

Little Acorns Playgroup

Charity No. NI101552

Company No.

Trustees' Report and Unaudited Accounts

31 August 2024

Little Acorns Playgroup
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Little Acorns Playgroup
Trustees Annual Report

The trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2023.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Company No.

Charity No. NI101552

Principal Office

20A Derrymore Road
Gawleys Gate
Craigavon
Co. Armagh
BT67 0BW

Registered Office

20A Derrymore Road
Gawleys Gate
Craigavon
Co. Armagh
BT670BW

Directors and Trustees

The Directors of the charitable company are its Trustees for the purposes of charity law.
The following Directors and Trustees served during the year:

A. Doone
A. McCarron
F. Hanna
P. Haire
E. Burns
S. Bustard
L. Baker
F. Creaney

Company Secretary

P. Haire

Key Management Personnel

Chairperson	Aoibheann Doone
Secretary	Phillip Haire
Vice Secretary	Fionnuala Hanna
Treasurer	Avni McCarron

Little Acorns Playgroup
Trustees Annual Report

Bankers

First Trust Bank
18-20 Scotch Street
Dungannon
BT66 6AQ

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The purpose of the charity is to provide a safe and stimulating environment to learn through play for all children (the beneficiaries) in our rural area. We provide activities both planned and unplanned based on our ethos of 'Learning through Play' set out in the curricular guidance for preschool education. The charity has a close relationship with the local primary school enabling us to ease the transition from preschool to primary school with minimum impact for the child.

Little Acorns was established to provide quality Early Years education & personal development for preschool children aged between 2 years 10 months and 4 years 11 months for the Gawley's Gate and neighbouring areas, in an inclusive & diverse environment. We strive to ensure that the individual needs and abilities of the child are recognised and developed. We offer a safe and stimulating environment for all children, regardless of race, religion or gender.

The trustees confirm that they have had due regard to guidance produced by the Charity Commission's benefit requirement statutory guidance.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Little Acorns Playgroup and Afterschool have continued to face tough times within the sector. The setting still has not returned to normal since the Covid-19 pandemic, with parents not availing of our once very popular breakfast club and afterschool. This was previously a huge revenue generator for the setting and the drop in numbers is currently being looked at, with new ideas emerging on how to boost numbers. The mobile that the playgroup currently resides in is old and requires almost continuous maintenance to keep it safe for purpose. The costs of this are very high and eat away at any fund raising gains we have achieved. With the development of the new school neighboring Little Acorns, it is not the right time to consider a new building - but this decision may need revisited sooner by the new committee that will sit in 25/26. The setting also invested in technology similar to the neighboring primary school to assist the playgroup children with their transition to primary 1. These developments are there for the benefit of all the children within the setting especially those who may have additional needs. One last thing to note is that there has continued to be a steady decline in voluntary parent donations, which is likely due to the increased cost of living crisis. There has been a tremendous amount of work put in from September 2024 with new Committee members, bringing in new and exciting ideas and talents to the setting and I am hopeful that the accounts will reflect better in the next report.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

This has been a particularly disappointing year for the charity due to the Cost of Living Crisis continuing to erode potential sources of funds.

Little Acorns operates a reserves policy to ensure sufficient funds are ring fenced to cover any winding up costs and has sufficient reserves in place to cover the requirements of this policy at this point.

Little Acorns Playgroup
Trustees Annual Report

The results do suggest a certain amount of uncertainty at year end but an analysis of figures in 24/25 to date appear to show that the results in 2025 will be improved.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The type of governing document is by constitution and is constituted by unincorporated association.

Trustees are nominated and voted onto committee, by those attending. Those who are nominated need to be seconded to become a committee member. Office bearers must have held a vice role where possible before taking an office bearing role.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The above report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime as set out in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Signed on behalf of the board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. McCarron', followed by a small dash.

A. McCarron
Trustee
23 June 2025

Little Acorns Playgroup

Independent Examiners Report

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Little Acorns Playgroup

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Little Acorns Playgroup for the year ended 31 August 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

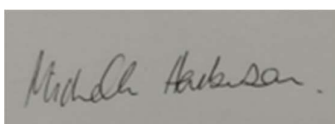
Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the Charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's financial statements as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I can confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements under section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the financial statements give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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 financial statements to be reached.



Michelle Harbinson
2 Colane Road
Aghagallon
Co. Armagh
BT67 9JT
23 June 2025

Little Acorns Playgroup
Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 August 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	4	5,387		5,387	17,239
Charitable activities	5	78,067	2,000	80,067	48,389
Investments	6	1,315		1,315	442
Total incoming resources		84,770	2,000	86,770	66,070
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	7	95,302		95,302	86,009
Governance costs	8	1,080		1,080	1,080
Total resources expended		96,382	-	96,382	87,089
Net income/(expenditure)		(11,612)	2,000	(9,612)	(21,019)
Total funds brought forward		67,298		67,298	88,317
Total funds carried forward		55,686	2,000	57,686	67,298

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

The company has no recognised gains or losses for the year other than the results above.

