

**WISHING WELL FAMILY CENTRE
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**ANNUAL REPORT
NOVEMBER 2016 – OCTOBER 2017**

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INTRODUCTION

Mission Statement

Wishing Well Family Centre, based in Alliance Crescent, was established in 1989 and is a locally based integrated community organisation that offers support to families, responding in a caring and open way to social, educational, economic and environmental needs within our community.

Our current services include our Day Nursery (49 places) which incorporates a baby and toddler unit, a junior playgroup and a senior playgroup, a pre-school group (16 places) and an out of schools group (24 places). Other activities include our volunteer environmental project where the team maintain the centre and its grounds as well as assisting with gardening in the local community, Sure Start services and courses, seasonal holiday schemes, a local bus service, a Mother and Toddler Group, volunteering and training opportunities as well as educational support to students and trainees.

Our main funders are Dept For Communities, Belfast City Council, Education Authority, and the Belfast Trust. We employ 32 local people and provide placements for students from schools and colleges throughout North Belfast and further. Future plans include a purpose built centre to the side of our current building which will provide a new home for our pre-school and out -of -schools groups.



WHO'S WHO

Directors / Management Board	<u>Staff Continued</u>	<u>Advisors</u>
Kevin McGlennon Chairperson / Director	Charlene Skillen Childcare Assistant	Finnegan Gibson Accounts
Stephen Dobbin Director	Nicole Hallam Childcare Assistant	Ann Marie Hartigan Social Services
Sam Burns Company Secretary / Director	Kirsty Begley Childcare Assistant	Ursula Maginn /Sharon Harvey Early Years
Keith Johnston Vice Chairman / Director		Goody Solutions First Aid
Roy Brawley Committee Member	<u>Volunteers</u> Roy Brawley Environmental	<u>Tutors</u>
Tracey Hutchinson Manager	Sam Rooney Environmental	Workforce
Catherine Ferguson Deputy Manager	Andrew Stewart Environmental	Early Years
Sinead Maguire Committee Member	Kirsty Begley Childcare	Tutorcare Belfast Trust
		Ashton Centre
<u>Staff</u>	<u>Placements</u>	
Tracey Hutchinson Manager	Chelsea Black Impact	<u>SureStart</u> <u>Secondments</u>
Catherine Ferguson Deputy Manager	Olga Petrichen Belfast Met	Sinead Keenan Childcare Assistant
Karen B Johnston Early Years Supervisor		Kathleen Ingham Childcare Assistant
Muriel Dalzell Senior Supervisor		Caroline Donnelly Childcare Assistant
Natasha Gibson Deputy Supervisor	<u>Students</u> Adele Hines Girls' Model	Bronagh Donnelly Childcare Assistant
Laura Burns Supervisor	Sarah Sloan Girls' Model	Janine Swindell Childcare Assistant
Louise Williams Childcare Assistant	Annie Acheson Girls' Model	Briege Owens Childcare Assistant
Tracey Massey Senior Supervisor	Lucia Anzellini Mercy College	Anne Curley Childcare Assistant
Sharlene Foster Deputy Supervisor	Shauna Copeland Mercy College	Mairead McGuire Childcare Assistant
Megan Hale Supervisor	Maoloisa Boyd Mercy College	Elizabeth Davey Childcare Assistant
Sinead Keenan Supervisor		Aimee Watts EarlyYears Development Worker
Nuala Heaney Supervisor		Joy Graham Childcare Assistant
Anita Montgomery Childcare Assistant		Tracey Toal Childcare Assistant
Carly Bingham Deputy Supervisor		Laura McCabe Childcare Assistant
Kerry Douglas Deputy Supervisor		Paula Morrow Childcare Assistant

Achievements and Performance

- In March 2017, secured a grant from Department of Social Development for £49,351.45 to manage the centre through the Neighbourhood Renewal Implementation Project for one year.
- Successful in receiving grants from Belfast City Council, Department of Education, Northern Ireland Health & Social Services Board and Department of Health & Social Services for a variety of capital ventures and revenue costs.
- In April 2017 we had a very successful inspection from Social Services re: Quality of Monitoring and Evaluation.
- All staff have completed training in Autism (Feb 2017), 1st Aid (August 2017), Child Protection (September 2017). Also management have completed training in Keeping Children Safe: Training for Managers, Supervisors and Management Committee Members. Karen Johnston has completed her level 5 diploma in CCLD.
- Links with Glenbrook Sure Start, Smile and Outer West Sure Start have resulted in Service Level Agreements for secondment of staff.
- The centre has had a very successful summer programme with trips and activities every day for nine weeks over July and August.
- A mother and toddler group has been set up with funding from IFI. Very successful to date.
- Open days and the Graduation Ceremony in June 2017 were well attended by parents and friends of the centre.
- The environmental team has continued to maintain the centre and its gardens as well as assisting in the community.
- All policies and procedures are updated on a rolling basis in collaboration with staff and management.
- New extension to the Centre to be completed November 2017. To include 24 place pre-school room, 24 place out-of-school room, as well as a therapy room, office space and outside garden area.
- Employ 32 local people and manage numerous students and volunteers.

