



Licketyspit Theatre Company

Big Porridge & Play Glasgow – Year 1 - Summary



LOTTERY FUNDED

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About Us

Licketyspit - Opening doors to imaginary playworlds!

Licketyspit is a specialist early years theatre company based in Scotland, creating innovative and engaging theatre and drama-led experiences for and with children, their families and communities.

Our work is rooted in continuous practical artistic research, dialogue and developmental practice with 3-8 year olds. Licketyspit is committed to participatory, socially engaged work that explores the transformative power of arts and culture. Open to all we prioritise our output in diverse and challenging settings.

'The proven universal and inclusive approach of Licketyspit to creative arts based interventions has proved outstanding results.'

Marguerite Hunter-Blair, Play Scotland

Licketyspit is a national company working from its base at North Edinburgh Arts in Muirhouse Edinburgh and Oakwood Primary School, Easterhouse, Glasgow.



About Big Porridge & Play Glasgow

Big Porridge & Play Glasgow was developed in response to requests from children and family participants in the company's DRAMATIKA Glasgow pilot in 2015. We were interested in fostering groups of families for a finite period of time in order to create opportunities for joint adult/child drama-led play. We wanted to strengthen these communities and families to enrich their experience by bringing families together to eat, create, share and perform.

Big Lottery is enabling Licketyspit to return to three identified localities in Glasgow in order to create community wide Porridge & Play Projects. These areas are Ruchill, the Gorbals and Whiteinch.

A small print run was developed to deliver information to the families of children who attend nurseries and primary schools local to our community venues. Licketyspit was able to use it's other committed activity in and around these areas to promote the activity to families.

Sessions	Children	Parents/	Families	Participant
26	86	62	49	482

"I love the social aspect of eating together at the beginning. The games are a fantastic opportunity for building listening skills, following instructions and co-operating."

Dad, Big Porridge & Play Glasgow, Whiteinch

Venues & Partners

Licketyspit has a long standing relationship with nurseries and schools in these areas. The nature of the project meant that activity had to happen out in the community and not in educational settings. Local community centres were identified as venue for the activity. Within each of the communities and through consultation with existing contacts Licketyspit identified and met with a number of organisation working within each of the key community areas. These conversations proved key to the success of the project and Licketyspit is keen to further strengthen and develop these relationships. More details of partners and contacts can be found in the Funding and Partners section.

The project was design to offer families the opportunity to attend 8 weekly Porridge & Play sessions to explore the company's repertoire of games, songs and rhymes, to develop their own drama-led play and introduce key skills in creating story and character. Additional training and performance sessions were offered. Each community group worked towards a community event where friends and family could attend to see what the group had achieved in their time together.

The Communities Ruchill

Ruchill Community Centre, 671 Bilsland Drive, Glasgow, G20 9NF

Saturdays 3.00pm—5.15pm

Sessions	Children	Parents/Carers	Families	Participant Sessions
8	27	19	16	122

Delivered by Fraser MacLeod – Lead Associate & Iona Zajac – Trainee Facilitator, Virginia Radcliffe – Artistic Director/Chief Executive and Lorna Mitchell—Creative Producer Children & Families Network

Drawing upon families from local Ruchill Early Years Centre, Benview Nursery, High Park Primary and St Cuthbert's Primary. Key relationships established with North United Communities, Healthy North Living Glasgow, North Glasgow Housing Association and Glasgow Libraries.

"It has made them both more confident. Also they both spoke of the staff like friends in school. They really loved spending time with you all."

Mum, Big Porridge & Play Glasgow, Ruchill



"It made them both play together and make up songs themselves, even in the car."

Mum, Big Porridge & Play Glasgow, Ruchill

Challenges

Venue is surrounded by residential properties but not close to other public amenities.

First adult/child joint drama-led play opportunity

Attendance was slow to build at beginning.

Timings of sessions on a Saturday afternoon/evening

Successes

The venue was ideal in terms of space, facilities and the staff were all pleasant and helpful.

A committed mixed and inclusive group emerged for whom this activity was completely new.

The group is keen to seek funding to continue year-round Porridge & Play activities.

Clear progression in the confidence of the children and adults involved.

"Honestly could not pin point one (best) thing. It's all been awesome, from the meeting new people, the games, the staff and the soup. Can't think of a better way to spend my Saturday."

Mum, Big Porridge & Play Glasgow, Ruchill

The Communities Gorbals

St Francis Centre, 405 Cumberland Street, Glasgow, G5 0SE

Thursdays 4.00pm—6.15pm

Sessions	Children	Parents/Carers	Families	Participant Sessions
10	32	30	20	256

Delivered by Fraser MacLeod – Lead Associate, Sarah Gudgeon – Actor Pedagogue & Licketyspit Associate Artist, Virginia Radcliffe – Artistic Director/Chief Executive and Lorna Mitchell—Creative Producer Children & Families Network

Drawing upon families from local St Francis Nursery and Primary School and children who had participated in other Licketyspit activity. Key relationships were established with South East Alternative Lifestyles, New Gorbals Housing Association, Glasgow Libraries, the Thriving Places community forum & the Citizens Theatre.

