2025.

Structure, Governance and Management

Playskill is registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (Charity Number 1198233).

The Board of Trustees is legally responsible for directing the affairs of the Charity. The Board comprises of nine Trustees as at 31st December 2024. Trustees have a wide range of skills and experience appropriate to the governance of the activities of Playskill. In accordance with the Constitution there shall be no fewer than three Trustees at any one time. No Trustee received remunerations from the Charity.

New Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Trustee Onboarding Process and are interviewed by the Chair and CEO and have the opportunity to meet all other Trustees. New Trustees receive an extensive induction including being provided with copies of Statutory accounts, copy of our Constitution, the Charity Commission's Trustee Guidance key internal documents and access to online training. They are introduced to key staff members and links made where skills align. Trustees also undertake regular training and are asked to participate in an annual Trustee away day. Board meetings take place quarterly, both face to face and online (as allowed by our Constitution). The Board aims to ensure there is a good balance of Trustees who are diverse in nature and experience.

Trustees can join sub-committees which include:

- Financial Working Group
- Playskill as an Employer Working Group
- Clinical Care Working Group

Delegation and Decision Making

Operational decisions are taken by the Senior Management Team.

The Senior Management Team comprises the Chief Executive Officer, Head of Family Services, Head of Development, Head of Clinical Care and Head of Fundraising.

Strategic initiatives, approval of the annual budget, as well as new appointments are key matters requiring Board sign off.

Statement of Trustee Responsibilities

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

The law applicable to charities requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the

PLAYSKILL

Trustees' Report (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the provisions of the constitution. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

PLAYSKILL

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF PLAYSKILL

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2024, which are set out on pages 13 to 22.

Responsibilities and basis of report

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:


- (i) examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- (ii) to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- (iii) to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Independent examiners statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- (i) the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- (ii) the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
- (iii) the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a "true and fair" view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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


N J Keye FCCA CTA

Date: 11 September 2025

Freeman Baker Associates
Accountants & Registered Auditors
The Old Church
48 Verulam Road
St Albans
Hertfordshire
AL3 4DH

PLAYSKILL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		Funds	Funds	2024	2023
		£	£	£	£
Income & Expenditure					
Income from:					
Donations and Legacies	(2 & 3)	291,491	306,527	598,018	535,096
Charitable Activities		-	-	-	91
Investments	(4)	1,464	-	1,464	820
Surplus on Disposal of Van		-	-	-	5,000
Total Incoming Resources		<u>292,955</u>	<u>306,527</u>	<u>599,482</u>	<u>541,007</u>
Resources Expended					
Raising funds	(5)	38,005	69,675	107,680	86,985
Charitable Activities	(6 & 7)	56,385	340,440	396,825	433,179
		<u>94,390</u>	<u>410,115</u>	<u>504,505</u>	<u>520,164</u>
Net Surpluses/(Deficit)		198,565	(103,588)	94,977	20,843
Reconciliation of Funds					
Funds brought forward		134,278	149,028	283,306	262,463
Funds carried forward		<u>332,843</u>	<u>45,440</u>	<u>378,283</u>	<u>283,306</u>

All activities relate to continuing operations.

All recognised gains and losses are included in the above Statement of Financial Activities.

The notes on pages 15 to 22 form part of these statements.

PLAYSKILL

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	(10)	<u>6,450</u>	<u>7,020</u>
Current Assets			
Debtors	(11)	12,710	1,246
Bank Accounts		<u>379,285</u>	<u>294,725</u>
		391,995	295,971
Creditors Falling Due within one year	(12)	<u>(20,162)</u>	<u>(19,685)</u>
Net Current Assets		371,833	276,286
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		<u>378,283</u>	<u>283,306</u>
Income Funds			
Restricted Funds	(13)	45,440	149,028
Unrestricted Funds		332,843	134,278
		<u>378,283</u>	<u>283,306</u>

The accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees on 10 September 2025:



Charlotte Kohnhorst
(Co-Chair of Trustees)



Vicky Greig
(Co-Chair of Trustees)

PLAYSKILL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

1. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared for the year ended 31 December 2024 under the historical cost convention. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with The Charities Act 2011, Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Incoming resources

Donations, legacies and other forms of voluntary income are recognised as incoming resources when receivable, except insofar as they are incapable of financial measurement.

Revenue grants are credited to the income and expenditure account as received, unless related to a specific period, when they are shown as accrued or deferred income until the relevant period occurs unless specifically agreed otherwise with the funder.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures, fittings & equipment	3 years
Shed/Store cupboard	10 years
Motor vehicles	4 years

PLAYSKILL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
2. Donations Unrestricted		
Barratt Homes	43,654	-
Charities Aid Foundation	23,291	10,698
Childrens Welfare Trust	10,000	-
Helping Herts (inc. Stort Valley Rotary)	23,161	21,652
West Herts Golf Club	7,000	-
Just Giving	34,217	22,611
Moor Park Golf Club	24,554	50,586
Postcode Community PCT	50,000	-
	215,877	105,547
Other Smaller Donations	75,614	48,946
	291,491	154,493

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
3. Grants Restricted		
Archer Trust	-	3,000
Bartle Family Trust	-	500
Beatrice Laing Foundation	2,500	-
Berkhamsted Rotary Club	1,500	1,500
Children in Need	30,476	33,804
Childwick Trust	-	10,000
Childrens Welfare Trust	-	10,000
Dacorum Borough Council	3,000	-
Downing LLP	-	2,033
E M Souter	-	3,000
February Foundation	5,000	5,000
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	25,000
Global MSN	36,667	-
Hadley Trust	12,000	13,000
Henry Smith Foundation	69,600	-
Hertfordshire Community Foundation	5,000	9,742
Hertfordshire County Council	500	2,500
LIV Golf	-	100,000
Masonic Foundation	20,000	-
Mencop	5,000	-
National Lottery	96,953	100,524
National Lottery – Awards for All	-	20,000
Postcode Places Trust	-	25,000
Shanly Foundation	-	4,000
Simon Gibson Trust	5,000	-
St James Place Foundation	5,000	-
T&D O'Brien	-	10,000
TK Maxx	-	500
Watford & Three Rivers Trust	3,331	1,500
Other Grants	5,000	-
	306,527	380,603

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

4. Investments

	2024	2023
	£	£
Interest Receivable	1,464	820

5. Costs of Raising Funds

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024 Total	2023 Total
			Total	
	£	£	£	£
Costs of raising donations & legacies	20,959	4,712	25,671	13,165
Salary costs	17,046	64,963	82,009	73,820
Total	38,005	69,675	107,680	86,985

6. Expenditure of Charitable Activities by fund type

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024 Total	2023 Total
	Funds	Funds	£	£
	£	£		
Direct Costs	29,943	263,461	293,404	351,535
Support Costs	26,442	76,979	103,421	81,644
Total	56,385	340,440	396,825	433,179

7. Expenditure of Charitable Activities by activity type

	Direct costs	Support	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£
Main group sessions	264,594	103,421	368,015	355,825
Parent Support & Events	24,526	-	24,526	68,768
Governance	-	4,284	4,284	8,586
Total	289,120	107,705	396,825	433,179

PLAYSKILL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

8. Governance costs

	Unrestricted		Restricted	
	Funds	£	Funds	£
Independent Examiner's fee	1,043	379	1,422	1,170
AGM Expenses	667	-	667	438
Professional Fees	-	2,110	2,110	6,883
Trustee Expenses	85	-	85	95
Total	1,795	2,489	4,284	8,586

No Trustees were paid or reimbursed for travelling expenses (£2023 ENII)

9. Staff costs

	Unrestricted		Restricted	
	Funds	£	Funds	£
Wages and salaries	39,975	333,381	373,356	359,907
Social Security costs	5,230	12,242	17,472	15,448
Employer contributions to pension plans	2,567	3,608	6,175	6,371
Total	47,772	349,231	397,003	381,726

CEO

Salary

Employers' Pension Contributions

Total Remuneration

	60,704			
	1,321			
	62,024			
	2024	2023		
Full Time	Number	Number		
	1	1		
Part Time	30	36		
	31	37		

PLAYSKILL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

10. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Storage Cupboard £	Shed £	Office Equipment £	Total £
Cost				
As at 1st January 2024	7,800	663	3,490	11,953
Additions	-	-	270	270
Disposals	-	-	-	-
As at 31st December 2024	<u>7,800</u>	<u>663</u>	<u>3,760</u>	<u>12,223</u>

Depreciation

As at 1st January 2024	780	663	3,490	4,933
Charge for the Year	780	-	60	840
Disposals	-	-	-	-
As at 31st December 2024	<u>1,560</u>	<u>663</u>	<u>3,550</u>	<u>5,773</u>

Net Book Value

As at 1st January 2024	<u>7,020</u>	-	-	<u>7,020</u>
As at 31st December 2024	<u>6,240</u>	-	<u>210</u>	<u>6,450</u>

11. Debtors

Deferred Income	£	2024	£	2023
Other Debtors	10,000		-	
	2,710		1,246	
	<u>12,710</u>		<u>1,246</u>	

12. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

Trade Creditors	£	2024	£	2023
Accruals	10,301		3,978	
	9,861		15,707	
	<u>20,162</u>		<u>19,685</u>	

PLAYSKILL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

13. Restricted Funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balance of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes.

	As at 1st Jan		Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	As at 31st Dec 2024	
	2024	£			£	£
National Lottery new 5yr grant	-	-	96,953	96,953	-	-
CIN main grant	-	-	17,143	17,143	-	-
CIN main grant 2	-	-	13,333	13,333	-	-
Beatrice Laing Foundation	-	-	2,500	2,500	-	-
Berkhamsted Rotary club	1,095	-	1,500	2,595	-	-
Dacorum BC	-	-	3,000	1,200	-	1,800
February Foundation 2nd	-	-	5,000	5,000	-	-
Fence club	370	-	-	370	-	-
Garfield Weston	16,649	-	-	16,649	-	-
Global Make some noise	-	-	36,667	35,200	-	1,467
Greggs	508	-	12,000	508	-	-
Hadley Trust	-	-	-	7,000	-	5,000
HCF -	6,975	-	-	6,975	-	-
HCF - Hertfordshire Community Foundation	-	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
Henry Smith charity	-	-	69,600	52,200	-	17,400
Herts County Council (locality)	661	-	-	661	-	-
Herts County Council (locality)	153	-	-	153	-	-
Herts County Council (locality)	26	500	-	526	-	-
Herts County Council (locality)	597	-	-	597	-	-
LIV GOLF	68,708	-	-	68,708	-	-
Masonic Foundation	-	-	20,000	6,667	-	13,333
Mencop	-	-	5,000	5,000	-	-
National Lottery - awards for all	20,000	-	-	20,000	-	-
O'Brien fund	5,000	-	-	5,000	-	-
Postcode places trust	16,325	-	-	16,325	-	-
Robert Clutterbuck Foundation	215	-	-	215	-	-
Simon Gibbs Trust	-	-	5,000	5,000	-	-
Skipton BS	240	-	-	240	-	-
St James Place	-	-	5,000	5,000	-	-
Watford & 3 Rivers Trust	1,187	-	-	1,187	-	-
Watford Borough Council	-	-	3,331	1,891	-	1,440
Other Grants	10,319	-	5,000	15,319	-	-
	149,028		306,527	410,115		45,440

PLAYSKILL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

14. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Fund balances at 31 December 2024 are represented by:			
Tangible Fixed Assets	6,450		6,450
Current Assets	346,555	45,440	391,995
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(20,162)		(20,162)

332,843	45,440	378,283
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PLAYSKILL