Extending Wishing Well Family Centre

Current Facilities & Services offered by Wishing Well Family Centre include:

- Community Garden Facility
- Community Day Nursery
- Multi-purpose rooms
- Office Space
- Pre-School Group
- Out of Schools
- Environmental Project
- Advice Surgeries
- Volunteer and Training opportunities
- Educational Support
- Sure Start Services and Surgeries
- Seasonal Holiday Schemes
- Bus Service
- Befriending / Drop in Services
- Mother and Toddler Group

At present the key factor restraining the organisation in meeting the demand for its services is the lack of appropriate facilities to cater for this demand.

Proposed elements within the extension:

The following proposed elements have been included in the plans to date for the construction of the extension facility (The total floor area of the extension will be 326m²):

- Additional office space
- Kitchen facilities
- Quiet Room
- Reading Area
- Sensory Room
- Garden Area
- Preschool area (can accommodate 24 children 3-5 years old)
- Out of School Club (can accommodate 24 children 5-11 years old)



Handover 17th November 2017

BABY ROOM REPORT

This has been yet another busy and exciting year in the baby room. The room is registered for four babies (six weeks to one year) and throughout the year we have welcomed new babies as others have moved into the Toddler room!

Our room is very colourful and bright with lots of wooden toys and our treasure baskets are full of natural materials which the babies love to play with. The sensory area is also filled with lots of wooden and natural material items. Our black and white themed corner is very popular and also very stimulating for the babies. All our toys and equipment are ideal for sensory play and development. We also use our sensory tent frequently. The babies love the lights and textured toys.



We love to display the children's beautiful art work around the room. We have displays for all our themes throughout the year. For example, summer, animals, transport, All About Me. We also displayed photos and self portraits along with hand and footprint pictures.

We continue to have a routine for the day to day running of the room whilst catering for each child's individual needs. All our daily routines and plans can be seen on our noticeboard outside the room.

Messy play and water play are also very important for babies and we always have plenty of variety. Spaghetti is a firm favourite as it is very baby friendly with a great texture. We had several exciting trips out over the year - Funky Monkeys, the farm and the Zoo. We also tried a new soft play centre - World of Wonder - for the first time and the babies had a great time! These trips are very beneficial for the babies in their physical and social development. The babies all love travelling on the bus and get very excited.

This year has been another very successful one in the baby room. The staff and babies enjoyed every moment and we shall continue to build on our routines and introduce more fun-filled ideas and activities for our babies.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our parents for their continued support.

Laura Burns
Supervisor

TODDLER ROOM REPORT

It has been yet another exciting and rewarding year in the Toddler Room. There is a maximum of eight places on a daily basis in the room and the age range is twelve to twenty two months. Throughout the year some of our toddlers have moved into the Junior Playgroup and at the same time we have welcomed new children into the room.

Our room is very bright and colourful with lots of our crafts and artwork on display. The children enjoy art and craft activities and these are displayed around the room. All our toys and equipment help the children in their various stages of development. Our treasure baskets are full of natural materials and we have added some sensory bottles - these are all ideal for sensory play. Our room is also arranged in such a way to define each area – house and book corners, along with small world, construction, sensory and floor play areas. Our book corner is very cosy with a duvet, pillows and teddies where the children can enjoy some ‘me time’.



We have sleep time within the daily routine – 11:30am to 1:00pm approximately. This routine is very beneficial especially for children who attend for a full day, however times can be changed to suit the individual needs of the children.

Each month we base our plans on a particular theme, shape and colour. For example in the month of October our theme would be ‘Halloween/Autumn’, our colours orange/black and the shape a crescent. The room and all link into our daily routine. The monthly plans and daily timetable are on display outside the room.

During the summer we had some super trips out to the farm, the Zoo, Stormont Park and Snakes and Ladders. The children really enjoyed these experiences especially the farm and loved travelling on the buses.

Throughout the year when the weather is suitable, we make great use of our own outdoor area where the children can enjoy daily play in a safe and secure way. We enjoy nature walks around our garden especially in Autumn to collect leaves for our Autumn display and we also enjoy walks to our local parks.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff, students, parents and of course the children for such a fun filled and productive year.

Megan Hale
Supervisor

JUNIOR PLAYGROUP REPORT

It has been another very busy and successful year in Junior Playgroup. All the children including new starts have settled in extremely well and adapted to the new routine. We have sixteen places available on a daily basis with children aged between 1 year 10 months and 2 years 10 months.

Our room is very bright and colourful with lots of activities on offer to suit all children. They love arts and crafts and these are displayed around the room for all to see. The children also enjoy table top toys, as well as jigsaws, sand and water, the house corner, imaginary play and construction.

Our activities are based around the six areas of learning and our monthly plans and themes are all centred on these and are displayed outside our room on the noticeboard. Our daily routine is also displayed along with photos of the staff.



Physical play is part of the curriculum and is very important for the children. We provide this both indoors and out and we make full use of our outdoor play area and garden. We have a variety of equipment such as bikes, scooters, balls, balancing beams, climbing frames, play houses, large soft blocks, tents and tunnels. Trips to the local park are always very popular and in Autumn we gather leaves, twigs and acorns for our nature table.

