Licketyspit Board of Directors

Role Description

Welcome from Virginia Radcliffe, CEO and Artistic Director, Licketyspit

***Licketyspit – empowering children, nurturing families, finding home in schools and communities***

***– arts early-interventions to transform lives!***

Thank you for your interest in Licketyspit. I hope that this information will explain what we are looking for and spark your further interest and enthusiasm for our work. Our most recent [Annual Report 2022/23](https://www.licketyspit.com/ar22-23/) will give you a sense of the breadth of our work, as will our website [www.licketyspit.com](http://www.licketyspit.com)

Licketyspit is a children’s theatre & play charity and the home of ***Storyplay Scotland***. Since our formation in 2004, Licketyspit has ‘followed the child’ to create rich child-centred theatre and drama. This has led us to define the nature of our participatory-arts engagement as Storyplay. Storyplay is facilitated by skilled actors with high level expertise at children’s rights engagement and improvisation who we call, actor-pedagogues. **Storyplay** uses relational engagement through imaginary play, with children and with families and teachers, in nurseries, schools, community, arts and cultural spaces and outdoors. This is high impact specialist early intervention that is changing lives, rooted in the essence of human engagement – play!

Licketyspit actor-pedagogues are confident that everyone without exception can, wants to and will play with us. This belief rooted deep experience and nuanced understanding, enables us to make it so – for everyone. Our work focuses on early years children and families who experience poverty, isolation and/or trauma.

We use a dynamic and fun repertoire of games, rhymes, songs, stories, dressing-up and imaginary play activities. The actor-pedagogues are highly attuned to the needs of every child and adult, quickly enabling and empowering them to relax and share their playful selves, safe in the knowledge they will always be ***seen, heard, included and valued.***

This unique transformative approach is applied across a range of powerful interconnected projects. **Licketyspit creates ‘Home’** wherever we are. We host children, families, teachers and carers in welcoming and relaxed sessions, where every participant has their needs met, and is enabled to leap into brilliant, joyeous, satisfying and inclusive play. This is play that does more than ‘*fire imaginations’*. A Storyplay session is a unique and highly memorable positive expression of the shared creativity and humanity of every person participating in the play. Sessions include Reflective Drawing as a tool for sharing feelings and ideas. Many sessions include time to chat over a shared healthy meal.

Storyplay unlocks every participant, including those identified as habitually ‘anxious’, ‘shy’ or ‘behaviourally challenged’ who are supported to relax, play and become and share their truest selves. The key to Storyplay is **Reciprocity.** Our experience is that people are naturally kind, empathetic and perceptive towards others given the opportunity. Storyplay reminds participants of their shared, values. It embraces diversity and nurtures belonging.

Once a child lets go of habitual barriers and reveals their true selves to their peers and/or family/teachers/carers, the shared understanding of how wonderful they are, can never be lost. **This is culture change.**

Even just one session of Storyplay can create significant impact on each participant – in the way they feel about themselves and others, in how well they can think in the moment, take risks, be spontaneous, respond to others, in how successfully they can contribute and feel appreciated and a sense of belonging.

**Licketyspit’s mission is to establish Storyplay as a rights-based tool in education, childcare and community practice.** We seek to expand our Board and attract new experience, imagination and expertise to help us to take this work forward.

Our Board of Directors is passionate about improving the lives of disadvantaged children and families. If you share this drive, we would love to hear from you! Licketyspit currently has two vacancies on its Board. We would welcome expressions of interest, particularly if you feel able to contribute to the development of our current priorities:

* Championing children’s rights-based engagement through Storyplay.
* Advocacy and strategic partnerships
* Strategic development.
* Fundraising and generating unrestricted income.

We are interested in attracting the following skills for our Board:

* Experience/knowledge of education & teaching
* Advocacy, influencing and marketing.
* Strategic Development
* Financial management
* Diversification of income generation

**Interested parties are invited to submit a letter of interest in joining the Licketyspit Board, highlighting any relevant skills and/or experience along with a CV to:**

**Virginia Radcliffe – Secretary, Board of Directors**

**E: virginia@licketyspit.com | T: 07970 749138**

Licketyspit

Community Central Hall,

292-316 Maryhill Rd,

Glasgow, G20 7YE

Look forward to hearing from you!

