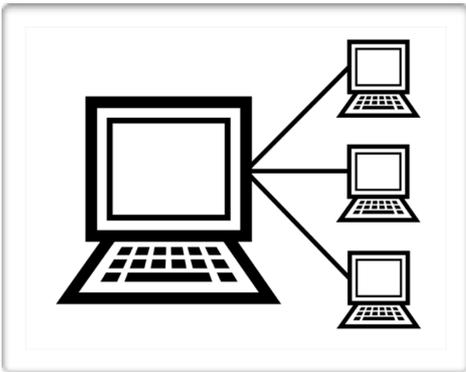


Getting I.T. Right



Prepared by: Jane Bain, Senior Playleader
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Cambusbarron Playgroup

Cambusbarron Playgroup (the Playgroup) is a community playgroup which runs 5 mornings per week during term times. The playgroup has 3 permanent members of staff, 2 qualified staff members who are registered with the SSSC, and an administration assistant. The group is registered with and inspected by the Care Inspectorate. The playgroup operates in partnership with Stirling Council to provide children with 600 funded hours of early learning and childcare in line with the Young People and Children (Scotland) Act 2014. The group is registered to take a maximum of 16 children per session and the total number of children attending is 21 (10 part time, 11 full time as at April 2018). The group has been in existence for over 50 years, is managed by a parent led committee and is funded through fees and fund raising activities. Parents in Cambusbarron Playgroup recognise the value of a community based and led service and remain very motivated and the group operates successfully providing a much needed early years service in the village as well as social and peer support network for parents while fundraising activities provide social events for the village community. It is widely recognised that the group contributes to the social capital within the village, Cambusbarron Playgroup is more than the sum of its component parts - it fosters community service, builds relationships and creates a sense of belonging and community spirit. The enthusiasm of staff and parents is key to this service determining shared goals and vision to continue provision of this vital service.

Project Rationale

The Scottish Government has pledged to provide all children aged 3 and 4 with 1140 hours of free early learning and childcare by 2020. This expansion will have a significant impact for early years services such as Cambusbarron Playgroup. The current delivery of a 3 hour 10 min session provided five days per week during school term times (equating to 600 hours) has to be replaced by longer sessions, perhaps also during school holidays. The service will require to provide facilities for children to have meals as well as to have quiet times and/or sleep. Services may also require additional staffing to allow for regulatory breaks and to maintain statutory ratios. With children attending the setting for longer there is an added responsibility on the setting to ensure children have the appropriate experiences. In order to maintain a viable service which remains attractive to parents and which continues to provide high quality early learning experiences for children, Cambusbarron Playgroup needs to update and improve equipment and facilities. Getting IT Right is part of a set of proposals contained by the overarching project, Fit in the Future, whereby Cambusbarron Playgroup aims to examine the needs of their service to ensure it is ready for the early years expansion and also to meet the Scottish Government's aim to improve children's health and wellbeing.

Project Outline

Funding is being sought to upgrade the existing IT equipment within the playgroup setting. The current computer facilities are nearly 10 years old and are slow and often incompatible with more modern equipment. Updated computer equipment is needed not least to ensure that playgroup office staff can work more efficiently and effectively but also to facilitate the recording of children's learning and also to comply with legislation such as GDPR. Playgroup currently uses the communal community centre phone and has intermittent access to internet via the local library. It is proposed that Playgroup obtains their own business phone line which would improve communication and allow more secure transfer of information. Playgroup would also have dedicated and reliable internet access which again allows for more secure transfer and storage of information but also will improve efficiency and free up staff time to spend with the children. Improved facilities such as dedicated computer desk and airprint printer will allow for a more flexible working environment as well as better sharing of information.

Changes to practice as a result of the Fit in the Future project mean that an increasing amount of time is spent outside. iPads will allow staff to have a more portable alternative for storing and recording children's learning. It is intended that the playgroup will use the iPads to subscribe to eLearningJournals, a system widely used by Stirling Council providers, to improve the process of recording and sharing children's learning.

Playgroup would also like to purchase some accessories such as a GoPro and Sphero SPRK for the children to use. The GoPro can be taken outside and to Woodland Play Sessions and the children will be able to record their activities and then collate and share them more widely. This meets the playgroup aim to increase knowledge and understanding of the benefits

Cambusbarron Playgroup

of outdoor play as well as meeting a goal of Fit in the Future which is to increase physical activity and improve knowledge of the local environment. As Fit in the Future also considers the skills and attributes children will need in their future working lives, the Sphero SPRK will be used to allow children to gain a basic understanding of programming. This will be a welcome addition to indoor learning resources and promote and develop technology skills for children and staff.

Budget

Funding estimates are as follows :

IT Equipment				
Description	Count	Cost	Sub Total	
IPad	2	450.00	900.00	
Ipad case	2	20.00	40.00	
Apple pencil	2	100.00	200.00	
Lap Top	1	800.00	800.00	
Computer desk	1	200.00	200.00	
AirPrint printer	1	100.00	100.00	
Printer ink	4	30.00	120.00	
GoPro	1	200.00	200.00	
GoPro accessories	1	50.00	50.00	
Sphero SPRK	1	120.00	120.00	
eJournals (3 year subscription)	1	1,400.00	1,400.00	
Phone line	1	80.00	80.00	
Internet (3 year subscription)	1	900.00	900.00	
Subtotal			5,110.00	