



The value of being a trustee

The Early Years Wales Special Recognition Award was introduced in 2020 to recognise settings that had been brought to our attention for going above and beyond during the pandemic.

Janet, Jean and Kathryn, trustees of Gresford Playgroup Ducks and Ducklings were one group of people that were recipients of an Early Years Wales Special Recognition Award. We had heard about the incredible support they had given the staff and extra voluntary work they had carried out on behalf of the setting.

We asked Kathryn Crabtree, Secretary of the playgroup committee, to give us an insight into the work she and her committee colleagues do to support the staff at the setting.

“There is so much paperwork these days, and with the added pressures everyone has faced because of Covid the staff have appreciated having additional help and support whilst they get on with the important job of looking after and caring for the children.

“As Trustees we really care about what happens to the playgroup, the staff and of course the children. It is therefore important that we keep up to date with all the relevant, constantly changing, legislation.

“We are on hand to follow up any issues that arise, help with IT and take on a lot of the necessary communication with parents and outside agencies. We are always at the end of the phone if there is a problem and will help cover staff sickness in an emergency.

“Another aspect of our role as trustees is that we carry out the staff’s appraisals and ensure that each member of staff is listened to and gets the support they need to improve their skills and keep their qualifications up to date. We organise meetings and ensure

that everyone is kept informed of any changes, as well as giving them the opportunity to speak about any issues within the group.

“Being a trustee is a really worthwhile role, we feel like we make a difference and that our efforts are appreciated. It can be challenging at times, and quite time consuming but the rewards are huge. Having the opportunity to support the staff, as well as getting to know the parents and children in our community is priceless. However, being a trustee requires commitment and the more you put into your role, the more you will get out of it.”

Tracy Rees, Playgroup Manager says “it is with thanks to our trustees that the playgroup has been successful in securing several applications for funding. As a staff team we would not have had the time to put them together. We are so grateful to the support of all our trustees, the work they take on means the staff are able to concentrate on the children. They are invaluable.”

Are you recruiting for committee members to join the board of your childcare setting (charity)? Keep reading because we’ve got some useful advice from the Charity Commission on what sort of person makes a good trustee.