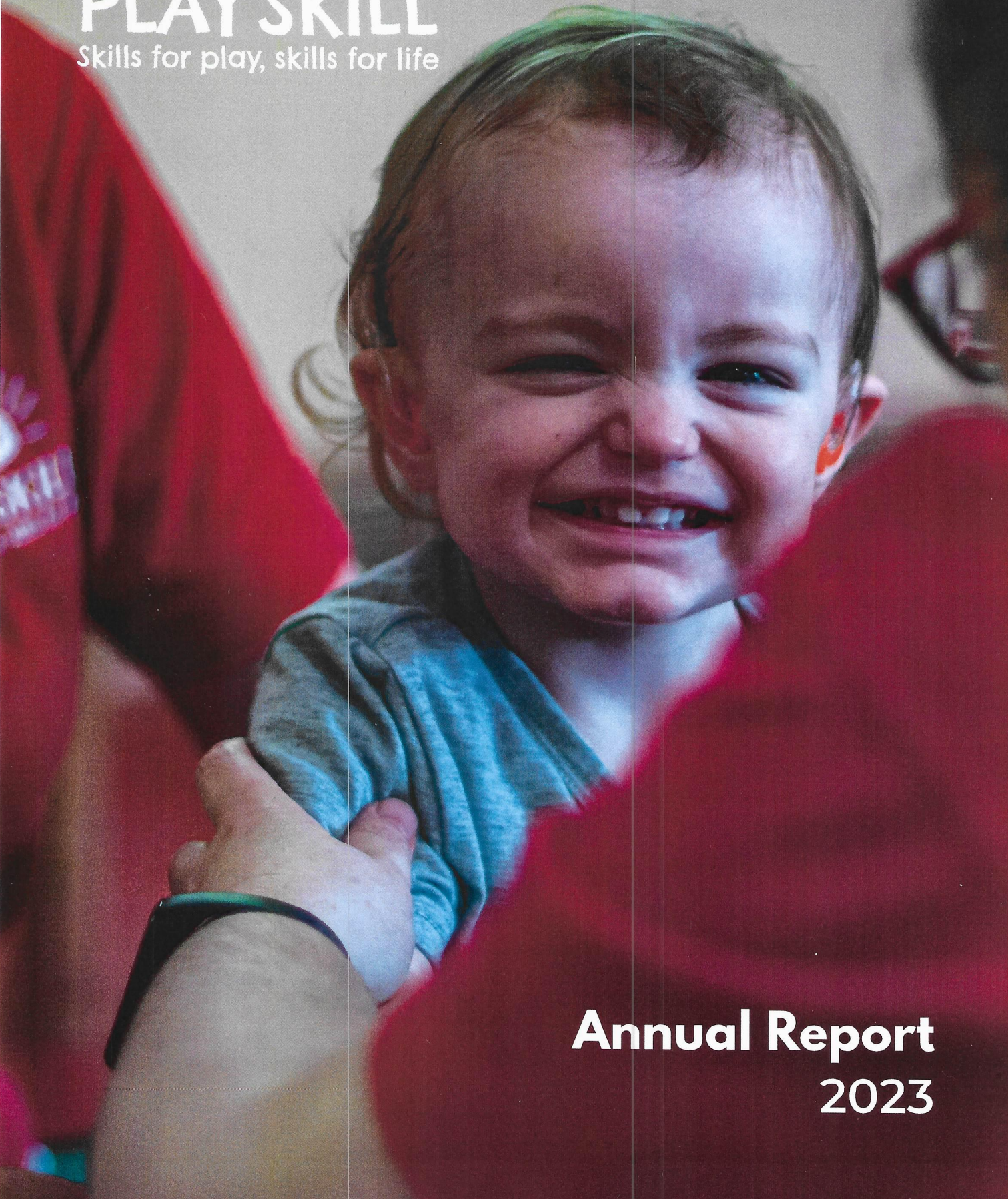
England & Wales - Charity number 1198233

Accounts



PLAY SKILL

Skills for play, skills for life



Annual Report
2023

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Chair's Foreward



Playskill started operating 17 years ago, since then our charity has grown and become a leader in the field of early specialist intervention, supporting children with physical disabilities/difficulties and their families.

We are highly respected as a contributor to society in Hertfordshire.

What follows is a review of key events in 2023 and our view of the future.

I am pleased to report that we are financially sound, well managed, and focussed. The Playskill team has kept us up-to-date with all the changes which have happened since then. They look at innovations and where we judge outcomes will be improved, we research and trial.

There is much development which is exciting. The Playskill team has the vision, imagination, determination, and the will to do the best possible for our children and parents.

The best realistic view of our financial performance is to take a two-year view of the 2022 & 2023 period. We operated at near to break-even over these two years. For financial and accounting reasons income is shown in the years of receipt not of expenditure. This resulted in a deficit in 2022 of almost £30k, which was balanced by a surplus in 2023 of almost £21k, producing a near break-even result over the two years. Considering the changes during this period I consider this a good result.

However, our reserves are below where we would like them to be at £134,278 (2022, £193,457) and their restoration over the next few years is planned to be achieved by the actions described later in the action plan for 2024 and beyond.

Inflation being at a higher level than envisaged has affected us in the same way as everybody else. With total spend for the organisation exceeding £500k for the first time and is why fund raising and efficient operation is such a priority.

We are excited that in 2024 we open our seventh group, Maylands, which will be based in Adeyfield, Hemel Hempstead. This will allow us to increase by eight, +16%, the number of children we treat and families we support.

We have a very close relationship with our families to make sure that we are aware of the problems they face. We keep ourselves up-to-date with changes in the provision of services and benefits so that we can provide guidance and communicate with them in the media they use. As just one example you can now choose to attend our powerful and popular AGM's in person or via a link which brings us live into your home.

We talk with and listen to our parents and what they tell us is that the parent support we give to them is just as important as the other services we offer to their children. Our support covers many different activities, from the mums/dads chats over coffee during the treatment break, to the parents' social events, to signposting their way to the assistance they are entitled to from social services, local and national government. We plan to increase the support programmes we offer in the future.

We keep our long term strategy under continuous review and summarise it as:-

Maintaining established core values which are continuously improved with new thinking.

We are proud that we support our families very well, our resolve for the future is to do this even better and in more locations.

To achieve this, we decided that Playskill needed a full time CEO to lead our development plan. We appointed an external specialist recruitment company to manage the search.

Niki Michael took on the permanent role of CEO in December 2023, having been in the interim role since March, and Head of Fundraising for four years prior. We congratulate her on the appointment.

This review of 2023 has to include Andrea. Andrea Clarke was the founder, creator, and driving force behind Playskill for 17 years. It has been my pleasure to work with her as Chair for the last nine years. I have worked with and managed many talented people but I have never before found her combination of drive, dedication, determination, vision, technical skill, and compassion. To our regret Andrea decided that the time had come for new challenges. We all thank her for what she achieved and we promise her that we will continue her work and that Playskill will continue to flourish.

The Trustees team recognise that our role is first and foremost the care, development, and welfare of our children and their parents.

We have a clear strategy for the future, however we know that we live in a fast changing world where the unexpected seems to have become the norm. At the end of each year we review and discuss where our strategy might need refreshing. We discuss if the rate of development continues to look correct for the next year, what lessons we have learned during the year, and how should we maintain and improve the outcomes we achieve for treatment and support.

After our review of 2023 we made these decisions for 2024 and beyond which were formulated in to our plan for the year.

THE THERAPY - we reconfirmed our commitment that therapy and support will remain free.

TO EXPAND at the pace which operational and financial capabilities allow.

THE THERAPY and SUPPORT STANDARDS - we achieve high quality standards of therapy and parent support now. Our team will research and trial innovations so that our work is continuously improved so that we achieve and beat our SMART targets and remain a leader in our field.

WORK SMARTER - we will establish a team to examine and improve the operational efficiency detail of the way we operate.

FUNDRAISING income is the engine room of Playskill. Our team have done great work to beat our 2023 target. They are charged with continually refreshing and innovating so that existing donors are cherished and new supporters are welcomed to see and support our work.

At the AGM we said goodbye and gave a sincere thank you to three of our Trustee team, Judy Cansdale, Dina Corcoran, and Gill Waceba. My personal thanks go to them all.

Judy Cansdale joined as a Trustee in 2014 and we will miss her wise voice and down to earth common sense. Her nursing and family experience coupled to her warm and reassuring approach has always been appreciated by parents during her frequent visits to sessions. Her smiling and self-deprecating views provided me with an appreciated gentle restraining hand when it was necessary.

Dina Corcoran joined us in 2020. She has had a long association with Playskill as a parent. She was enthusiastic to give back as a Trustee where her experience as a speech and language therapist, a businesswoman, and a mum was invaluable to the work of our team as she championed the cause of our children and their parents.

Gill Waceba agreed to stand as a trustee in 2020. For ten years we had a close working relationship whilst she was head of Woodfield School for special needs during the period when Woodfield was Playskill's home in Hemel. Her experience of school management and working with children with special needs and their parents brought us new insights and wisdom. She has been a tower of strength providing invaluable support to me and the Trustee board.

We also elected and said hello to Vicky Greig, Vinay Lalsodagar, Vimal Parmar, and Emma Shumake. We also agreed for Lucy Sharpe to stay on for an additional two years despite having served for the maximum recommended by the Charity Commission. The backgrounds of our new Trustees cover education, finance, marketing, and technology. Of particular value is that two of them are current Playskill parents. Each has personal experience appropriate to our operation and we look forward to the new wisdom and ideas they will bring

Re-invigoration with new people and ideas is essential to maintain a successful charity and I am pleased to report that Playskill is starting 2024 with a new CEO, many new senior members of the management team, and four new Trustees.

My thanks go to all our Trustees, management, and volunteers for their continued support and efforts which have this year gone far beyond what might be expected from them.

As a team we work together to make the lives of our children and their parents better.



Stuart Soloway
Chair of Trustees

Impact Report 2023



PLAYSKILL
Skills for play, skills for life

Playskill is a local charity supporting pre-school children with physical disabilities & delays in Hertfordshire, and their families.

The unique one-stop-shop service offers a free term-time specialist playgroup with expert physical therapies; vital support and training for parents; an all-important network of fellow parents; and respite events for the whole family all year round.

Playskill relies on grants and donations in order to keep its valuable and much needed services running.



A. c/o Adeyfield Free Church Centre, Maylands Avenue,
Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire HP2 4GZ

Registered charity number (CIO) 1198233
(formerly no: 1122745, established 2006)

Welcome

In 2023 we were not only proud to have supported 100 children and their families over the year, but to have also achieved a record income for the Charity, for the first time exceeding £500,000.

I am hugely privileged to be able to see the impact of the work we do with families every day. Each time I walk into one of our group sessions I am filled with pride. The warmth resonates from the room as I watch the children learning new skills, making friends, demonstrating to us all that where there's a will there's a way. The families come to us at a time of great challenge but leave us more resilient, filled with hope for the future and with an arsenal of skills, friends and knowledge to help guide them on their forward journeys. Being even a small part of that is what sustains all of the staff here and drives us to continue to provide the best specialist early intervention service we can.

We secured our highest number of corporate and community partnerships, demonstrating just how impactful our service is. From high profile media support as one of the Global Make Some Noise charities, to partnerships with major names - Barratt Homes and The Grove, to the largest ever single donation from a community group in the charity's history from Moor Park Golf Club. We've accomplished this during a challenging time for the fundraising sector, whilst receiving no statutory funding and relying entirely on donations to keep services free to families.



Changes to Playskill's management team were made to meet the increased demands on our infrastructure and governance as the charity moved from a small to medium size charity. Playskill recruited its first CEO, addressing these needs and the charity's long-term development. I am proud to have been in this role permanently since December 2023, having been in the interimpost since the Spring and part of the charity as Head of Fundraising for some five years. A new Head of Family Services role brings together all elements of our frontline support – from group therapies to training, one to one support to respite events. Along with a newly created Head of Development role focusing on collaborating with other essential services to promote our work, seek out new innovation and signpost for a wider offering of support to our families.

2023 also saw the sad departure of the charity's Founder, Andrea Clarke MBE, whose extraordinary work has changed the lives of hundreds of Playskill children and their families over the past 17 years. The team continues to drive Playskill forward, maintaining Andrea's vision and supporting more families than ever before. **We will forever be in her debt for setting us on this path.**

During the Summer the charity's office moved from Watford to Hemel Hempstead, now operating from the same location as the Hemel based groups. Still based firmly in Hertfordshire, **the charity continues to be the only service of its kind in the county.**

Four new Trustees joined the board, bringing both lived experience of having and working with children with physical disabilities, and a broad range of professional expertise across a variety of sectors. With several trustees standing down after a long tenure at November's AGM, the board remains at full capacity, strong and focused on the challenges that lay ahead.