Little Acorns Playgroup
Summary Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 31 August 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Income	85,455	65,628
Interest and investment income	1,315	442
Gross income for the year	<u>86,770</u>	<u>66,070</u>
Expenditure	96,382	87,089
Total expenditure for the year	<u>96,382</u>	<u>87,089</u>
Net expenditure for the year	<u>(9,612)</u>	<u>(21,019)</u>

Little Acorns Playgroup
Balance Sheet

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	10		2,475		-
Current Assets					
Cash at Bank and in Hand		60,778		69,766	
Debtors		50			
Creditors	11	-		(308)	
Net Current Assets			<u>60,827</u>		<u>69,458</u>
Total Assets less Current Liabilities			63,302		69,458
Accruals and deferred income	11		(5,616)		(2,160)
Net Assets			57,686		67,298
Funds					
Restricted Funds	12		2,000		-
Unrestricted General Funds	12		<u>55,686</u>		<u>67,298</u>
Total Funds			<u>57,686</u>		<u>67,298</u>

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

For the year ended 31 August 2023 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

Approved by the board on 23 June 2025

And signed on its behalf by:



A. McCarron
Trustee
23 June 2025

Little Acorns Playgroup
Statement of Cash flows
for the year ended 31 August 2023

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net expenditure per SOFA	(9,612)	(21,019)
Adjustments for:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(1,315)	(442)
Depreciation	825	
Increase in trade and other receivables	(50)	
Increase in trade and other payables	3,148	1,388
Net cash used in operation activities	<u>(7,004)</u>	<u>(20,073)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of equipment	(3,300)	
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	1,315	442
Net cash from investing activities	<u>(1,985)</u>	<u>442</u>
Net cash from financing activities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(8,988)	(19,631)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	69,766	89,397
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	<u>60,778</u>	<u>69,766</u>
Compenents of cash and cash equivalents		
Cash and bank balances	60,778	69,766
	<u>60,778</u>	<u>69,766</u>

for the year ended 31 August 2024

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Change in basis of accounting or to previous accounts

There has been no change to the accounting policies (valuation rules and method of accounting) since last year and no changes have been made to accounts for previous years.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds	These are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the charity.
Designated funds	These are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.
Revaluation funds	These are unrestricted funds which include a revaluation reserve representing the restatement of investment assets at their market values.
Restricted funds	These are available for use subject to restrictions imposed by the donor or through terms of an appeal.

Income

Recognition of income	Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity becomes entitled to, and virtually certain to receive, the income and the amount of the income can be measured with sufficient reliability.
Income with related expenditure	Where income has related expenditure the income and related expenditure is reported gross in the SoFA.
Donations and legacies	Voluntary income received by way of grants, donations and gifts is included in the the SoFA when receivable and only when the Charity has unconditional entitlement to the income.
Tax reclaims on donations and gifts	Income from tax reclaims is included in the SoFA at the same time as the gift/donation to which it relates.
Donated services and facilities	These are only included in income (with an equivalent amount in expenditure) where the benefit to the Charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material.
Volunteer help	The value of any volunteer help received is not included in the accounts.
Investment income	This is included in the accounts when receivable.
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets	This includes any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.
Gains/(losses) on investment assets	This includes any gain or loss on the sale of investments.

Little Acorns Playgroup

Notes to the Accounts

Expenditure

Recognition of expenditure	Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.
Expenditure on raising funds	These comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income, fundraising trading costs and investment management costs.
Expenditure on Charitable activities	These comprise the costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of its activities and services in the furtherance of its objects, including the making of grants and governance costs.
Grants payable	All grant expenditure is accounted for on an actual paid basis plus an accrual for grants that have been approved by the trustees at the end of the year but not yet paid.
Governance costs	These include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the Charity, including any audit/independent examination fees, costs linked to the strategic management of the Charity, together with a share of other administration costs.
Other expenditure	These are support costs not allocated to a particular activity.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Freehold investment property

Investment properties are measured initially at cost and subsequently at fair value at each balance sheet date and are not depreciated. All gains or losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise.

Stocks

Stock is included at the lower of cost or net realisable value. Donated items of stock are recognised at fair value which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay for the items on the open market.

Trade and other debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and on hand, demand deposits with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. In the statement of financial position, bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings or current liabilities. In the Statement of Cash Flows, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the company's cash management.

