

## CELCA Grant Application Form

**Application Reference:** SGM01/03/23.5

**Applicant/Organisation:**

We are a not-for-profit group taking over the running of the nursery formally known as Links in Duns. Links nursery provides childcare for 39 children from Duns and surrounding areas. When it was announced in November that the nursery would close it became apparent there was going to be a shortage of childcare in the local area particularly for under 3's. So, in response Duns Community Nursery was set up and will open on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April. The nursery will provide childcare from 7.30am-6pm Mon-Fri and holiday cover for children under school age. In time we aim to increase the nursery's activities to provide services that benefit the wider community. We are currently exploring intergenerational care, free childcare for when people are interviewing for jobs and cooking classes.

\*In the last 2 years there have been at least 11 children living in the LCF area attending links nursery.

**Reason for Application:**

We would like to purchase some electronic equipment and a nursery management app which are essential to allow the nursery to run safely and meet the expectations of parents.

1. IT equipment and software to ensure that invoicing and parental communication can be achieved and can be improved in line with feedback
2. A microwave to help with catering. The nursery provides all children with healthy home cooked meals and snacks.
3. A laminator to create educational materials, labels and signs that will allow the nursery to run smoothly and safely.

The IT equipment will allow the [family](#) app to be fully utilised to manage the nursery. It will allow paperless invoicing which will reduce nursery costs, staff time and be more conscious to the environment. This app will provide a platform to document children's learning and support the nursery to communicate with families. In addition the IT equipment will allow staff the ability to create invoices, manage parental communication including recording curriculum milestones. For many reasons including health and safety regulations and cyber security we feel that this equipment requires to be purchased new.

A microwave has been requested to aid the nursery cook in providing healthy home cooked meals for the children.

Finally, a laminator would allow educational materials to be made such as sound cards. Labels are used throughout the nursery for pegs and to label toy boxes allowing children to find what they want to play with without taking out every box.

**Benefit to the Community:**

Duns Community Nursery will provide childcare to those living within the Lammermuir community fund area and beyond. Currently there are no other nurseries in Duns that cater for children 0-school age and no available childcare in Duns that starts at 7.30 which would mean that some staff at the Knoll would have to give up their jobs. Likewise, many other parents were contemplating whether they would need to reduce working hours or stop working completely if a solution could not be found. Also we have kept 12 people in the local area in employment. This would obviously have a direct effect on the local businesses if this spending power was taken away from Duns and the surrounding areas. In

addition, we feel that without a nursery there would be financial hardship, poorer mental health for parents, children and other family members (who might lose their retirements to look after grandchildren).

We are proud that the nursery will run as a not-for-profit which will allow us, in time, to tailor the nursery to the needs of the local community. Inspired by other similar organisations we want the nursery to be at the heart of the community and to give back to the community that has supported us from day one. Initial ideas include:

- developing [intergenerational care](#) based on academic and anecdotal evidence there has been positive benefits for both the young and the elderly. Ways that are being explored are visiting care home settings, having clubs/coffee mornings for older adults in the community where they can come into the nursery, play and pass on skills. It is hoped that this would provide a sense of purpose, help prevent loneliness and provide volunteers with a warm space.
- Boosting links with local people, local businesses and history to promote embeddedness and pride in Duns and the local community enabling them to *“learn how communities work and how good citizens enhance the quality of community life”* (Curriculum for Excellence) that all nurseries in Scotland follow.
- Providing outdoor learning opportunities where children will not only play outside but learn to grow food, build and respect the environment. We are in discussions with some local groups about how we can create partnerships (this includes the Southern Uplands Moorland Group).
- Providing preloved baby and children’s clothing and items to those in need.
- Offering free childcare to parents going for job interviews.
- Parenting, budgeting and cooking classes.

Overall, we think that this project will forward the community wealth building agenda as set out by the Scottish Government by providing high quality childcare that meets the needs of the local community. Thus, allowing parents the opportunity to work which will in turn benefit the families using the nursery but the wider community by putting the nursery at the heart of the community and giving back to the community that have blown us away with their support to keep the nursery open.

### **Disability Provisions:**

The care inspectorate registration covers this. Duns Community nursery will provide childcare for disabled and children with additional needs. All staff are trained to look after children with disabilities and additional training will be offered if any needs arise. Equality, diversity and inclusion are at the heart of the community ethos behind the nursery and are assessed within the care inspectorate registration

The existing nursery looks after at least 5 children identified as having additional needs and the new nursery will continue to be an inclusive environment, offering individualised care. We are also equipping the nursery with a ‘chill out’ sensory area to ensure children who need it have a quiet space within the nursery.

**Details of Funding Requested:**

ITEM	QTY	COST
Ipad	2	£531.66
Microwave	1	£128.16
HP Laptop	1	£199.16
Epsom Projector	1	£687.99
HP Laserjet printer with colour scanner	1	£183.20
A3 laminator	1	£25.02
Family app	1	£1,425.60
VAT		VAT all all of the above items
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>		<b>£3,531.82</b>

**Amount requested from CELCA: £3,531.82**

**Details of other sources of funding:**

Name of Funder	Amount Requested	Amount Approved	Decision Pending Y/N	Application Refused Y/N
Lottery	£7,500.00		Y	
Southern Upland Moorland Group	In discussions to confirm erection of outdoor classroom - free labour and materials in excess of £1,000		Y	
Blackhill Community Fund	£1,732.80		Y w/c 20/02/23	
Firstport	£5,000.00		Y	
PACT	Awaiting advice application process has changed			

There are other funds that we will be applying for however they are not open or the deadline is a few months away so we haven't started the applications yet.

**Contributions from Applicant/Organisation:**

The group supporting the set up and running of the nursery have provided in excess of 1000 hours to this project since November. The directors and committee members will receive no financial reward for their role in setting up the nursery and they will not receive subsidised childcare.

We also have a list of people who have pledged to help us revamp the nursery prior to opening (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> April). A raffle and coffee morning along with crowdfunding have raised over £8000 in the last 3 months, there is a pub quiz planned for 16<sup>th</sup> February and other events in the pipeline.

**Dates of Project:**

Project is ongoing, the nursery will open on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 and we hope it will grow and evolve to serve the community for many years to come.