The latter part of the year finalised plans for a seventh group ready to open its doors at the start of the new year, another milestone for the charity.

We recognise the part that each and every one of our staff, donors, volunteers, trusts, foundations and fundraisers play in Playskill's success. The stories and quotes in this report demonstrate the difference we make. **We thank everyone for enabling this small but mighty charity to keep changing lives.** I remain honoured to lead it.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Niki Michael". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Niki Michael, CEO

2023 in numbers

100 

children with physical disability/difficulty and their families supported in groups and through Springboard

87% 

of children's SMART targets (in the areas of gross-motor, fine-motor, and communication) were achieved in groups

92% 

of parents/carers said they had **learnt skills** to carry on with their child; and **increased confidence** in how to support them

57 

families assisted by our Parent Support Team

93 

parents/carers attended **29** training sessions

16 

social/respite events, attended by **334** family members

Since Playskill began in 2006 we have supported more than 450 children and their families.

In 2023 our work was made possible by:

35 

dedicated members of part-time staff (11 full-time equivalent)

41 

volunteers, who generously gave an estimated

2,431 hours of support

a skilled Trustee and Leadership team, with more than

44% 

having lived experience of disability/caring

Owen's Story

“ Owen is nearly three and has been attending for almost two years. Owen's NHS physiotherapist recommended I get in touch with Playskill when I asked what other support was available locally. At that time we were just confirming Owen's diagnosis of cerebral palsy so things felt very uncertain.

Owen and his twin brother were born extremely prematurely and we'd always been told they would catch up in time. But after they'd been home from hospital a few months it became clear that Jamie was starting to meet his milestones but Owen was still not able to sit up, wasn't really crawling and rarely used his right arm. We still don't know what the future will look like and whether he'll walk on his own at all, but we're putting the support in place for him to have a happy life regardless and Playskill has been a big part of that.

Outside of Playskill, Owen has NHS physio and occupational therapy sessions. We have also done some private physiotherapy but it is very difficult to find adults that Owen trusts and builds a rapport with. At Playskill the team are endlessly patient and reassuring with him and he is now confident in sessions with the people he knows. This

building of confidence is a huge thing for Owen - it's hard for him to engage when playing with his peers in a lot of settings as he can't run around with them, but Playskill gives him a chance to interact with other children.

As a parent, coming to Playskill every week is a lifeline. It's very hard to find activities suitable for twins with very different physical abilities and I love that both boys are welcomed in the sessions. It's helped me build a network of friendly parents facing similar challenges and being able to talk to them over coffee while the kids carry on with the session has given me access to lots of information that I didn't know I was missing. The parent advisers have also given me some really helpful support through the process of getting Owen's EHCP - I don't know how I would have navigated it on my own.

Playskill is an amazing resource that we are so lucky to have. The therapists and volunteers get excited with us about things that others wouldn't understand, like Owen learning to open a container or do up a zip! It's so encouraging to have this community cheering us on.

– Natasha, Owen's mum



Playskill Groups

Children attend our free term-time groups with their parents/carers where they receive expert support from a physiotherapist, as well as an occupational therapist and speech and language therapist. Each group session uses play as a tool for development (including messy play, sensory activities and soft play) helping children to gain key skills, confidence and independence. Parents are trained to replicate the therapies at home to maximise impact.

“We’re so grateful for the huge changes we’ve seen in our son’s development.”

Across our six groups:

65
children and families were supported in group sessions

26
new children & families in 2023

87%
of children’s SMART targets set were achieved

Our end-of-term parent questionnaires showed:

Parents who ‘strongly agreed’ or ‘agreed’ with the following statements:

Over this term at Playskill:

I have seen changes in my child’s ability to **communicate**:



74%

I have seen changes in my child’s ability to **use their hands to play**:



81%

I have seen other **physical signs of progress** in my child:



86%

Playskill helps my child to:

Improve emotional and/or mental wellbeing:



76%

Be more independent:



75%

In addition to helping the children directly, Playskill also supports parents and carers through hands on modelling and advice from therapists and specialist workers in the weekly sessions.

92%

of parents/carers had increased confidence in how to support their child

91%

felt they had learnt skills to carry on with their child

70%

said they would implement the skills they had learnt on a daily basis

“ It’s sad that groups like Playskill aren’t more widely available. It can be scary joining a new group but you’ll wonder why you didn’t join sooner. It will open your eyes to your child’s progression and give you hope, which we all need.

“ Gives me encouragement to keep fighting when you feel like you are running on empty.



Supporting parents and families

Parents tell us of the struggle they face trying to find information and access services and support they need, and are entitled to. This can cause stress and anxiety and leave some families in financial hardship.

Our **free Parent Support Team** and **parent training** are key to helping parents/carers navigate a range of health, education, care, financial, legal and emotional challenges. **Parent Support** offer free personalised advice on a range of often complex and confusing matters. In addition there are **remote and face-to-face training sessions** delivered by experts in their field, aimed at developing parent/carers knowledge, skills, resources and confidence to support their child.

57 

families were helped by our Parent Support Team, many on multiple issues and across multiple terms

The most common themes for support were:

1. EHCPs
2. Health
3. Monetary and benefits
4. Housing
5. Family related

30 

training sessions were attended by **180** parents/carers

98% 

of parents/carers said they had gained skills to help their child*

Training topics and content are based on the needs of children/families attending groups. In 2023 courses included **starting school; EHCP applications & assessments; managing behaviour; signing; toileting; reading; physiotherapy; sensory processing; young carers; wills, trust & power of attorney** and more.

“**The support we’ve had is priceless. All families like mine need a Playskill in their lives.**”

“ Absolutely fantastic. I am not over stating when I say what we learnt on the training session could be life changing for us.

“ Parent support is wonderful at Playskill. We feel part of a family, cared for and supported.



Sara's story

Sara was born prematurely at 24 weeks and is now two years old. Being born so early impacted her gross motor skills development so our health visitor recommended Playskill.

“ Before joining, Sara seemed reserved and unsure, lacking awareness and simple reactions, enjoyment, and movement. **Once we started Playskill I gained valuable insights in to how to communicate with my baby and teach her essential skills.** It has made managing and nurturing her development much easier for me. She is learning a lot and there are noticeable changes in her behaviour as she becomes more aware of things. I was initially quite anxious about my baby but thanks to Playskill, I feel much more at ease and comfortable. My fears have completely dissipated, and I've learned how to handle different situations effectively. **Playskill is incredibly important for children's development,** and it's heartening to know that your baby, who may have special needs, is benefiting from what they offer. Play is not only a fun and enjoyable activity for kids but also a vital way for them to learn and grow. It encourages

imagination and creativity while assisting with the development of their social, cognitive and physical skills. Playskill's commitment to providing a positive and enriching experience for these kids is truly commendable, and it's wonderful to see the progress and happiness they're experiencing through these classes. Keep up the great work of supporting our child's development through play!” – **Hina, Sara's mum**



Bringing families together

Playskill brings families together through the groups and training sessions, but also by organising inclusive family outings, social and respite events.

Support networks

Connecting with other parents in a similar situation can be a great source of **practical and emotional support**, helping families cope and **reducing feelings of isolation**.



64% of parents/carers said they do not attend any other playgroups in the area

“ Thank you supporting not only Playskill children but the entire family.

Social activities and respite events

A host of **free family and social/respite events** for both current Playskill families and graduate members (past families), provide **opportunities to have fun with the whole family**, enjoy new and shared experiences, or give parents and siblings **a chance to recharge**.

365 family members joined **16** events organised by Playskill
(**78** Playskill children; **84** siblings; **203** parents)

Being able to meet up with fellow Playskill families socially helps me:

Create friendships and support networks



100%

Have a break and help my mental health



100%

Benefit from other Playskill parent's knowledge and experience



100%

Events included **whole-family** accessible **outings**, in a safe and inclusive environment, such as farm, boating and theatre trips. **Respite activities** for parents/carers, including mum's pamper evening, parent meals and dad's golf trip, and **sibling events** from go-karting to mini-golf and more.

“ It’s great to spend time with other dads who understand the day to day of looking after a child with extra needs.

“ I feel more confident and less alone.



“ Playskill parents do not judge each other, do not compare, and do not comment on what your child can’t yet do. They truly understand what we are going through and the different hurdles we have to overcome.

Long term engagement & support

Once children graduate from Playskill, families can become Graduate Members (for a nominal £20 annual subscription), enabling them to continue to access parent support, training and social/respice events.

46 

graduate members continue to be involved in our work

Cara's story

Cara is nearly five years old and has attended Playskill since she was two.

She has a rare disorder called CDG, which means there is an error in the way that sugars attach to proteins in her metabolic system. This leads to gross and fine motor skill, and speech & language disorders. There are around 10,000 people diagnosed with CDG worldwide, and although research moving forward at pace, there is no cure.

“ Cara was diagnosed at 13 months, after we started noticing a range of issues, particularly with her gross motor skills, at 6 months. It was like living in a bad dream – like all parents in this situation, we were initially in state of shock and disbelief. We also had a ten-year-old child who was old enough to be aware of all the complex emotions and, with all the attention on their new sister, it was very difficult time.

We threw ourselves in to working out what support we could find, and where from. We didn't know what would be best for Cara so we just learned as much as we could about what was out there.

Playskill was mentioned pretty early on, by a speech and language therapist we spoke to on the phone. It's a really supportive collective of expert practitioners who really know what they're doing and who blow me away with their determination to support children with additional needs. We were particularly lucky to have Playskill's support via Zoom during Covid, when all other services shut down. Once the face to face sessions re-opened, meeting and chatting to other parents and professionals was invaluable. We get anecdotal expertise and a chance to exchange advice, tips and contacts.

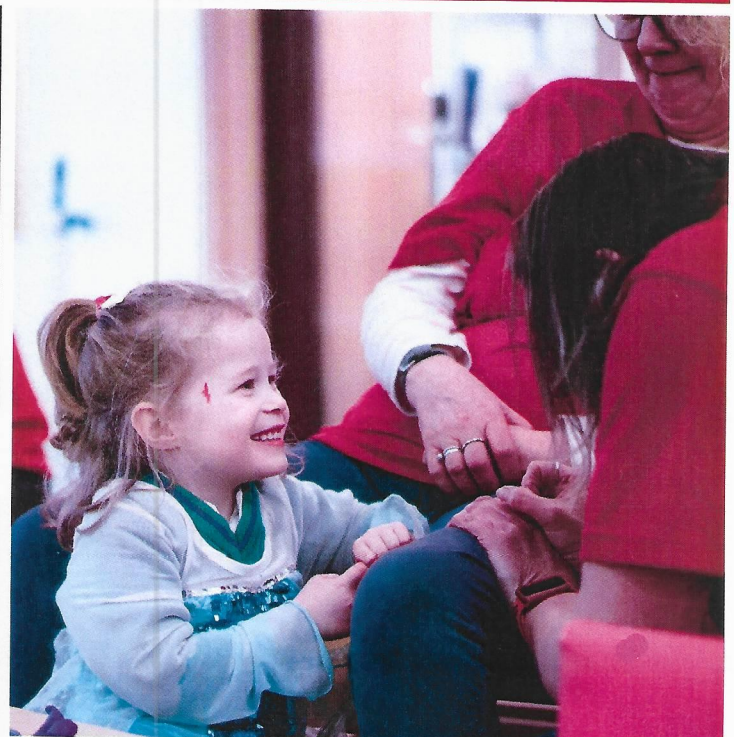
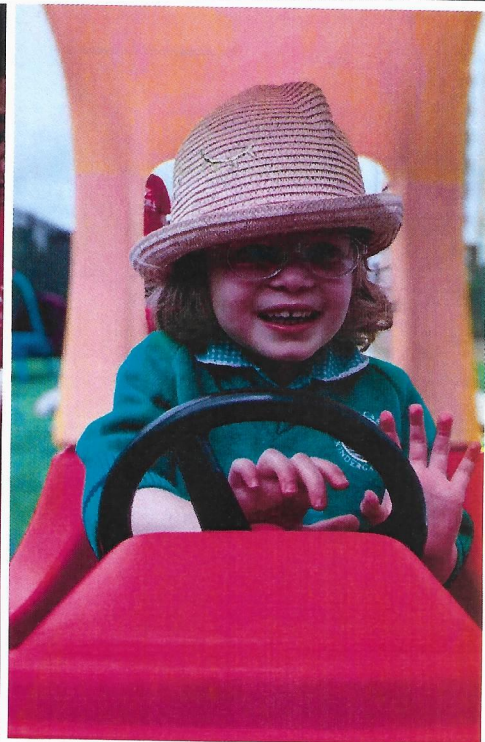
The therapists have always understood Cara, taking the time to tailor to her needs. Being flexible if she's felt upset, clingy, or has difficulty communicating. Their perseverance has paid off and it's heartwarming to see her development.

