

## Evaluation of Summer Playschemes in West Ross 2011

This summer six activity sessions were arranged for birth to 5 years along with parents/carers. This was a joint venture run by Social Work/Care and Learning Alliance, funded by Ross, Skye & Lochaber Childcare & Family Resource Partnership.

The sessions were run by Carol Jackman- Children's Services Worker (Early Years) and Elspeth Nicolson -Care and Learning Alliance.

Activities included puppets, dinosaur and farm themed crafts, action rhymes/singing, story-telling/puppets and role-play. Toys and equipment were provided by the local toddler groups, craft and various other materials were supplied by us. A healthy snack and drink was provided for each child, Teas/coffees were available to accompanying adults.

### **Attendances:**

Poolewe	02/7/11	11 children/8 adults
Poolewe	27/7/11	14 children/11 adults
Poolewe	04/8/11	11 children/7 adults
Scoraig	28/7/11	9 children/5 adults
Ullapool	03/8/11	22 children/15 adults
Ullapool	10/8/11	24 children/16 adults

All groups were well attended this year by locals and visitors with very positive feedback received from parents/carers and children. Following the poor attendance at Gairloch last year the change of venue to Poolewe proved a success as reflected by the attendances.

Two representatives from Highland Council's Community Action toward Climate Change attended one of the Poolewe sessions to meet with families with young children. They displayed information for parents and talked about how the weather impacts on their lives and community. Families were asked to fill in surveys to provide feedback.

At Poolewe on 4/8/11 Yasmeen Hollenstein from the Library led a Bookbug session in which families enthusiastically participated.

Scoraig had a good turnout with older children attending along with their siblings.

Ullapool was very well attended by local parents and grandparents, several of whom are unable to attend term time groups.

## Feedback from parents and carers

- Great activities provided
- Our kids loved the snack and even tried new foods
- Can't believe its free
- Can we have one every week through the holidays
- Great chance to meet other kids and parents when we have time off work

## Recommendations for 2012

- Agreement on funding well in advance in order to book venues
- Following the successful attendances at Poolewe this summer we would opt for this venue again next year
- Maintain current format of sessions
- Investigate feasibility of involving support workers from other agencies to assist at larger groups
- Cost of boat hire to Scoraig has increased substantially this will need to be reviewed

Elspeth Nicolson Care and Learning Alliance

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