



Whitehead Presbyterian Church, 8 Kings Road, Whitehead, Co Antrim BT38 9PU

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Facebook: BBunch Playgroup

Trustees Annual Report for 2021/2022 Charity No: NIC101429

History

Banana Bunch playgroup is a registered charity and has been operating for over 33 years. We are a cross community organisation, with five members of staff and a Parents management committee, who are responsible for making decisions about the group. Banana Bunch Playgroup is governed by a constitution. Our playgroup is registered to cater for 26 children aged between 2 yrs 10 months and 5 years in pre school / pre pre school for 5 mornings sessions. We are based in Whitehead Presbyterian church, which we rent for ten months during term time- September to June.

During 2021 the playgroup was required to close from time to time in accordance with government lock down rules resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The playgroup re-opened when it was permitted to do so, and put appropriate measures in place to comply with health and safety protocols as set by the government as part of the wider effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Aims and Approach

Banana Bunch Playgroup aims to advance the education of young children through the provision of an appropriate, safe and satisfying programme of play and activities, which meet the requirements of the Department of Education's Curriculum. Throughout the year, at each session, the playgroup provided activities through which the children can learn through play : table top and floor toys; painting , art and craft; water play; play dough; physical play ; home corner (roleplay);books and story telling; music , song and rhymes. These activities improve each child's abilities over the course of the year- hand/eye co-ordination, talking, listening, concentration, muscle development, agility and

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strength. Our Admissions Policy states that Banana Bunch Playgroup welcomes every family in the community irrespective of social class, religion, race, culture, disabilities and special educational needs. We provide access for all children to a broad and balanced child- led curricular experience which is tailored to the learning needs of each individual child. We believe “interaction and play are the main channels through which children learn and develop.”

We are supported by an early years advisor, and inspected annually by the Health and Social Care Trust to ensure we meet the requirements set out in the minimum standards. The Education Authority also carry out an inspection which can be viewed online by the general public.

Financial Position

The report covers the financial year to 31st August 2022. Banana Bunch Playgroup receives money from the Education Authority for each Pre school child. This money is used to pay staff wages and the running of the playgroup. We also apply for Grants during the year and fundraising events are organised by the Management Committee.

The Trustees are grateful to all the parents for their support and help throughout the year and to several local businesses that help also with our fundraising efforts donating gifts and vouchers.

At the close of the 202102 financial year there was £20,565.31 in the current account.