In addition to therapies and groups, Playskill's social events have a really friendly community feel. We've been able to meet staff and families outside of Cara's session, and meet children at different stages in their journey. Feeling ourselves to be part of this community has given us confidence and assertiveness to check in with expert practitioners, and a steer on where to focus our efforts when we discuss Cara's progress with other agencies – nursery, medical professionals at Great Ormond Street, NHS practitioners and the County's Children's Services.

The isolation and fear we felt in the early days has long gone and we feel more in control of our child's development with Playskill's expertise. Three years on, we continue to find all the support we can for Cara, to give her the best we can. We've learnt to celebrate the 'wins' when they come – and they seem to be keeping coming - whether it's Cara's dramatically increased mobility or the fact she is slowly beginning to use language. As a parent you're of course far too close to your child to notice the tiny changes every day, but every now and then we get a reminder. An old report, a photo or video from last year, or a relative who hasn't seen Cara in a while tells us how far she's come along. Playskill has been central to that process, and we're forever grateful.

– Tim, Cara's dad

“ A year ago, we couldn't have imagined she'd have come this far.



Reaching more children and families

Springboard

Families with disabled children are disproportionately affected by long waiting lists for vital healthcare appointments, referrals and therapies. It is vital that children with physical disabilities receive care during the crucial early intervention window (age 0 to five) when the brain is developing faster than at any other time. Through our remote Springboard support service, we rapidly assess children newly referred to Playskill, provide therapy input, advice and signposting, to help a greater number of children and families at the earliest opportunity.

Our Springboard project, introduced during the pandemic, is our early intervention tool. Through this remote support, we rapidly assess children newly referred to Playskill, provide therapy input, advice and signposting, to help a greater number of children and families at the earliest opportunity.

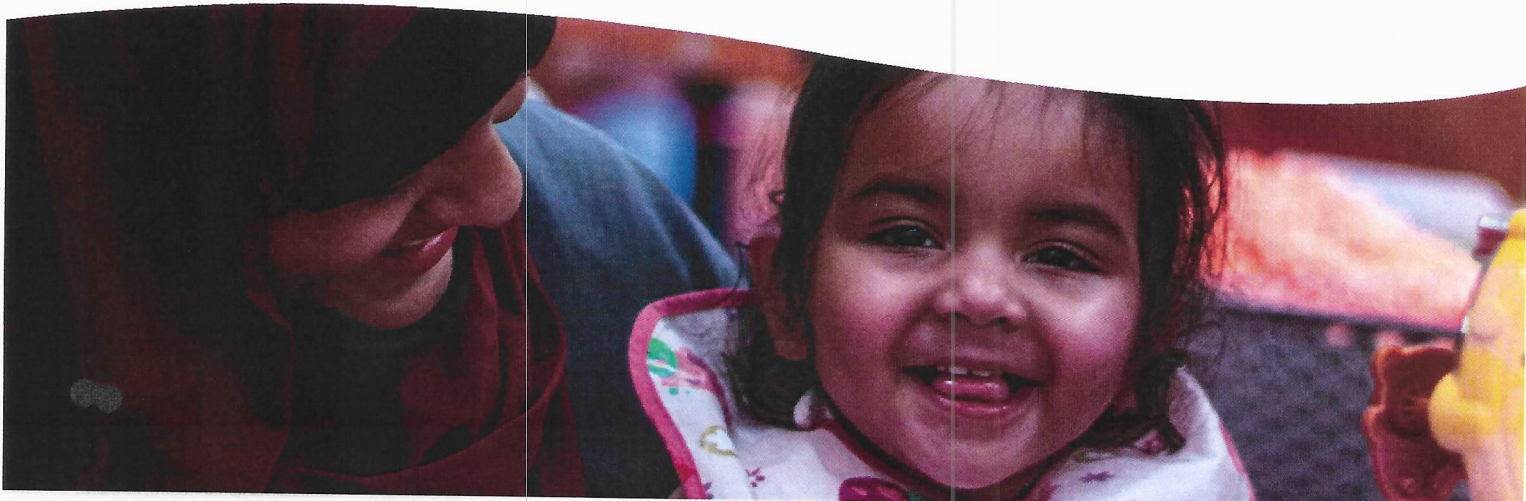
“**Playskill has surpassed my expectations as I’m getting more than therapy. I’m making new contacts & friends, learning about therapies and other services, and feel part of a community.**”

35 

children/families received early help, with remote assessment, advice and support

21 

children seen in Springboard fed in to Playskill groups, with others receiving advice & signposting



Freddie's Story

“When our son Freddie was first diagnosed with a rare condition called Polymicrogyria at six weeks old, we were suddenly thrown into an isolated world of unknowns.

We were told, due to Freddie's condition, he would be on his own developmental path, and would need a steady input of therapies to help and support him which we had slowly started to receive. However, it was our care co-ordinator Emma who first told us about Playskill who help support children with physical delays and disabilities.

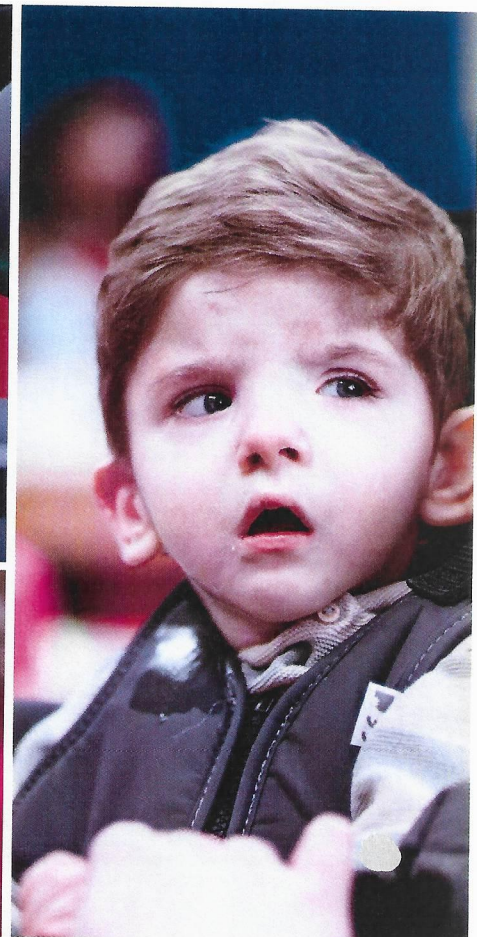
At 15 months old Freddie started at Playskill and has now been there for more than a year. We honestly don't know what we would have done without it! Week in, week out, the amazing therapists support Freddie, encouraging him to develop and progress by setting targets and goals to help him,

and us, realise his potential. The advice, knowledge and kindness of the therapists has been incredible – they truly care about the children and every small gain feels like a family achievement. The group set up for parents is also great as it allows for a coffee break to talk to other parents in similar situations, to share experiences and knowledge to support each other.

The amount Playskill gives back to families is incredible. There is professional training for parents, days out, trips to the farm and even mums' and dads' nights out to give us some much-needed time out.

We feel so lucky to be a part of the Playskill family. They are a lifeline to support us all as we navigate the unknown and help us fight for Freddie and his needs. Thank you!

– Amy, Freddie's mum



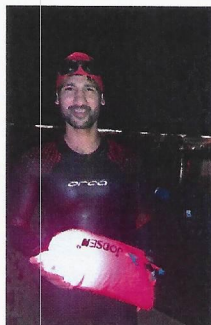
Your support

Playskill receives no government funding and we rely wholly on donations to help transform the lives of children with physical disabilities/difficulties and their families. All our services are completely free to families attending our groups.

Our committed supporters took on a wide range of challenges in 2023 to raise money for Playskill, with sponsored treks, runs, swims, marathons and half-marathons, sponsored walks... including stars of the show, the Playskill children, who took part in our annual sponsored obstacle course.

With your amazing support, Playskill raised:

£541,007
in **2023**



Our active fundraisers running, trekking, swimming and even yoga-ing!



Barratt David Wilson Homes (North Thames) charity of the year partnership raised more than £43,000.

Wear it Red, marking the charity's birthday each year.



Team Playskill's second year at the Great Big Walk for Herts, part of the Helping Herts partnership, which raised more than £14,000.



Thousands of pounds raised when children took on the annual obstacle course in groups.



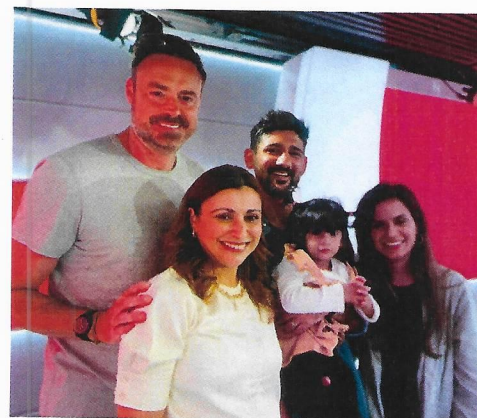
Privileged to be The Grove's first ever charity of the year for their 20th anniversary.



Christmas cheer raises almost £5,000 between gift wrapping, choirs, festive hampers and Watford's Mayor Christmas Card.



The cheques rolled in thanks to Watford Joggers, West Herts GC, Breakspear Park, CWRF, MCF, Rotary Clubs & many more.



Moor Park Golf Club Mens & Ladies Captains raised just shy of £59,000 during their centenary year - the largest ever single donation from a community group in the Charity's history.



Global's Make Some Noise supplemented their generous grant with awareness raising on Heart Breakfast and Heart Hertfordshire.



Thank you

We are immensely grateful to the many trusts, foundations, community groups, corporate partners and individuals who have generously supported our work in 2023.

To donate visit
playskill.org/donate



PLAYSKILL

Legal & Administrative Information

Trustees

S J Soloway [Chair]

N Parish

J Cansdale [Retired November 2023]

D Corcoran [Retired July 2023]

C Kohnhorst

C Neale

L Sharpe [Secretary]

G Waceba [Retired July 2023]

A York

V Greig [Appointed November 2023]

V Lalsodagar [Appointed November 2023]

V Parmar [Appointed November 2023]

E Shumake [Appointed November 2023]

Charity number 1122745

CIO number 1198233

Principal address

Sheraton House

Lower Road

Chorleywood

WD3 5LH

Postal Address

C/o Adeyfield Free Church Centre

Maylands Avenue

Hemel Hempstead

HP2 4GZ

Independent examiner

Freeman Baker Associates

The Old Church

48 Verulam Road

St Albans

AL3 4DH

Bankers

Barclays Bank plc

Croydon 2

Leicestershire

LE87 2BB

The Co-operative Bank

Skelmersdale

WN8 6WT

Metrobank

113 High Street

Watford

WD17 2DQ

PLAYSKILL

Objectives, Policies, and Activities

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's constitution, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015).

Structure

The Charity was established by a charitable trust deed on 12th February 2008 but converted to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 14th March 2022.