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**What we do:**

Storyplay is currently delivered in early years settings and schools; in community centres and libraries and online in the community (Porridge & Play) and in cultural and outdoor spaces (Picnic & Play).

**Licketyspit’s Children & Families Network** (CFN) supports year-round engagement with and among children and families all over Glasgow. It hosts cross-community sessions in museums, galleries, parks and beaches and annual celebration events which bring communities together, for example, at our Winter Ceilidh and Summer Storyplay Festival.

Storyplay Schools Residencies nurture a children’s rights based, inclusive, language and story-rich culture in schools and nurseries addressing the poverty associated attainment gap and include LicketyLeap, Storyplaycard play, playground play and Storyplay leaping into Literacy.

Licketyspit collaborates with teachers to show how Storyplay can support children’s social and emotional development, the acquisition and understanding of language and empower teachers to develop and embed our drama and rights-based approach in their practice. Licketyspit trains actor-pedagogues and Storyplay Champions to deliver Storyplay and shares this practice and methodology with other children and family professionals.

The company recently engaged in an exciting new collaboration with Scottish Women’s Aid training their workers in online Storyplay delivery with mothers and children recovering from Domestic Abuse. This pilot raises the potential of continuing Storyplay within Women’s Aid and opportunities to introduce this approach more intensively into other children and family support services and education.

*“The more parents and practitioners understand and act on the work of Licketyspit, the more young children will be given educational experiences which will serve them well for the rest of their lives”*- Tina Bruce CBE.

**Current Licketyspit Delivery includes:**

1. **Porridge & Play:** Licketyspit Actor Pedagogue-led intergenerational Storyplay sessions for families with 3–8-year old’s (inc. younger/older siblings). Sessions include a healthy, sociable porridge or soup/fruit meal around a table, followed by group storyplay outdoors or indoors, scaffolded by the Lickety Playcard games, reflective drawing, and gallery**.** Participants receive ***Storyplay cards*** to support independent play.
2. **Picnic & Play** takes the Porridge & Play model outside into nature (beaches, parks, woods) and to explore and discover free arts and cultural spaces like museums and galleries.
3. **Bookplay** – introduces a book as a source for shared imaginary exploration through Storyplay - delivered in schools, communities and libraries.
4. **‘Have Your Say Through Play’** uses Storyplay as child-consultation. Specifically adapted sessions have been used to explore children’s views on experiences of the pandemic, children’s rights, play, the GIRFEC refresh, family contact centres and the statutory guidance supporting the UNCRC Act. Storyplay Champion children have led adult professionals in HYSTP to demonstrate the meaning of children’s rights in practice.
5. **Storyplay online includes Porridge & Play, Bookplay** and **Have Your Say Through Play** adapted for online delivery. First developed in response to the Covid-19 pandemic it continues to attract 90% refugee families spread widely across Glasgow, many of whom live with poverty, isolation and trauma.
6. **LicketyMovers: is** a fusion of Licketyspit’s Storyplay approach with ContaKids (contact improvisation) methodology, combining movement, contact dance and physical play. Working with the body, movement and physical contact, parent and child pairs explore and enjoy a new, physical form of communication nurturing adult-child bonding and enriching relationships.

**The Future**

In seeking to fulfil our ***mission to share and embed Storyplay as a rights-based tool in education, childcare and community practice***, Licketyspit commits to:

1. Continue to train actor-pedagogues and deliver Storyplay as an exemplar to demonstrate its capacity to transform lives by fostering equality, agency, solidarity, creativity, kindness and courage, among children coping with the impacts of poverty, isolation or trauma.
2. Increasingly share and disseminate the Storyplay practice and methodology with wider children and family professionals and with parents both a) As a practical guide to children’s rights engagement and b) by training other professionals and volunteers in Storyplay.
3. Contribute to a children’s rights-led culture in Scotland by a) empowering children to contribute their thoughts, feelings and ideas and play an active role in society and b) showing adults how able children are to do this and how much they have to offer.