Trade and other creditors

Short term creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Little Acorns Playgroup

Notes to the Accounts

Research and development

Expenditure on research and development is written off in the year in which it is incurred.

Foreign currencies

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in currencies other than the functional currency of the charity are translated at the rates of exchange prevailing at the end of the reporting period.

Transactions in currencies other than the functional currency of the charity are recorded at the rate of exchange on the date that the transaction occurred.

All exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at net income/expenditure.

Leased assets

Where the charity enters into a lease which entails taking substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of an asset, the lease is treated as a finance lease.

Leases which do not transfer substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to charity are classified as operating leases.

Assets held under finance leases are initially recognised as assets of the charity at their fair value at the inception of the lease or, if lower, at the present value of the minimum lease payments. The corresponding liability to the lessor is included in the balance sheet date as a finance lease obligation.

Lease payments are apportioned between finance expenses and reduction of the lease obligation so as to achieve a constant rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability. Finance expenses are recognised immediately, unless they are directly attributable to qualifying assets, in which case they are capitalised in accordance with the charity's policy on borrowing costs.

Assets held under finance leases are depreciated in the same way as owned assets.

Operating lease payments are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

In the event that lease incentives are received to enter into operating leases, such incentives are recognised as a liability. The aggregate benefit of incentives is recognised as a reduction of rental expense on a straight-line basis.

Pension costs

The charity operates a defined contribution plan for its employees. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the company pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. Once the contributions have been paid the company has no further payments obligations. The contributions are recognised as expenses when they fall due. Amounts not paid are shown in accruals in the balance sheet. The assets of the plan are held separately from the company in independently administered funds.

Receipt of donated goods, facilities and services

All donated goods, facilities and services received are recognised within incoming resources and expenditure at an estimate of the value to the charity.

2 Company status

The company is a private company limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital.

Little Acorns Playgroup
Notes to the Accounts

3 Statement of Financial Activities - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total Fund 2023 £
Income and endowments from:		
Donations and legacies	17,239	17,239
Charitable activities	48,389	48,389
Investments	442	442
Total incoming resources	66,070	66,070
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities	86,009	86,009
Governance costs	1,080	1,080
Total resources expended	87,089	87,089
Net income/(expenditure)	(21,019)	(21,019)
Total funds brought forward	88,317	88,317
Total funds carried forward	67,298	67,298

4 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Donations	5,387	-	5,387	17,239
	<u>5,387</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,387</u>	<u>17,239</u>

5 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
	78,067	2,000	80,067	48,389
	<u>78,067</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>80,067</u>	<u>48,389</u>

6 Income from investments

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Bank interest	1,315	-	1,315	442
	<u>1,315</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,315</u>	<u>442</u>

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Expenditure on charitable activities	95,302	-	95,302	86,009
	<u>95,302</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>95,302</u>	<u>86,009</u>

Little Acorns Playgroup
Notes to the Accounts

8 Other expenditure

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Independent examiners fees	1,080	-	1,080	1,080
	<u>1,080</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,080</u>	<u>1,080</u>

9 Staff costs

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000

10 Tangible fixed assets

Cost	Computer Equipment	Total
At 31 August 2023	0.00	0.00
Additions	3,300.00	3,300.00
Disposals		<u>0.00</u>
At 31 August 2024	<u>3,300.00</u>	<u>3,300.00</u>

Depreciation

At 31 August 2023	0.00	0.00
Depreciation charge for the year	825.00	825.00
Depreciation on disposals		<u>0.00</u>
At 31 August 2024	<u>825.00</u>	<u>825.00</u>

Net book value

At 31 August 2023	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
At 31 August 2024	<u>2,475.00</u>	<u>2,475.00</u>

11 Creditors

amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other taxes and social security	-	308
Accruals	<u>5,616</u>	<u>2,160</u>
	<u>5,616</u>	<u>2,468</u>

Little Acorns Playgroup

Notes to the accounts

12 Movement in funds

	At 1 September 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 August 2024 £
Restricted funds:		2,000	-	2,000
Unrestricted funds:	67,298	84,770	(96,382)	55,686
Total funds:	<u>67,298</u>	<u>86,770</u>	<u>(96,382)</u>	<u>57,686</u>

13 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Net current assets	<u>55,686</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>57,686</u>
	<u>55,686</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>57,686</u>

14 Reconciliation of net debt

	At 1 September 2023 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2024 £
Cash and cash equivalents	<u>69,766</u>	<u>(8,988)</u>	<u>60,778</u>
	<u>69,766</u>	<u>(8,988)</u>	<u>60,778</u>
Net debt	<u>69,766</u>	<u>(8,988)</u>	<u>60,778</u>

15 Related party disclosures

The trustees have confirmed that there were no related party transactions during the reporting period (prior year: none)