Independent Examiner

The Trustees appointed Freeman Baker Associates to review Playskill's financial statements and we thank them for their helpful comments during the execution of their duties. In setting our objectives and planning our activities the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The main objectives of Playskill as laid out in the Constitution are:

- 1) To promote and protect the physical and mental health of children and young people in the United Kingdom with physical difficulties/disabilities through the provision of support, education and practical advice.
- 2) To advance in life and help children and young people with physical difficulties/disabilities through:
 - a) The provision of recreational and leisure time activities provided in the interest of social welfare, designed to improve their conditions of life and the life of their families;
 - b) Providing support and activities which develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals.
- 3) To advance the education and support of carers and siblings of children and young people with physical difficulties/disabilities and of the general public and other relevant professional staff in all areas relating to the well-being of children and young people with physical difficulties/disabilities and of their families.

Treatment Free of Charge

Playskill provides its services free of charge to children with special needs aged one to five years at the point of need, irrespective of colour, race, gender or creed.

Reserves policy

Playskill is totally reliant on charitable funding thus ideally, unrestricted reserves of at least six months operating costs are held to allow for the necessary lead in time to securing funding and planning for future expansion. Current levels are below this but are being closely monitored in conjunction with restricted reserves as noted in the Chair's Foreward.

**PLAYSKILL
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF PLAYSKILL**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2023, which are set out on pages 26 to 35.

Responsibilities and basis of report

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

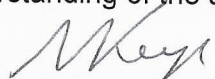
- (i) examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- (ii) to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- (iii) to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Independent examiners statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- (i) the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- (ii) the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
- (iii) the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a "true and fair" view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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


N J Keye FCCA CTA
Freeman Baker Associates
Accountants & Registered Auditors
The Old Church
48 Verulam Road
St Albans
Hertfordshire
AL3 4DH

Date:

PLAYSKILL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income from:					
Donations and Legacies	(2&3)	154,493	380,603	535,096	394,703
Charitable activities		91	-	91	672
Investments	(4)	820	-	820	187
Surplus on disposal of Van		5,000	-	5,000	-
Total incoming resources		160,404	380,603	541,007	395,562
Resources expended					
Raising funds	(5)	37,958	49,027	86,985	88,206
Charitable activities	(6&7)	181,625	251,554	433,179	337,100
Total resources expended		219,583	300,581	520,164	425,306
Net Surplus/(Deficit)		(59,179)	80,022	20,843	(29,744)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		193,457	69,006	262,463	292,207
Total funds carried forward		134,278	149,028	283,306	262,463

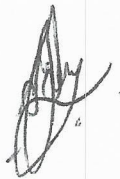
PLAYSKILL

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2023

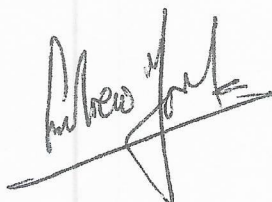
	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	(11)	7,020	7,800
Current assets			
Debtors	(12)	1,246	1,747
Bank		294,725	277,712
		295,971	279,459
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(13)	(19,685)	(24,796)
Net current assets		276,286	254,663
Total assets less current liabilities		283,306	262,463
Income funds			
Restricted funds		149,028	69,006
Unrestricted funds		134,278	193,457
		283,306	262,463

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on

S J Soloway
Trustee



A D York
Trustee



24/4/24
Any small addition errors or differences are due to rounding.

PLAYSKILL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

1. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with The Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Incoming resources

Donations, legacies and other forms of voluntary income are recognised as incoming resources when receivable, except insofar as they are incapable of financial measurement.

Revenue grants are credited to the income and expenditure account as received, unless related to a specific period, when they are shown as accrued or deferred income until the relevant period occurs unless specifically agreed otherwise with the funder.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures, fittings & equipment	over 3 years
Shed/Store cupboard	over 10 years
Motor vehicles	over 4 years

PLAYSKILL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

2. Donations - Unrestricted

	2023	2022
	£	£
A Pearce	-	500
A Clarke	907	-
AM Foundation	5,000	-
Breakspear Park	1,000	-
Charities Aid Foundation	10,698	7,996
Charities Trust	-	529
Christmas Raffle	123	787
Cream Tea Event	692	950
D Kohnhorst	701	770
Downing LLP	2,033	-
Income via Facebook	147	3,577
Helping Herts	21,652	5,357
Herts Freemasons	550	1,650
Hospital Satur	2,000	-
Josef Pieterse	-	500
Just Giving	22,611	51,039
Maybrook Properties	1,000	1,000
Moor Park Golf Club	50,586	-
Nicola Hood	787	-
Rachel Ledson	-	840
Simon Hughes	8,963	4,350
Sissel Parish	-	420
Sunnyside Church	1,500	1,300
The Grove Hotel	1,100	-
Watford Borough Council (Mayor's Christmas Cards)	2,500	-
Watford Classic Vehicle Club	800	-
Watford Joggers	1,725	-
William Tannett	625	500
Sub-total	137,700	82,065
Other smaller donations	16,793	9,847
	154,493	91,912

Justgiving income includes the following events:

Royal Parks half marathon

Helping Herts

Cotswold Way Challenge

Thames Bridge Trek

Obstacle course

Many thanks to all who raised these funds – both those taking part in the events & those who gave.

PLAYSKILL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

3. Grants - Restricted

	2023	2022
	£	£
Archer Trust	3,000	-
Bartle Family Trust	500	500
Berkhamsted Rotary Club	1,500	2,000
Card Factory	-	2,000
Charlie's Gift	-	5,700
Children in Need	33,804	31,698
Children's Welfare Trust	10,000	-
Childwick Trust	10,000	-
Dacorum Borough Council	-	5,000
Downing LLP	2,033	1,499
E M Souter	3,000	-
Edward Gostling Foundation	-	10,000
February Foundation	5,000	5,000
Fence Club	-	1,912
Garfield Weston Foundation	25,000	25,000
Hadley Trust	13,000	22,787
Health Education	-	500
Hertfordshire Community Foundation	9,742	10,000
Hertfordshire County Council	2,500	3,810
LIV Golf	100,000	-
T&D O'Brien	10,000	-
Mencop	-	5,000
National Lottery	100,524	135,939
National Lottery – Awards for All	20,000	9,946
Postcode Places Trust	25,000	-
Shanly Foundation	4,000	-
St James' Place	-	2,500
Sylvia Adams	-	10,000
TK Maxx	500	2,500
Watford Community Housing Trust	-	2,000
Watford & Three Rivers Trust	1,500	7,500
	<u>380,603</u>	<u>302,791</u>

PLAYSKILL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

4. Investments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Interest Receivable	<u>820</u>	<u>187</u>

5. Costs of Raising Funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£
Costs of raising donations & legacies	12,388	777	13,165	5,934
Salary costs	25,570	48,250	73,820	82,272
Total	<u>37,958</u>	<u>49,027</u>	<u>86,985</u>	<u>88,206</u>

6. Expenditure of Charitable Activities by fund type

	2023 Total		2023 Total	2022 Total
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£
Direct Costs	145,730	205,805	351,535	274,520
Support Costs	35,895	45,749	81,644	62,580
Total	<u>181,625</u>	<u>251,554</u>	<u>433,179</u>	<u>337,100</u>

7. Expenditure of Charitable Activities by activity type

	2023 Total		2023 Total	2022 Total
	Direct costs	Support costs	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£
Main group sessions	305,563	50,262	355,825	269,011
Parent Support & Events	37,386	31,382	68,768	64,043
Governance	8,586	0	8,586	4,046
Total	<u>351,535</u>	<u>81,644</u>	<u>433,179</u>	<u>337,100</u>

8. Analysis of support costs

	2023 Total			2023 Total	2022 Total
	Fundraising	Main group session	Parent Support & Events	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	12,364	32,559	5,339	50,262	33,903
Governance costs	7,720	20,329	3,333	31,382	28,677
Total	<u>20,084</u>	<u>52,888</u>	<u>8,672</u>	<u>81,644</u>	<u>62,580</u>

PLAYSKILL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

9. Governance costs

	2023 Total		2023 Total	2022 Total
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds		
	£	£	£	£
Independent Examiner's fee	715	455	1,170	978
AGM Expenses	363	75	438	368
Professional Fees	4,893	1,990	6,883	2,700
Trustee Expenses	95	0	95	0
Total	<u>6,066</u>	<u>2,520</u>	<u>8,586</u>	<u>4,046</u>

No Trustees were paid or reimbursed for travelling expenses (2022 Nil).

10. Staff costs

	2023 Total		2023 Total	2022 Total
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds		
	£	£	£	£
Wages and salaries	128,423	231,484	359,907	310,674
Social Security costs	3,017	12,431	15,448	9,950
Employer contributions to pension plans	2,881	3,490	6,371	6,632
Total	<u>134,321</u>	<u>247,405</u>	<u>381,726</u>	<u>327,256</u>

There were no employees whose annual emoluments were £60,000 or more.

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Part time	36	38
Full time	1	-
	<u>37</u>	<u>38</u>

PLAYSKILL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Motor Vehicle £	Store Cupboard £	Shed £	Total £
Cost				
As at 1st January 2023	5,000	7,800	663	13,463
Additions	-	-	-	-
Disposals	(5,000)	-	-	(5,000)
As at 31st December 2023	0	7,800	663	8,463
Depreciation				
As at 1st January 2023	5,000	-	663	5,663
Charge for the year	-	780	-	780
Disposals	(5,000)	-	-	(5,000)
As at 31st December 2023	0	780	663	1,443
Net Book Value				
As at 31st December 2023	0	7,020	0	7,020
As at 31st December 2022	-	7,800	-	7,800

12. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Other debtors	1,246	1,747
	1,246	1,747

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Creditors	3,978	7,560
Accruals	15,707	17,236
	19,685	24,796

PLAYSKILL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

14. Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balance of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes.

	As at 1 st Jan 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	As at 31 st Dec 2023 £
National Lottery	1	100,524	100,404	121
National Lottery Awards 4 All	5,061	20,000	5,061	20,000
Archer Trust	310	3,000	3,310	-
Bartle Family Trust	-	500	500	-
Berkhamsted Rotary Club	1,179	1,500	1,207	1,472
Card Factory Foundation	880	-	288	592
Charlie's Gift	5,700	-	5,700	-
Children in Need	1	33,804	33,721	84
Children's Welfare Trust	-	10,000	850	9,150
Childwick Trust	-	10,000	10,000	-
Downing Foundation	-	2,033	2,033	-
DWF Foundation	524	-	524	-
Edward Gostling Foundation	10,000	-	10,000	-
E M Souter	-	3,000	3,000	-
February Foundation	-	5,000	5,000	-
Fence Club	370	-	-	370
Garfield Weston Foundation	15,000	25,000	23,351	16,649
Greggs Foundation	670	-	162	508
Hadley Trust	6,116	13,000	19,116	-
Herts Comm Foundation	5,000	9,742	7,767	6,975
Herts County Council	2,287	2,500	3,354	1,433
LIV Golf	-	100,000	31,293	68,707
T&D O'Brien	-	10,000	5,000	5,000
Postcode Places Trust	-	25,000	8,675	16,325
Robert Clutterbuck	215	-	-	215
Shanly Foundation	-	4,000	4,000	-
Skipton Foundation	240	-	-	240
Sylvia Adams	10,000	-	10,000	-
TK Maxx	500	500	1,000	-
Watford & Three Rivers Trust	4,362	-	3,175	1,187
Watford Community Housing Trust	590	-	590	-
Watford Rotary	-	1,500	1,500	-
	69,006	380,603	300,581	149,028

Each of the restricted funds are to pay for Playskill agreed general expenses.

PLAYSKILL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

15. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Fund balances at 31 December 2023 are represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	-	7,020	7,020
Current assets	153,963	142,008	295,971
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(19,685)	-	(19,685)
	<u>134,278</u>	<u>149,028</u>	<u>283,306</u>

PLAYSKILL

England & Wales - Charity number 1198233

Accounts



PLAY SKILL
Skills for play, skills for life



Annual Report
2022

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Chair's Foreward



PLAYSKILL ends 2022 justifiably proud of our achievements.