During the summer we had some fun trips to various places for example– the zoo, cinema, library, farm, Funky Monkeys and World of Wonder. Children and staff all enjoyed these immensely!

On special occasions such as Christmas and Easter the children had great fun making and decorating shortbread, buns and treats. Cooking activities are always very popular.

The Junior Playgroup continues to provide a stimulating and fun environment for the children in which they can learn and interact with others. The staff have excellent relationships with parents, carers and family members and that helps to ensure that each child's individual needs are met.

I would like to thank all the staff and students for their continuous hard work and support throughout the year and the parents / carers for their support also. We hope that next year will be as successful and rewarding as this one.

Nuala Heaney
Supervisor

SENIOR PLAYGROUP

The Senior Playgroup continues to be a very busy room which is used as a stepping stone for the children who will be entering into Pre-School education. We do this by encouraging independence, introducing rules and routines, personal choices and involvement in all areas of play. We have observed that the transition to Pre-School is easier for the children who have been in our room.

We base our activities around the six areas of learning and each child can progress through play at their own level of development. The children are always very busy and are encouraged to partake in all the activities on offer. The staff and children take great pleasure in displaying their beautiful arts and crafts around the room and showing them to parents and carers. Our arts and crafts change every month according to our plans and themes. Our daily and monthly plans are displayed on our noticeboard outside the room.

As usual we made great use of our beautiful garden for walks, picnics, storytelling sessions and gathering leaves in autumn for our autumn display. Our outside play area also has an excellent range of equipment such as a playhouse, climbing frames, see saw and beams. The children are able to have great fun using this equipment as well as having lots of outdoor exercise.



During the summer, we had some super trips to Stormont Park, the Zoo, W5, the cinema, the farm and Snakes and Ladders. Both children and staff thoroughly enjoyed these outings! We were also delighted to take part in several sessions of Jo Jingles.

Our children have continued to partake in the 1-2-3 dental programme. Every year they look forward to the wonderful stories and puppets which the dentist brings along.

We had another great Social Services inspection this year and we continue to receive good reports and feedback from parents.

I would like to say thanks to all the staff for their continued hard work throughout the year, and also to our parents for their continued support.

Tracey Massey
Senior Supervisor

PRE-SCHOOL REPORT

The Pre-school setting prepares the children for their transition to primary school. We have sixteen places and these are all filled.

Every day our activities are based around the six areas of the pre-school curriculum. These are:

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Language development
- Early mathematical experiences
- Physical development and movement
- The world around us
- The arts

The children are regularly monitored on their development and parents are kept up to date on their child's progress. We do this through three written reports during the year, open days and of course parents are welcome to have a chat at any time.

Throughout the year we have enjoyed lots of outings and fun-filled activities. For example we have been to W5, the Zoo, and the farm. We were also very fortunate to have been invited to Christmas shows which were held in local primary schools. This year we have enjoyed some very exciting visits to our Pre-school from the Fire Brigade, the PSNI and the dentist.



Our Graduation Day was held in June and was very successful. The children and their parents had a great time! We would like to thank Mr Kevin McGlennon for presenting the children with their certificates.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for their hard work and the parents for their continued support throughout the year.

Muriel Dalzell
Supervisor

OUT OF SCHOOLS REPORT

Out of Schools is a fun exciting place for the children to attend after school. It provides fun, relaxation and learning through a variety of activities and play. These activities include arts and crafts, cookery, physical play, games and trips out. These are all designed to help the children in their development, promote creativity and build social skills. We also allow the children the opportunity to do their homework and help them by offering guidance, encouragement and support.

We are very lucky to have separate rooms for each of these activities and each room is very well used. The children have great fun creating wonderful works of art which are displayed around the rooms. This creates a happy and colourful environment. They also love our outside play area which has a great selection of equipment.

During our nine week summer programme we had some great trips out to the Zoo, Superbowl, W5, Funworks, World of Wonder and Snakes and Ladders. The scheme was extremely well attended and everyone had a wonderful time.



Every year some of our older children leave and move on to secondary school and we wish all of them the very best for the future. New children have joined our group and have all settled really well.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for their hard work and support throughout the year.

Sinead Keenan
Supervisor

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The volunteer environmental team has worked very hard this year in maintaining the centre and its grounds to a very high standard despite Sammy and myself both having time off due to illness.



Gardens to the rear of the centre and car park to the side have been well tended to through-out the year. Play areas for the various age groups have been fenced off and during the summer months, the children spent many happy hours in the gardens.



We have carried out painting jobs in the centre and helped put together various pieces of furniture and equipment.

Sammy, Crawford and Andy have worked tirelessly in completing the many jobs that always need doing, such as fixing fences, growing vegetables, power hosing, unblocking sinks, clearing gutters, repairing and putting up furniture, driving our mini bus - the list is endless....

I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their hard work and dedication in helping to make this a very successful year for our team.



Roy Brawley
Environmental Supervisor

