



GARGUNNOCK PLAYGROUP

Our aims are to:

- Promote learning and development through play
- Recognise all children and adults as individuals with rights of their own
- Encourage children to express themselves as individuals and as members of a group within a supportive environment
- Offer children a broad and balanced range of activities from which to choose.

Contact Us:

Chairperson : Kimberley Hay
(kimberley.sinclair@yahoo.co.uk)

Secretaries : Steve Rivers
(mrsteverivers@gmail.com)
Vera Fletcher
(verafletch@gmail.com)

Treasurer : Grania Watson
(graniaingleby@hotmail.com)

Play leader : Jane Bain
(playgroup@gargunnock.com)

Playgroup Phone : 07564 755919
(only available during playgroup sessions)

Information Booklet

Welcome

Gargunnock Playgroup (part of Gargunnock Playgroup & Toddlers) is a village organisation dedicated to the care and development of children from the age of two and a half until they start primary school. Sessions take place on Mondays and Thursdays during school term time¹ at the Community Centre, Leckie Road between 9am and 11.30am.



Sessions and Activities

Our sessions are led by our highly qualified staff team, Jane and Louisa. They roughly follow a routine of welcome time, activity or free play, snack, activity or free play and end with story and music. Children may choose to play indoors or outdoors however we are passionate about the benefits of outdoor play and, with a fantastic garden available, we promote outdoor play at every opportunity (more information about why we value outdoor play so highly can be found at the end of this booklet). Please ensure that your child has appropriate clothing for our Scottish climate, a change of clothes can be useful if not essential. In wet weather it may be appropriate to bring a pair of indoor shoes, preferably not slippers which are not safe for some large play equipment.

¹ See [Stirling Council website](#) for details of school term dates



Committee

Our playgroup is owned and managed by the parents of the children attending, otherwise known as “members”. Every year we elect a committee who manage the group on behalf of all the parents. Parents and other carers help regularly in the playgroup and many value this opportunity to share playgroup with their child. We hope that you too will enjoy being part of our playgroup.

Rotas

A parental duty rota operates for parents/carers to provide the snack for the children.



Rota parents/carers may also be required to stay and help during the session. Please check the website for suggestions of the types of food and drinks you should provide for snack and for information on kitchen rules. The rota will be provided by the Playleader, usually on a termly basis. Staff are always happy to advise if you are unsure of anything.

If, for any reason, you are unable to do your rota duty please arrange to swap with another parent/carer.

Settling In

All children are different and some take longer than others to settle. We encourage you to stay for as many sessions as it takes for your child to settle in. When it is time to leave your child, please make sure that you always say ‘good-bye’ and that you return on time. If you have any doubts about when your child is ready to be left at playgroup, please discuss them with our Playleader.



Please do not hesitate to discuss any worries or problems with the playleader or a committee member. Any information you give us is treated in the strictest confidence.

Monitoring

Children’s progress will be monitored over the year and information about progress provided at the end of a session via our diary system. Such information is strictly confidential. Any questions can be discussed with the Playleader at the end of any session.

Fees

Fees are £7.00 per session paid termly in advance². Fees are payable for sessions missed due to holidays, sickness etc.

² Discounts may be available for children attending multiple sessions. Please contact our Treasurer for more information.

Cheques are payable to “Gargunnock Playgroup”. Fees should be handed to the Treasurer or other committee member, or paid directly into our bank account. We accept Childcare Vouchers. Please see invoice for details of payment options.

If you encounter any problems with fees, including making payments, please contact the Treasurer.

Illness

Please do not bring an unwell child to playgroup. Please refer to our Infection Control Policy for details of exclusion periods.

Outings



Children benefit from seeing the wider world. Our Outings Policy requires us to have 1 adult for every 2 children and parents

may be asked to join us. Advance notice and permission will always be obtained.

Fundraising

There are a number of costs associated with the running of the playgroup, such as hall fees, salaries, registration fees, training and materials. Some of these costs are covered by session fees, however the majority of the running costs are met through fundraising by our members. Each year, the Committee organise a number of fundraising events. Your support in helping with or attendance at these events would be appreciated.

You can also help the Playgroup raise funds by visiting easyfundraising.org.uk. Easyfundraising provide a free service where

you can shop with 500+ online stores. You still shop directly with each retailer and by using the links from the Easyfundraising website first, each purchase you make will generate a cashback donation for the playgroup.

If you have any fundraising ideas, please speak to either the Playleader or one of the Committee Members.

Data Protection

Our Confidentiality Policy reflects our adherence to Data Protection procedures. Parents should be aware that certain circumstances such as investigation of a crime may require us to disclose personal information.

We will use the information we hold about you or your child for purposes connected to your child’s attendance at playgroup only. We will not pass the personal information we hold about you to third parties without your consent except in limited circumstances arising from our Child Protection procedures.

Regulations

Gargunnock Playgroup is regulated by The Care Inspectorate and adheres to the National Care Standards



Early Education and Childcare up to the Age of 16. We are inspected regularly by The Care Inspectorate and inspection reports are available to view on our notice board and on our website.

We are members of Early Years Scotland



and follow their guidelines.

Safety.

We operate a safe as necessary policy and aim to protect children from injury however we also appreciate the benefits of exposing children to acceptable risk. We hold an accident book and parents/carers will be informed of any injury.