**Current Board Members**

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| Morag McLeod (Chair) | Consultant Psychiatrist |
| Dr Alison Preston | Head of Media Literacy Research, Ofcom |
| Boatemaa Ofori-Frimpong | Scientist, Volunteer coordinator Maryhill Integration Network and Storyplay mum. |
| Esther Muchena | Service Manager, Scottish Refugee Council |
| Nicola Hughes | Civil Servant |
| Virginia Radcliffe (Secretary) | CEO & Artistic Director, Licketyspit |

**Purpose of Post**

Licketyspit seeks new Board Members to work with the existing Board to provide leadership, support, advice and advocacy to support the advancement of the company’s plans and contribute to the longer term growth, sustainability and development of the organisation.

Licketyspit is a small dynamic company strongly rooted in our children’s rights-based creative engagement with children, driven by a passionate belief in the power of Storyplay - drama, stories and play - to enrich and empower children and support them and their families to flourish.

Licketyspit’s work constantly challenges perceived notions in relation to children and the Arts and our work and has many highly respected champions in the Arts, Play, Education, Health and Social work at local and strategic levels. Storyplay is a rich nuanced practice with multiple outcomes. Both ‘play’ as an activity and young children, are historically under-estimated. We apply ourselves to how to communicate our ideas in the right way to the right people. Because the company is led by an artist/practitioner and is rooted in continuing enquiry, testing and reflection with children, Licketyspit constantly develops and produces new ideas, which while very exciting, also challenges the organisation and stretches our capacity.

As above, we are seeking to expand our Board and attract new experience and expertise to help us take the work of Licketyspit to the next level.

**Main responsibilities for Licketyspit Board Members**

Licketyspit’s Board of Directors collectively adheres to the regulations and guidelines set out by OSCR:

1. Ensure the charity operates in a manner that is consistent with its objects of purposes. Trustees should carry out their duties in accordance with their governing document.
2. To ensure that the organisation’s resources are used to help the charity fulfil its charitable purpose and that its finances are systematically accounted for, audited and made publicly available.
3. Attending Board Meetings (approximately 6 per year inc the Annual General Meeting) and ad hoc Away Days (no more than one per year likely).
4. Act with care and diligence. Trustees should take such care of their charity’s affairs as is reasonable to expect of someone who is managing the affairs of another person.
5. Ensure that the charity complies with provisions of the 2005 Act (OSCR regulations), and other relevant legislation.
6. Appraising, with fellow Directors, the effectiveness of Board proceedings, ensuring the committee is representative and functions effectively
7. To foster effective relationships between member of the Board, working with existing Board members to provide leadership, support, advice and advocacy
8. To contribute any specific skills, knowledge and experience to assist the Board of Directors to reach sound decisions. This may include getting involved in specific pieces of work outwith board meetings.

Ref: <http://www.oscr.org.uk/charities/managing-your-charity/trustee-duties>

Licketyspit’s Board of Directors are collectively responsible, share their duties and are equally accountable for the organisation.

**Additional duties can include:**

1. Participating in steering groups e.g. to support fundraising or strategic development.
2. Attending sessions, performances, symposiums, events, exhibitions (as part of advocacy)
3. Supporting staff to secure funding, donors and sponsorship
4. Advocating, championing and building positive relationships with stakeholders on behalf of the organisation
5. Providing information to the public
6. Correcting any breaches of duties and removing anyone who consistently breaches their duty
7. Participate, where appropriate, in the recruitment of staff

**Person Specification**

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| **Essential** | **Desirable** |
| Strong interest in the work of Licketyspit and the company’s core values and aspirations. | Knowledge & understanding in any of the following: children’s and human rights; early years; family life in Scotland; education, learning & training; health and wellbeing; human resources; marketing; media, social media and press; communications; performing arts; project management; business; finance; fundraising. |
| Commitment to children’s rights and social justice | Experience of financial management |
| Collegiality | Experience of raising funds |
| Willingness to promote and advocate on behalf of Licketyspit locally, nationally and internationally | Experience and knowledge about engaging with early years children and families (personally or professionally). |
| Ability to think strategically | Awareness and understanding of the impacts of poverty, isolation and/or trauma. |