

Work & Play Club: Parent FAQ

What is the Work & Play Club?

The Work & Play Club is a small, community-led childcare pilot developed by Urram and the Ardnamurchan Childcare Action Group, supported by CALA.

It is designed to support parents and carers to work or study in a room, while their children enjoy safe, nurturing, play-based sessions with trained Playworkers in another room within the same building.

This is a pilot project, helping us understand what works best for families locally and whether this could become a longer-term childcare option.

Where and when will sessions run?

Strontian: Sunart Centre, starting Tuesday 24 February

Acharacle Community Centre: starting Monday 2 March

Sessions will run once a week in each location, for 6 weeks.
Further details will be shared once numbers are confirmed.

How long is each session?

Each session is made up of:
4 hours of childcare in total (two 2-hour play sessions)
With a 30-minute break in between
This allows time for you to eat with your child/ren

How much does it cost?

The cost is £5.50 per hour.

We are keeping fees as affordable as possible while ensuring trained staff and a safe, supportive environment. Please note that the cost may be adjusted following the pilot, depending on funding applications.

Is this a drop-off childcare service?

No. This is not a drop-off nursery.

Parents and carers remain on site and nearby, working or studying in an adjacent space. You will be available if your child needs you, for example for feeding, changing, or reassurance.

What ages is this suitable for?

The Work & Play Club is designed for young children, including toddlers, from 6 months to 3 years of age.

If you are unsure whether this would suit your child, please get in touch - we're happy to chat and answer any questions

What will the children be doing?

Sessions focus on relaxed, child-led play, including:

- Messy and sensory play
- Simple arts and crafts
- Stories, songs and quiet time
- Free play with toys and books
- Time spent outdoors- please ensure your child comes with appropriate clothing to play outdoors whatever the weather.

The emphasis is on play, wellbeing, and helping children feel safe and settled through child-led play and learning.

Who will be caring for the children?

Children will be supported by trained Playworkers, with:

- PVG checks
- Relevant training
- Experience supporting young children
- Staff will work closely together to provide a calm, consistent environment.

What should I bring?

- Your own nappies and wipes,
- Lunch for your child
- A bottle or snacks as you think would be required for your child
- A change of clothes and outdoor gear.
- A favourite toy or comforter.

What happens during the break? Maybe not needed if its mentioned above - or else slight amendment to be really clear

The 30-minute break allows for a reset before the next session, timed with lunchtime so you can enjoy lunch with them.

Parents remain responsible for feeding and changing during this time.

What if my child is unsettled or needs me?

Parents are nearby at all times in a room with space to work or study, and can step in whenever needed.

This model is designed to support gentle transitions, especially for children who may not be ready for full drop-off childcare.

Play Practitioners will distract children through play and activities to give parents space to concentrate. However if the child is upset or very unsettled, the parent will be contacted via walkie talkie to come and comfort their child.

My child needs regular nappy changes or support with toileting

If your child requires a mid-session nappy change, then parents will be called.

If you child already uses the toilet, and if the parent is happy, then they will be supported to do this by the play practitioner.

My child would normally have a nap during the session times.

Play practitioners will support your child's nap time. Nap mats will be provided, and we ask parents to provide a sheet and a blanket for the child. When you drop off your child, please discuss nap time routines with the play practitioners.

What if there is an emergency?

Parents will be contacted via a walkie talkie to come through to the play room.

How many children will be in each session?

This is a small-scale pilot, with limited places.

Final numbers will depend on interest and staffing, but sessions are intentionally kept small to support quality care, with a maximum of 6 children per session.

How long will the pilot run?

The initial pilot will run for 6 weeks.

We will review how it works for children, parents, and staff, and use this learning to explore whether the service can continue longer term, subject to funding and demand. Our plan is to continue the service after the 6 week period.

How do I express interest?

If you think this could work for your family, please email: ardnamurchanchildcare@gmail.com

Please include:

- Your location (Strontian or Acharacle)
- Your child's age
- Any questions you may have