First and foremost we retained our focus. What PLAYSKILL delivers is a unique style of specialist intervention for our children customised to their individual needs and designed to improve the quality of their lives and at the same time to provide support to their parents.

In this report you will read how well our specialist workers and the team have performed against the SMART targets agreed for each of our children. You will also read what our Parents have to say about the difference PLAYSKILL has made to their lives.

Using the approach we call SPRINGBOARD we have been able to follow the principles of early intervention and at the same time increase the number of children who have benefitted from PLAYSKILL'S innovative service.

We are just beginning to return to what we can call the PLAYSKILL norm, looking back over the last three years we have seen the most turbulent, challenging and stressful period for our children and parents. Their traditional support services have been reduced at a time when they have been needed most.

Through it all the magnificent PLAYSKILL team maintained our service levels by being creative, flexible, imaginative and determined.

We continue to think about the way we do things now and how we will continue to do so in the future. You will read later about the strategic thinking at our Trustees Away Day and the way that this thinking has been taken by working groups to produce plans which will shape our future.

During this we again confirmed that PLAYSKILL will not charge for the specialist therapies and support services we provide.

Financially 2022 has been challenging. Inflation has risen to levels not foreseen when the Budget was approved. Fundraising has required imagination and professionalism to meet our targets. It has been a challenging year but our fundraising team launched several new initiatives and towards the end of the year some spectacular successes have been achieved which will benefit 2023 and beyond.

Despite the difficulties I am pleased to report that as you will read PLAYSKILL ends the year financially strong.

The thanks of all the Trustees go to Andrea and her management team, our dedicated group of volunteers, our grant and donation providers, and the support of the many in Hertfordshire who have given us their support.

Stuart Soloway
Chair of Trustees



PLAYSKILL

Skills for play, skills for life

Playskill is a local charity supporting pre-school children with physical disabilities & delays in Hertfordshire, and their families.

The unique one-stop-shop service offers a free term-time specialist playgroup with expert physical therapies; vital support and training for parents; an all-important network of fellow parents; and respite events for the whole family all year round.

Playskill relies on grants and donations in order to keep its valuable and much needed services running.

Welcome

In 2022 we helped 96 children with a physical disability/difficulty and their families with more than 350 children and their families supported since Playskill's inception.

We continued to run our groups and secured funding to carry on our Springboard Project as part of our core service in 2022, further strengthening our ability to intervene at the earliest possible stage with this remote screening & signposting service.

2022 was also the **moving year** and began with a physical move to new premises, and continued with **moving goalposts** as Covid was still very much part of our lives during the first part of the year.

In January our offices and all Watford-based groups took up residency at Langley Road, owned by Watford Mencap. The move coincided with record levels of Covid sickness but once again we rose to the pandemic challenges we faced.

As the Covid cloud started to lift during the Summer term, we trialled taking two of our less vulnerable groups back to the pre-pandemic model of eight children per group. Covid restrictions led us to the reduced four-group model previously but there are so many benefits to the larger group and we were keen to offer these to families again. It became evident that Langley Road would not be a suitable long-term venue for this model due to the small rooms, so a search for new premises began.

Over the Summer it was a pleasure to run family events which are so important for creating support networks and friendships. We ran a successful Professionals Conference, a new pilot course focusing on

psychological support for our parents and restarted our face-to-face Parents Breakfasts.

Like many charities, Playskill switched to the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) charity status, resulting in a new registered charity number.

Please take the time to read the personal stories of the families we support which so perfectly demonstrate the positive impact of our service.

It is only with the support and generosity of our fundraisers, donors, supporters, volunteers, trusts and foundations that we have been able to achieve so much and continue to provide our vital service **free** to families. **Thank you.**



Andrea Clarke MBE, Playskill Director & Paediatric Physiotherapist



2022 in numbers

96 

children with physical disability/difficulty and their families supported in groups and through Springboard

87% 

of children's SMART targets (in the areas of gross-motor, fine-motor, and communication) were achieved in groups

93% 

of parents/carers said they had **learnt skills** to carry on with their child; and **increased confidence** in how to support them

56 

families assisted by our Parent Support Team

180 

parents/carers attended **29** training sessions

16 

social/respite events, attended by **334** family members

Since Playskill began in 2006 we have supported more than 350 children and their families.

In 2022 our work was made possible by:

38 

dedicated members of part-time staff (**11** full-time equivalent)

50+ 

volunteers, who generously gave an estimated **5,500** hours of support

a skilled Trustee and Leadership team, with more than

60% 

having lived experience of disability/caring

Lisa's Story

“ Our four-year-old son, Charlie, has severe global development delay, epilepsy and numerous other health issues caused by a rare genetic syndrome. We've been attending Playskill since he was one.

When we started at Playskill during COVID, the service was online. **When everything else shut down we were left alone, but Playskill was a ray of light helping us on Zoom every week.** Everything they have done for us from a physio/speech and language/occupational therapy point of view has been just great. But it's more than that. They have always been there with tissues and a cup of coffee when I'm feeling the strain of life - living with Charlie's health challenges. As do all families in our situation. It's really, really tough. **Playskill has been there for us.** They understand what we're going through and support us in so many ways. Thanks to the charity's events, I've been to the mum's meal, pamper evenings and taken my eldest son on the sibling boating trip. Spending quality time with my other children is especially important as one-on-one time can be difficult when you have a child that needs so much additional support.

During group sessions the staff are so helpful, looking after my baby so I can focus on Charlie, but at the same time allowing her to enjoy the same developmental play as Charlie.

Charlie has progressed from not being able to roll or sit up properly to taking assisted, independent steps, which has been so wonderful to see. I was crying mess when that happened – but they're on hand with the tissues and everyone is so supportive. When these milestones happen in group, the whole room cheers - it's a wonderful feeling and a supportive environment.

The group is fantastic but there's so much more outside the sessions, I don't know what I would have done without them.

When you have a disabled child, there are so many forms to fill in – and at a time when you are not in the frame of mind to be filling forms. **The Parent Support team help you through step by step.**

The team advise what you're entitled to and what you need to fight for. Sure enough, I didn't get it without a fight, but I would have never known to push so hard if it wasn't for Playskill. You're told that you're not eligible, but Playskill know you are and encourage you to keep pushing. And thanks to them I did... with a positive outcome.

Playskill have been amazing and I can't thank them enough for everything that they've done for me, Charlie and the whole family.

– Lisa



Playskill Groups

Children attend our free term-time groups with their parents/carers where they receive expert support from a physio, occupational and speech and language therapist. Each group session uses play as a tool for development (including messy play, sensory activities and soft play) helping children to gain key skills, confidence and independence. Parents are trained to replicate the therapies at home to maximise impact.

2022 was the first year since the pandemic that we were able to deliver all groups face-to-face.

“My son has completely smashed his objectives. As a family, it was really important for him to achieve these, e.g. feeding himself and saying hello!

Across our six groups:

72

children and families were supported in group sessions

31

new children & families in 2022

87%

of children's SMART targets set were achieved

Our end-of-term parent questionnaires showed*:

Parents who 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed' with the following statements:

Over this term at Playskill:

I have seen changes in my child's ability to **communicate**:



80%

I have seen changes in my child's ability to **use their hands to play**:



86%

I have seen other **physical signs of progress** in my child:



88%

Playskill helps my child to:

Improve emotional and/or mental wellbeing:



76%

Be more independent:



85%

In addition to helping the children directly, Playskill also supports parents and carers through hands on modelling and advice from therapists and specialist workers in the weekly sessions.

93%

of parents/carers had increased confidence in how to support their child

93%

felt they had learnt skills to carry on with their child

80%

said they would implement the skills they had learnt on a daily basis

**Percentages based on 118 responses to our end-of-term parent questionnaires in 2022.*

“ This group has lifted me to achieve great things with my daughter and feel confident in my family. I don’t think I would be where I am today without this support.

“ The class has really helped my daughter and given her the skills and confidence to help her achieve her potential.



Supporting parents and families

Parents tell us of the struggle they face trying to find information and access services and support they need, and are entitled to. This can cause stress and anxiety and leave some families in financial hardship.

Our **free Parent Support Team** and **parent training** are key to helping parents/carers navigate a range of health, education, care, financial, legal and emotional challenges. **Parent Support** offer free personalised advice on a range of often complex and confusing matters. In addition there are **remote and face-to-face training sessions** delivered by experts in their field, aimed at developing parent/carers knowledge, skills, resources and confidence to support their child.

56 

families were helped by our Parent Support Team, many on multiple issues and across multiple terms

The most common themes for support were:

1. Nursery/school issues
2. EHCPs
3. Family-related
4. Housing
5. Monetary and benefits

29 

training sessions were attended by **180** parents/carers

88% 

of parents/carers said they had gained skills to help their child*

96% 

said the training was relevant to their needs*

*Percentages based on 114 responses to our Parent Training Feedback Forms in 2022.

Training topics and content are based on the needs of children/families attending groups. In 2022, courses included **disability benefits advice; wills, trusts & power of attorney; attention skills; numeracy; fine motor skills;** and more. Alongside a pilot course with the charity, Growing Hope, called When Dreams Change which focused on **psychological support for parents** – run with the support of Adeyfield Free Church and their counselling service.

“ My partner and I have learnt so much, receiving essential help to navigate the SEND world.

“ Playskill pick you up and show you how to look after your child, access therapy, financial support, and encourage parents to look after themselves.

“ Parent support was a huge factor in changing our housing circumstances which has helped us physically and mentally.



Emma & Jackson

Jackson has Down Syndrome and attended Playskill for four years.

“ Jackson spent a wonderful four years at Playskill, achieving so much and, thanks to the consistent, weekly early intervention he received in that time meant that he was adequately prepared for starting school. But as he prepared to graduate from Playskill, we faced another challenge, the EHCP application process. The Playskill reports provided the relevant information in the absence of NHS reports as Jackson had only been seen at this point by NHS physio, still on long waiting lists for the other services he needed.

The Parent Support team also provided **invaluable guidance** during this process, and the friends I had made at Playskill were also a huge help, **understanding what we were going through**. I soon realised that I was very lucky to have made a network of wonderful parents at Playskill, who we are still in touch with today. Jackson is at a mainstream school, so although we have made friends with parents there, no one truly understands the journey of a SEN parent unless they too are on it.” - **Emma**



Bringing families together

Playskill brings families together through the groups and training sessions, but also by organising inclusive family outings, social and respite events.

“It was fantastic to meet fellow Dads going through similar challenges.”

Support networks

Connecting with other parents in a similar situation can be a great source of **practical and emotional support**, helping families cope and **reducing feelings of isolation**.



81%

of parents/carers said they do not attend any other playgroups in the area

Social activities and respite events

A host of **free family and social/respite events** for both current Playskill families and graduate members (past families), provide **opportunities to have fun with the whole family**, enjoy new and shared experiences, or give parents and siblings **a chance to recharge**.

334 family members joined **16** events organised by Playskill
(**76** Playskill children; **93** siblings; **165** parents)

Being able to meet up with fellow Playskill families socially helps me*:

Create friendships and support networks



90%

Have a break and help my mental health



90%

Benefit from other Playskill parent's knowledge and experience



90%

Events included **whole-family** accessible **outings**, in a safe and inclusive environment, such as farm, boating and theatre trips. **Respite activities** for parents/carers, including mum's pamper evening, parent meals and dad's golf trip, and **sibling events** from go-karting to mini-golf and more.

*Percentages based on 78 responses to our 2022 Event Feedback Forms.

“ It was a well needed break for me and my son. As a sibling to a child with SEN this doesn't happen very often.

“ It was a fab evening... discussed things I hadn't even spoken to my best friends about. Great to meet mums on similar paths to me and just get it.



“ Playskill events give us the opportunity to try things we would be too nervous to without Playskill's support.

Long term engagement & support

Once children graduate from Playskill, families can become Graduate Members (for a nominal £20 annual subscription), enabling them to continue to access Parent Support, Training and social/respice events.