"My daughter and I seriously do these activities when we are free at home. She enjoys doing so."

Mum, Big Porridge & Play Glasgow, Gorbals



"We had a great time here. A lifetime (of) memories for us. It will always (be) in our hearts."

Mum, Big Porridge & Play Glasgow, Gorbals

Challenges

Time pressures to include group in Gorbals Fair.
Language barriers as majority of group have English as an additional language.

Successes

Attendance was excellent with a large consistent group from week 1.
Whole group parade and performance within Gorbals Fair
Community provided food themselves for final sharing
Parents attended a parent training session.

"Now we know so many different and interesting games to play and for sure will not get bored in the summer vacation coming ahead"

Mum, Big Porridge & Play Glasgow, Gorbals

The Communities Whiteinch

St Francis Centre, 405 Cumberland Street, Glasgow, G5 0SE

Thursdays 4.00pm—6.15pm

Sessions	Children	Parents/Carers	Families	Participant Sessions
8	27	13	13	104

Delivered by Sarah Gudgeon – Community Lead & Licketyspit Associate Artist, Kirsty Stuart – Actor/Pedagogue & Licketyspit Associate Artist, Virginia Radcliffe – Artistic Director/Chief Executive and Lorna Mitchell—Creative Producer Children and Families Network

Drawing upon families primarily from local Whiteinch Nursery. Key relationships established with Whiteinch Library, where one book-focussed session was delivered as part of the project.

“Now after school they all play games together...they really enjoy it..”

Mum, Big Porridge & Play Glasgow, Whiteinch



“Encourages both my kids to use their imaginations and not to be afraid to enjoy themselves.”

Dad, Big Porridge & Play Glasgow, Whiteinch

Challenges

Low attendance at first few sessions.

Timing of session—Saturday Middyay

Language barrier for families with English as an additional language

Change of venue for one week

Large family groups with a variety of additional support requirements.

Successes

Establishing a confident, enthusiastic and inclusive core group including 3 dads

A diverse group in terms of race, ages, class and additional support needs.

“Parents, kids and organisers all get involved (and lost) in the interactive role-play games.”

Dad, Big Porridge & Play Glasgow, Whiteinch

Legacy

This was a highly successful and original project which introduced a repertoire of play and a way of playing to its three selected communities. All participating families told us they had made new friends and that Porridge & Play had become part of their culture at home too. Children were reported teaching the PlayCard Repertoire (38 games/rhymes/songs/imaginary play activities) to their wider families and friends. (One Grandmother said her 4 year-old would teach the new games to his aunts, uncles and cousins every week). Families told us they had got to know people they used to 'pass in the street'. All families were elated and enthusiastic, keen to continue this experience. Participants were exactly the families the project was designed to reach – a good mix of people, ages, genders and with differing ethnic backgrounds. Parents and carers understood and recognized the benefits of Big Porridge & Play for themselves and their children in relation particularly to confidence, social skills, physical skills, language, literacy and empathy.

Licketyspit is keen to continue its relationship with all of the families involved with Big Porridge & Play Glasgow through our Children & Families Network. Dedicated Creative Producer, Lorna Mitchell, will continue to communicate directly with all the Big Porridge & Play families and offer them further opportunities both with Licketyspit and other local organisations. Lorna is also developing partnership projects to develop further opportunities for Licketyspit families with museums, galleries and libraries.

Funders

Big Porridge & Play Glasgow was funded by the Big Lottery

Other contributors – STV Children's Appeal, Emsée Fairbairn Foundation & The Robertson Trust

Thank you

All staff at the St Francis Centre (Gorbals) & Ruchill Community Centre

Adrienne McGeech, Deborah Dixon, Aily Thoms & Chris - Whiteinch Centres

Alison Dunster & all the staff - Ruchill Early Years Centre

Kelly Johnston & all the staff - St Francis Nursery

Heather Yule & all the staff - Whiteinch Nursery

Vanessa Thomson, the staff & pupils - Oakwood Primary School

Karen Hutchison, Mary Conway, Christine Stewart & Ian Lebeter - Libraries

Gerard McKernan & Laura Goff - Glasgow City Council

Jill MacKay - North United Communities

Brenda Sowney & Margaret Rutherford - SEAL (South East Alternative Lifestyles)

Michael Fullerton - New Gorbals Housing Association/Thriving Places

Carol McCallion, Christine McCann, Jon Pope, Lesley Crawford, Stuart Waddleton & Kirsty White - Glasgow Life

Neil Packham & Angela Smith - Citizens Theatre

Samantha Hawkins, Claire Fontana, Henrietta Howe - North Glasgow Healthy Living Community

Gillian Gourlay, Mahri Reilly and Philippa Tomlin - National Theatre of Scotland

Margaret Fraser & Alister Mitchell - NG Homes
Belle Jones & Ruby Zajac

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