Staff

Senior Playleader : Jane Bain (BA Honours Childhood Practice)
Assistant Playleader: Louisa Jenkins (SVQ3 Children's Care, Learning and Development)
Relief Playleader : Morna Tinto
Our staff are registered with the Scottish Social Services Council, are members of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) scheme and are trained in emergency first aid.

Child Protection

We have a duty to report any concerns regarding Child Protection. Our Child Protection Officer is Steve Rivers, 1 Moray Place, Gargunnoch, FK8 3BT. Tel: 07779 417293

Photographs

Photographs of the children's activities may be taken and used to publicise our activities. If you have any objections to this, please speak to a Playleader or Committee Member.

Notices and News

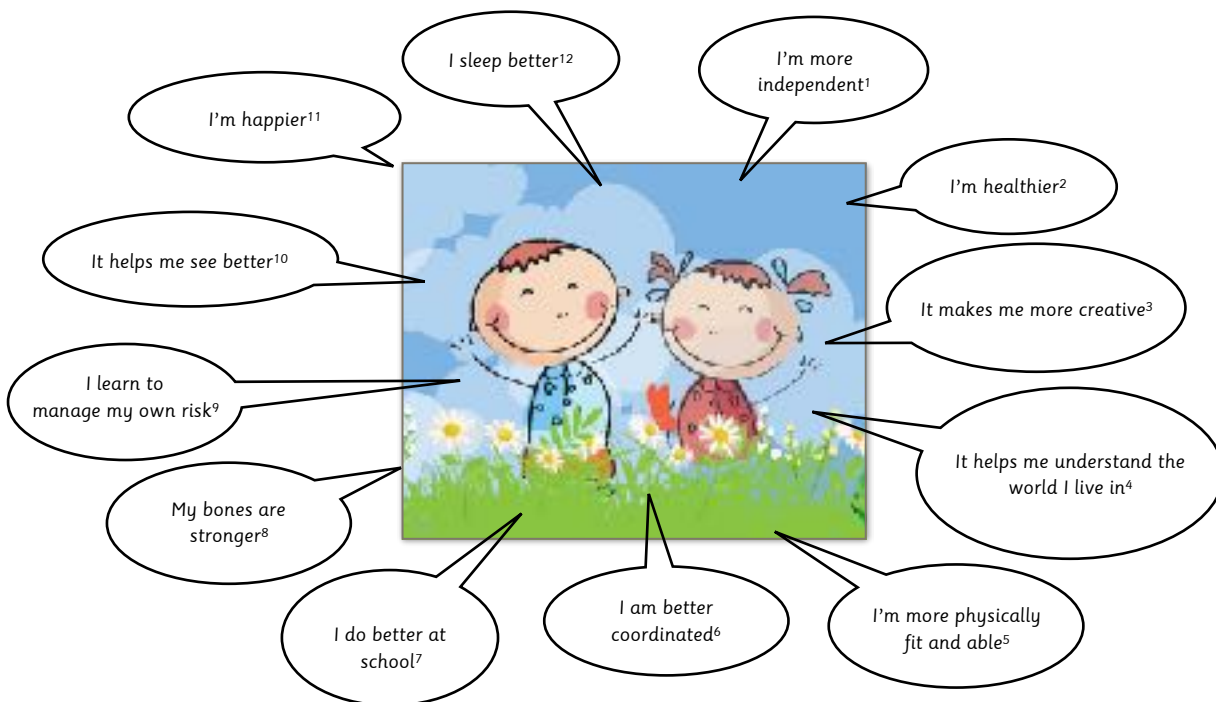
Our group information and policy documentation is available on our website www.gargunnochplaygroup.com. Parents are required to be familiar with our policies and procedures. We make use of social media (facebook and twitter) and email to communicate with our members. Please inform a member of staff or committee member if this method of communication is not appropriate for you.



www.gargunnochplaygroup.com
Scottish Charity Number
SCO13990

Outdoor Play

We are passionate about the benefits of outdoor play at Gargunnock Playgroup. Here are some of the reasons why.



1. Outdoor play is less adult prescribed allowing children to make decisions about where to play and who to play with.
2. Bacteria, viruses and other yucky stuff in the soil and mud helps develop our immune systems and can help combat asthma and allergies. Research shows that children who are active are more like to remain active in later life reducing future risks of cancer, diabetes and obesity.
3. The indoor environment is fairly stable whereas the outdoor world changes minute by minute, this encourages interest and stimulates curiosity and imagination.
4. Children learn about the world around them through direct experiences, they learn names for trees, flowers, animals and insects. They appreciate seasonality and weather patterns and increase their environmental awareness
5. Running around, exploring, climbing, playing with sticks and stones strengthens muscles and bones and increases stamina and dexterity.
6. Uneven or unstable surfaces such as rocks, trees, sand and mud develop balance, agility and dexterity
7. Regular access to outdoor play improves concentration, attention span and memory
8. Most of our vitamin D comes from sunlight, vitamin D is essential for strong bones
9. The outdoor environment provides challenge and excitement and encourages children to explore their own limitations and stretch their abilities. It promotes resilience, persistence and confidence.
10. Sunshine and natural light lower the chance of short sightedness and improves distance vision.
11. Access to outdoor areas relieves stress and promotes a sense of wellbeing.
12. Active physical play in the outdoors burns energy. It reduces anxiety and stress and aids restful sleep.