65 

graduate members continue to be involved in our work

Vinay & Nihal's Story

“ We were blessed by the birth of our beautiful daughter in 2021. Aliyana was diagnosed with hypotonia (low muscle tone) age nine months. This impacts her core strength, gross motor skills, feeding and speech.

These challenges affected meeting her milestones and is characterised as global developmental delays. She also has a rare genetic disorder which may effect her cognitive ability, the health of her heart, her kidneys, and many other factors. There's still a big question mark looming over how able bodied she'll be as she grows up.

While Nihal and I have always known that Aliyana will continue to be the perfect version of whoever she's meant to be, the medical side of her journey has been really tough. Our whole world was turned upside down as we struggled to come to

terms with the situation with emotions ranging from denial, fear, worry and guilt. There is so much darkness in not knowing if your daughter's health is okay. The sense of helplessness paralyses you.

The medical journey tested us in many ways - our marriage, our relationship with our family, friends and our work. You build up the courage to take action and then quickly realise how many hurdles there are. We are told for neuroplasticity, early intervention is everything. Get your daughter the help she needs immediately. But with year plus waiting lists, lost referrals and constant delays - paediatrician; dietician; speech therapist; physiotherapist; occupational therapist, it feels like they're playing tennis with you, and each advice contradicts the last. No answers, but more and more questions. **We felt lost and helpless. Then we were told about Playskill.**

“ The growth and progress Aliyana has made is testament to Playskill's work.

“ Playskill have taken the time to provide expertise, knowledge and advice on how we can not only navigate, but thrive in this new 'world'.

Knowing that Aliyana will get the much needed speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy has given us hope, an action plan and strength to continue. You get to meet other parents and become part of a community and no longer feel alone.

Playskill has been a lifeline. They've showed us how to navigate through these unknown waters to get what's best for Aliyana as quickly as possible. The growth and the progress that she has made is testament to Playskill's work.

Nihal and I have stopped feeling sorry for ourselves. We started openly talking about our family's journey, taking control of the narrative to showcase Aliyana as the inspiration that she is.

Through Playskill we became less scared of unknown waters. The seeds of strength

that Playskill have planted manifested with me spending most of my Summer actively jumping into these unknown waters - literally in to rivers and lakes. I spent hours staring at the darkness, not sure what's lurking below but still moving forward. My daughter, my wife and Playskill gave me the strength to be able to swim eight hours across the length of England's largest lake, Lake Windermere. Swimming close to 20km is an incredible achievement but mainly because I know that these efforts will lead to us playing a small part in helping Playskill continue to help other families like the way that they have helped ours. And it's been our family's greatest honour to fundraise.

**From the bottom of our hearts,
thank you.**

- Vinay



Reaching more children and families

Springboard Project

Families with disabled children continue to be disproportionately affected by the pandemic due to its long-term impact on healthcare services. In 2022 families faced lengthy delays for vital appointments, referrals and therapies, with Occupational and Speech and Language Therapy particularly affected. These delays could have a significant detrimental impact on children's development as well as parental mental wellbeing.

Our Springboard project, introduced during the pandemic, is our early intervention tool. Through this remote support, we rapidly assess children newly referred to Playskill, provide therapy input, advice and signposting, to help a greater number of children and families at the earliest opportunity.

“Families remain reliant on the voluntary sector to act at speed before the opportunity to help their children is lost, and before the statutory sector seems able to help. Playskill does this wonderfully well.

Jane Young, Director,
The Sylvia Adams
Charitable Trust

43 

children/families received early help, with remote assessment, advice and support

13 

new children/families were seen, on average, in Springboard each term

27 

children seen in Springboard fed in to Playskill groups, with others receiving advice & signposting

Professionals Conference

During the Summer term we ran a successful Professionals Conference which further **extended our links in Hertfordshire**, hosting education and early years professionals, outreach and social workers – all of whom come in to contact with families in need and can offer the lifeline of referring to Playskill.



Emma Shumake, Early Years Care Co-ordinator

“ Twelve years ago, I worked in a nursery where one of the children had Cerebral Palsy and attended Playskill. The parents raved about it and I was sold! Since then, I have referred many children to Playskill and watched them flourish as a result.

I am now an Early Years Care Co-ordinator working within the Public Health Nurse Service for Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust. For those families whose children have physical needs and disabilities, I see that the support just isn't there for them as promptly as they would hope - NHS referrals have long waiting times. Families are told of the importance of early intervention to improve outcomes, but with long waiting lists if they are unable to afford private treatment, the opportunity for early intervention is missed. These families are often dealing with complex health needs, financial pressures and feelings of isolation.

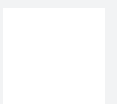
My role is to help families navigate the sometimes-complicated Health, Social Care and Education system. To be able to tell them about Playskill is a lifeline and a huge relief, giving them hope beyond the long waiting lists. When I discharge them, I feel reassured that they're in safe hands with Playskill - not just in terms of the expert therapies, but all the additional support they offer.

In all the years I've worked with the charity I've seen them go over & above for families. They never give up on anyone and children are given every opportunity to reach their full potential. Working so closely with Andrea and others, we're able to provide continuity between us, and Playskill will refer back to me so we can signpost to additional services.

With some families I've referred, parents can be nervous. At this young age, it may be the first time they are accessing services relating to disabilities and it can be difficult for them to see other children and accept what may be ahead. But once they join, they see a positive impact on their child's development and relief that someone is there to help. As well as the invaluable connection with other parents who are in the same situation - something not to be underestimated and not otherwise available in mainstream services. I hear from them how positive and supportive Playskill is to the whole family.

I will continue to promote Playskill, not only to those families in need, but to all the services who work with pre-school aged children. There are varying levels of delays and disabilities, and with Health Visiting Services and GPs so over stretched, subtleties are being missed. It is essential we ensure children and families are accessing all the support on offer.

May Playskill continue for many years to come and, in an ideal world, be there to support every child in need.



Your support

Playskill receives no government funding and we rely on the donations of our supporters to make a difference to the lives of children with physical disabilities/difficulties and their families. All our services are completely free to families attending our groups.

We had so many fantastic supporters taking on all sorts of challenges in 2022 to raise money for Playskill, with sponsored swims, marathons and half-marathons, sponsored walks...not to mention Playskill children themselves who took part in our annual sponsored obstacle course in the Summer!

With your amazing support, Playskill raised:

£395,561
in **2022**



Our dedicated runners, walkers & trekkers



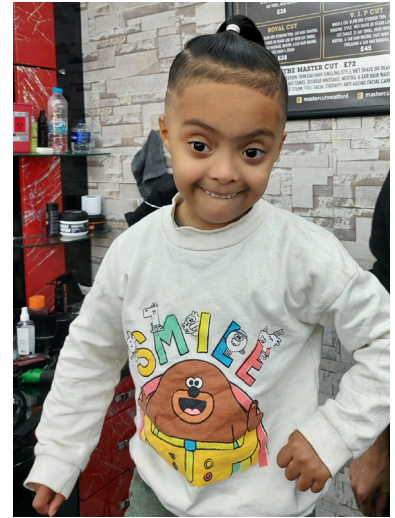
Team Playskill at the Great Big Walk for Herts



Annual sponsored obstacle course in Playskill groups



Playskill parent, Vinay, swam an epic 20km across Lake Windermere



Playskill graduate, Dexter, chopped off his lovely locks



Wear it Red – from primary school to university & beyond!

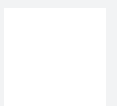


Time for tea



Christmas choirs, carol concert, gift wrapping and festive fun

“ Our fundraising plays a small part in helping Playskill continue to help families the way that they helped ours.



Looking Ahead

In the coming year our focus is to ensure every aspect of our service supports the whole family to cope with the challenges life will throw their way.

The Oxford University approved research study of Playskill and the wellbeing of mothers, undertaken by Paediatric Occupational Therapist, Kirsten Prest, underlined the importance of the parental support network. We are much more than our expert therapies in group, providing a range of training, respite and all-important peer support. Our Parent Training has become largely remote since the pandemic and hugely celebrated, but some face-to-face training has returned in the form of parent breakfasts and practical training on sleep and dressing.

Starting 2023 with all six groups now operating with eight children for a two-hour session, grants more time to build these support networks – allowing parents a child-free coffee break during session, a luxury not often afforded to parents of disabled children. The children also have more time for social interaction – essential to their social, emotional and communication development which took a huge hit during the pandemic.

The new year has seen all Watford groups move to Stanborough Park, giving us a larger and more flexible space than Langley Road with facilities to meet everyone's needs.

With some groups over-subscribed, we're grateful to have received funding in order to begin planning the opening of our seventh group in the next 12 months, ensuring no child is left behind.

The past three years have seen our families experience a huge window of isolation and a lack of connection in the community. And now additional challenges with the cost-of-living crisis. We cannot simply 'treat' the child without also addressing the needs of the wider family. That is why we are passionate about providing a holistic wraparound package of family support as early as possible. This allows us the chance to reduce potential life-long complications keeping families strong and resourced for their journey.

We hope this report will encourage you to support the valued work that takes place at Playskill, supporting children with disabilities/difficulties and their families. We simply cannot do it without you!

Stanborough Park



Thank you.

**To donate visit
playskill.org/donate**



Thank you

We are immensely grateful to the many trusts, foundations, community groups, corporate partners and individuals who have generously supported our work in 2022.



PLAYSKILL

Legal & Administrative Information

Trustees

S J Soloway [Chair]

N Parish

J Cansdale

D Corcoran

P Corden [Retired November 2022]

C Kohnhorst

C Neale

L Sharpe [Secretary]

G Waceba

A York

Charity number 1122745

CIO number 1198233

Principal address

Sheraton House

Lower Road

Chorleywood

WD3 5LH

Postal Address

92a Langley Road

Watford

WD17 4PJ

Independent examiner

Freeman Baker Associates

The Old Church

48 Verulam Road

St Albans

AL3 4DH

Bankers

Barclays Bank plc

Croydon 2

Leicestershire

LE87 2BB

The Co-operative Bank

Skelmersdale

WN8 6WT

Metrobank

113 High Street

Watford

WD17 2DQ

PLAYSKILL

Objectives, Policies, and Activities

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's constitution, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015).

Structure

The Charity was established by a charitable trust deed on 12th February 2008 but converted to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 14th March 2022.

Independent Examiner

The Trustees appointed Freeman Baker Associates to review Playskill's financial statements and we thank them for their helpful comments during the execution of their duties. In setting our objectives and planning our activities the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The main objectives of Playskill as laid out in the Constitution are:

- 1) To promote and protect the physical and mental health of children and young people in the United Kingdom with physical difficulties/disabilities through the provision of support, education and practical advice.
- 2) To advance in life and help children and young people with physical difficulties/disabilities through:
 - a) The provision of recreational and leisure time activities provided in the interest of social welfare, designed to improve their conditions of life and the life of their families;
 - b) Providing support and activities which develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals.
- 3) To advance the education and support of carers and siblings of children and young people with physical difficulties/disabilities and of the general public and other relevant professional staff in all areas relating to the well-being of children and young people with physical difficulties/disabilities and of their families.

Treatment Free of Charge

Playskill provides its services free of charge to children with special needs aged one to five years at the point of need, irrespective of colour, race, gender or creed.

Reserves policy

Playskill is totally reliant on charitable funding thus ideally, unrestricted reserves of at least six months operating costs are held to allow for the necessary lead in time to securing funding and planning for future expansion. Current levels are just below this and are being closely monitored in conjunction with restricted reserves.

**PLAYSKILL
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF PLAYSKILL**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2022, which are set out on pages 23 to 33.

