



Big Porridge & Play Glasgow 2019

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Background

Licketyspit is Scotland's leading early years theatre company. We create theatre and drama-led play experiences for and with children under-twelve, their families and communities. We believe that recognizing and meeting the needs of children is in the interests of all and that what is 'right' for children is 'right' for everyone. Everyone needs to play and child-centred imaginary play with their adults and other families can have a huge impact on children's learning, health and wellbeing and emotional resilience.



It was really cool as I'm a shy person and wouldn't do this anywhere else. Adam was excited before we came and he has loved every bit. Me too." Mum & Volunteer Ruchill
"They have confidence in themselves. They have improved on their communication skills." Mum, Gorbals

Big Porridge & Play Glasgow is our 3-year inter-generational, drama-based play project where parents and carers join their children for two hours of Lickety-Playcard play and a delicious communal meal round a table. The games provide a supportive, relaxed structure for everyone to be seen, heard and included, where they can allow their imaginations to flourish. We create collective adventures, rhymes, characters and stories with the groups, giving huge value to every individual's ideas and a real sense of achievement for the group as a whole.

"Don't know where we'd be without this, there's nothing else for kids. No-ones judging, there's lots of acceptance, feel like we're being brought into the community." Carer, Ruchill



Big Porridge & Play Year 3

This year we worked with **55 families** or **182 participants** in Whiteinch, the Gorbals and Ruchill, for 7 weeks. This included 1-2 **outreach sessions**, where we took Big Porridge & Play “on tour” to the Tall Ship at the Riverside Museum, the Dream Machine and Glasgow Green. The feedback for this addition to the project was hugely positive, both from new participants and those who had come last year.



*“I think my kids really enjoyed the space and the excitement of being on the ship “
Mum, Whiteinch*

“It was good and the singing along the way was great” Mum, Whiteinch

We also had 4 **Lickety Volunteers** who participated in training and ongoing evaluation, supporting the actor-pedagogues to prepare, run and break down the sessions. This was the first time we have worked with volunteers in this way and it was hugely successful, with two refugees volunteering in Whiteinch and the Gorbals, and two parents who participated last year volunteering in Ruchill.

“It helps me to connect with my inner child which in return helps me to bond with my children. This year I am happy to be engaging with other families and helping them to bond with their children and each other.” Lickety Volunteer

Another innovation this year has been the creation of weekly **blog posts** (including reflective drawings and photos) for each venue, on the new, interactive Licketyspit website. These were sent to the families by email as well as shared on social media. There has also been increased regular communication with families between sessions, with the acquisition of a company phone, as texts are a preferred method of communication (as confirmed in participant feedback).

Participation

This year, **55 families** participated in Big Porridge & Play Glasgow, with **38** of those families coming regularly. This was a total of 182 participants and 121 regular participants: 77 adults and 105 children. **18 families** were returners from last year, including two from the Maryhill venue we ran in addition to the three main venues.

55% were **EAL** families and **64%** were **BME** families.

We also held **taster sessions** at Ruchill Early Years Centre and St Francis Nursery, and attended the Whiteinch Nursery Spring Tea to meet families and invite them to join.



"I learn how to make story, many songs and games. It made me feel happy. When is Big Porridge & Play gonna come again?" 7 year old, Gorbals

Feedback and Evaluation

All the sessions were monitored and evaluated by our Actor-Pedagogues, including: what we played and participants' ideas (e.g. the Shy Sheep and other animals invented for *Funky Chicken*, what everyone saw from their *Flying Balloons*); attendance figures, observations about individuals (e.g. increased confidence/participation), reflections on the progress of the group and overall success of the session; and participants' comments and reflective drawing descriptions.

"Final session today. Everyone sit together and share their food. Lucy and Dan get more well with other kids. They have lovely time today." Mum, Gorbals

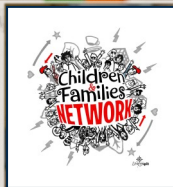


Feedback questionnaires were also given out in Week 1, Week 4 and Week 7, including tailored Child Questionnaires. In the final sessions, children were invited to come early for a **Child Consultation session** where they were interviewed in detail about what they thought about Porridge & Play. A number of parents/carers and our Licketyspit Volunteers were also interviewed, and all of these

interviews were filmed, to be transcribed and included in the final film.

Legacy

85% of families joined the Lickety Spit Children & Families Network (CFN) during this year of Big Porridge & Play, as well as a number of interested passers-by and guests invited by participants to the final session.



In the final week, one carer in **Ruchill** suggested having regular meet-ups in the park so that they could continue to see each other, play the games together, and build on the bonds they have developed. **47%** of families brought a **dish to share** at the final celebration meal, and recipes will be shared on the Lickety Kitchen page of our website.

"We love to play with our kids. Share our happiness with them. Would like to thanks to team about their support and guidance." Mum, Gorbals

Participants in all three groups lamented the end of the project, with one Mum in the **Gorbals** saying "next Thursday we won't know what to do with ourselves". However, she did say they had been playing the games at home and would continue to. 91% of parent/carers and 78% of children who completed feedback forms said they would play the games at home.

"Their imagination has come on so much and they feel comfortable with playing without any objects/toys now." Mum, Ruchill

One of the Actor-Pedagogues was collecting the kit from the **Whiteinch** Library two days after the final session when she bumped in to a Porridge & Play family. "She's had the cards out every day. She's obsessed", Linda said. "And we're off to do our shopping later so we can make the Porridge & Play soup!"



With thanks to all of our Actor-Pedagogues, staff, our main funder, the National Lottery Community Fund, and support from Esmee Fairbairn and the Robertson Trust. And to our participants!

"My daughter love it counts down the days until the next one things she will be lost when it finishes up, might need to go to another location." Mum, Ruchill