Responsibilities and basis of report

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- (i) examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- (ii) to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- (iii) to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Independent examiners statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- (i) the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- (ii) the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
- (iii) the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a "true and fair" view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

N J Keye FCCA CTA
Freeman Baker Associates
Accountants & Registered Auditors
The Old Church
48 Verulam Road
St Albans
Hertfordshire
AL3 4DH

Date:

PLAYSKILL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Income from:					
Donations and Legacies	(2&3)	91,912	302,791	394,703	345,577
Charitable activities		672	-	672	352
Government Grants					4,653
Investments	(4)	187	-	187	596
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total incoming resources		92,771	302,791	395,562	351,178
Resources expended					
Raising funds	(5)	41,719	46,487	88,206	71,770
Charitable activities	(6&7)	107,813	229,287	337,100	323,986
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total resources expended		149,532	275,774	425,306	395,756
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Surplus/(Deficit)		(56,761)	27,017	(29,744)	(44,578)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		250,218	41,989	292,207	336,785
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total funds carried forward		193,457	69,006	262,463	292,207
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

PLAYSKILL

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	(11)	7,800	1,316
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Current assets			
Debtors	(12)	1,747	1,042
Bank		277,712	302,545
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		279,459	303,587
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(13)	(24,796)	(12,696)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net current assets		254,663	290,891
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total assets less current liabilities		262,463	292,207
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Income funds			
Restricted funds		69,006	41,989
Unrestricted funds		193,457	250,218
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		262,463	292,207
		<hr/>	<hr/>

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on

S J Soloway
Trustee

A D York
Trustee

Any small addition errors or differences are due to rounding.

PLAYSKILL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

1. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with The Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Incoming resources

Donations, legacies and other forms of voluntary income are recognised as incoming resources when receivable, except insofar as they are incapable of financial measurement.

Revenue grants are credited to the income and expenditure account as received, unless related to a specific period, when they are shown as accrued or deferred income until the relevant period occurs unless specifically agreed otherwise with the funder.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures, fittings & equipment	over 3 years
Shed/Store cupboard	over 10 years
Motor vehicles	over 4 years

PLAYSKILL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

2. Donations - Unrestricted

	2022	2021
	£	£
A Heath-Curry Night & Matched Funding		2,050
A Pearce	500	800
Ashridge Ladies Golf Club		1,200
Berkhamsted Rotary Club		750
Burning Bush Masonic Lodge		2,000
Charities Aid Foundation	7,996	10,289
Charities Trust	529	4,444
Christmas Cards		245
Christmas Raffle	787	780
Cream Tea Event	950	684
Cygnus Alpha Platform		500
D Kohnhorst	770	825
Downing LLP		2,000
D R Coulson		500
Emma Carter		1,318
Income via Facebook	3,577	3,858
Helping Herts	5,357	
Herts Freemasons	1,650	500
Josef Pieterse	500	
Just Giving	51,039	
Masonic Charitable Foundation		500
Maybrook Properties	1,000	
M R Cooper		500
Murrill Construction		1,000
Netcall Telecom		765
National Farmers' Union MIS		6,452
Rachel Ledson	840	
Simon Hughes	4,350	11,200
Sissel Parish	420	700
Starscope		1,280
St Clement Danes		3,260
St John's School		7,343
Sunnyside Church	1,300	1,300
Virgin Money Giving		25,070
Watford Borough Council (Mayor's Christmas Cards)		1,000
William Tannett	500	625
Sub-total	82,065	93,738
Other smaller donations	9,847	2,536
	91,912	96,274

Justgiving income includes the following events:

Berkhamsted Fun Run

Snowdon Climb

Vinay Swim of Lake Windermere

Royal Parks half marathon

Soloway 50th Anniversary

Helping Herts

Athens Marathon

Obstacle course

Many thanks to all who raised these funds – both those taking part in the events & those who gave.

PLAYSKILL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

3. Grants - Restricted

	2022	2021
	£	£
Anton Jurgens	-	3,000
Archer Trust	-	5,000
Bartle Family Trust	500	-
Berkhamsted Rotary Club	2,000	-
Bushey Parish Church	-	2,500
Card Factory	2,000	-
Charlie's Gift	5,700	-
Children in Need	31,698	17,782
Children in Need – Extension	-	17,578
Childwick Trust	-	2,000
Clara E Burgess	-	4,500
Co-operative	-	2,217
Dacorum Borough Council	5,000	-
Downing LLP	1,499	-
DWF Foundation	-	2,340
Edward Gostling Foundation	10,000	-
February Foundation	5,000	-
Fence Club	1,912	-
Garfield Weston Foundation	25,000	-
Hadley Trust	22,787	-
Health Education	500	-
Hertfordshire Community Foundation	10,000	6,500
Hertfordshire County Council	3,810	2,900
Herts Health CF	-	2,000
HMRC CJRS	-	4,653
Masonic Foundation	-	7,000
Mencop	5,000	-
National Lottery	135,939	55,600
National Lottery – Awards for All	9,946	-
National Lottery - Extension	-	49,365
One Family	-	2,500
Origin Housing	-	1,280
Postcode Places Trust	-	15,000
Reach plc	-	2,500
Robert Clutterbuck	-	1,000
Sanctuary Housing	-	521
Shanley Foundation	-	4,500
St James' Place	2,500	-
Sylvia Adams	10,000	6,500
Thrive Homes	-	2,000
TK Maxx	2,500	-
Warburtons	-	3,000
Watford Council	-	4,000
Grant(s) assisting with relocation	-	13,000
Watford Community Housing Trust	2,000	720
Watford & Three Rivers Trust	7,500	12,500
	<u>302,791</u>	<u>253,956</u>

PLAYSKILL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

4. Investments

	Trust	CIO	Total 2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Interest Receivable	<u>28</u>	<u>159</u>	<u>187</u>	<u>596</u>

5. Costs of Raising Funds

	Trust		CIO		2022 Total			2021 Total £
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	
Costs of raising donations & legacies	1,343	327	1,257	3,007	2,600	3,334	5,934	2,866
Salary costs	11,481	13,631	27,638	29,522	39,119	43,153	82,272	68,904
Total	<u>12,824</u>	<u>13,958</u>	<u>28,895</u>	<u>32,529</u>	<u>41,719</u>	<u>46,487</u>	<u>88,206</u>	<u>71,770</u>

6. Expenditure of Charitable Activities by fund type

	Trust		CIO		2022 Total		2022 Total £	2021 Total £
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £		
Direct Costs	36,505	52,123	49,391	136,501	85,896	188,624	274,520	260,382
Support Costs	6,816	10,845	15,101	29,818	21,917	40,663	62,580	63,604
Total	<u>43,321</u>	<u>62,968</u>	<u>64,492</u>	<u>166,319</u>	<u>107,813</u>	<u>229,287</u>	<u>337,100</u>	<u>323,986</u>

PLAYSKILL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

7. Expenditure of Charitable Activities by activity type

	Trust		CIO		2022 Total		2021 Total
	Direct costs	Support costs	Direct costs	Support costs	Direct costs	Support costs	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Main group sessions	76,570	9,731	158,538	24,172	235,108	33,903	249,307
Parent Support & Events	10,240	7,930	25,126	20,747	35,366	28,677	64,294
Governance	1,818	0	2,228	0	4,046	0	10,385
Total	<u>88,628</u>	<u>17,661</u>	<u>185,892</u>	<u>44,919</u>	<u>274,520</u>	<u>62,580</u>	<u>323,986</u>

8. Analysis of support costs

	Trust			CIO			2022 Total			2022 Total	2021 Total
	Fundraising	Main group session	Parent Support & Events	Fundraising	Main group session	Parent Support & Events	Fundraising	Main group session	Parent Support & Events		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£		
Staff costs	2,901	5,770	1,060	7,638	13,850	2,684	10,539	19,620	3,744	33,903	32,673
Governance costs	2,364	4,702	864	6,550	11,894	2,303	8,914	16,596	3,167	28,677	30,931
Total	<u>5,265</u>	<u>10,472</u>	<u>1,924</u>	<u>14,188</u>	<u>25,744</u>	<u>4,987</u>	<u>19,453</u>	<u>36,216</u>	<u>6,911</u>	<u>62,580</u>	<u>63,604</u>

PLAYSKILL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

9. Governance costs

	Trust		CIO		2022 Total		2022 Total	2021 Total
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Unrestricted	Restricted	Unrestricted	Restricted		
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Independent Examiner's fee	110	67	377	424	487	491	978	1,062
AGM Expenses	0	0	368	0	368	0	368	308
Professional Fees	0	1,641	546	513	546	2,154	2,700	9,015
Total	<u>110</u>	<u>1,708</u>	<u>1,291</u>	<u>937</u>	<u>1,401</u>	<u>2,645</u>	<u>4,046</u>	<u>10,385</u>

No Trustees were paid or reimbursed for travelling expenses (2021 Nil).

10. Staff costs

	Trust		CIO		2022 Total		2022 Total	2021 Total
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Unrestricted	Restricted	Unrestricted	Restricted		
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Wages and salaries	39,772	58,266	72,616	140,020	112,388	198,286	310,674	296,777
Social Security costs	2,039	0	3,597	4,314	5,636	4,314	9,950	14,889
Employer contributions to pension plans	1,380	435	2,368	2,449	3,748	2,884	6,632	5,517
Total	<u>43,191</u>	<u>58,701</u>	<u>78,581</u>	<u>146,783</u>	<u>121,772</u>	<u>205,484</u>	<u>327,256</u>	<u>317,183</u>

There were no employees whose annual emoluments were £60,000 or more.

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
Part time	38	38
Full time	-	-
	<u>38</u>	<u>38</u>

PLAYSKILL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Motor Vehicle £	Store Cupboard £	Shed £	Total £
Cost				
As at 1st January 2022	5,000	-	663	5,663
Additions	-	7,800	-	7,800
Disposals	-	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
As at 31st December 2022	5,000	7,800	663	13,463
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Depreciation				
As at 1st January 2022	3,750	-	597	4,347
Charge for the year	1,250	-	66	1,316
Disposals	-	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
As at 31st December 2022	5,000	0	663	5,663
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Book Value				
As at 31st December 2022	0	7,800	0	7,800
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
As at 31st December 2021	1,250	0	66	1,316
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

12. Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Other debtors	1,747	1,042
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,747	1,042
	<hr/>	<hr/>

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Creditors	7,560	6,291
Accruals	17,236	6,405
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	24,796	12,696
	<hr/>	<hr/>

PLAYSKILL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

14. Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balance of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes.

	As at 1 st Jan 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	As at 31 st Dec 2022 £
National Lottery	1	135,939	135,939	1
National Lottery Awards 4 All	-	9,946	4,885	5,061
Archer Trust	2,763	-	2,453	310
Bartle Family Trust	-	500	500	-
Berkhamsted Rotary Club	-	2,000	821	1,179
Card Factory Foundation	-	2,000	1,120	880
Charlie's Gift	-	5,700	-	5,700
Children in Need	2,965	31,698	34,662	1
Dacorum Borough Council	-	5,000	5,000	-
Downing Foundation	-	1,499	1,499	-
DWF Foundation	524	-	-	524
Edward Gostling Foundation	-	10,000	-	10,000
February Foundation	1,932	5,000	6,932	-
Fence Club	-	1,912	1,542	370
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	25,000	10,000	15,000
Grant(s) Assisting Relocation	13,000	-	13,000	-
Greggs Foundation	670	-	-	670
Hadley Trust	-	22,787	16,671	6,116
Health Education England	-	500	500	-
Herts Comm Foundation	-	10,000	5,000	5,000
Herts County Council	1,585	3,810	3,108	2,287
Mencop	-	5,000	5,000	-
Robert Clutterbuck	215	-	-	215
Skipton Foundation	240	-	-	240
St James' Place	-	2,500	2,500	-
Sylvia Adams	6,500	10,000	6,500	10,000
TK Maxx	-	2,500	2,000	500
Watford & Three Rivers Trust	10,494	7,500	13,632	4,362
Watford Council	1,100	-	1,100	-
Watford Community Housing Trust	-	2,000	1,410	590
	41,989	302,791	275,774	69,006

Each of the restricted funds are to pay for Playskill agreed general expenses.

PLAYSKILL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

15. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Fund balances at 31 December 2022 are represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	-	7,800	7,800
Current assets	218,253	61,206	279,459
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(24,796)	-	(24,796)
	<u>193,457</u>	<u>69,006</u>	<u>262,463</u>
	<u><u>193,457</u></u>	<u><u>69,006</u></u>	<u><u>262,463</u></u>