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dundee disabled children's association sc010498 a scio



Providing activities and support for
children and young people with additional
support needs and their families since
1902

Our organisation was formed in 1902. A local newspaper received letters about the lack of educational opportunities for children with disabilities in and around Dundee. There was no welfare state provision and no educational establishments for children with additional support needs. We held classes for children in a local community centre, with one teacher supported by volunteers. In 1906 the education department took over the running of these classes, which led to a school for children with disabilities being established in Dundee.

We continued to provide volunteers to assist children with disabilities during out of school activities. In 1912 we purchased a holiday home in Auchterhouse, which provided holidays for around five hundred children each year. These holidays continued until 1972.

In 1924, after intensive fundraising, we purchased premises at 31 Murraygate in Dundee's city centre, which was officially opened by The Countess of Airlie.

In 2005 we completed our new, fully accessible play and activity centre in Lawton Road in Dundee. The project cost £1.1 million, and we maintained our independence despite the costs involved, thanks to our supporters and the generosity of the people of Dundee. Our building was opened by The Duke of Kent on 26th October, 2005.

We currently provide activities and support for children and young people aged 0 to 20 with additional support needs and their families.

We have a group of around sixty dedicated volunteers and a committee of equally dedicated volunteers manages our association. We employ one full time manager, one full-time coordinator, and four part-time assistant coordinators (our part-time staff work around 12 hours per week each).

As a charity, we represent extremely good value, with our practical service provision exceeding expectations without compromising quality. We achieve this by developing positive, professional, long-term relationships with the families we work with; by having a committed voluntary management committee and board of trustees; by employing dedicated staff; and through the hard work of many enthusiastic and skilled volunteers.

Dundee Disabled Children's Association is funded through the generosity of the people of Dundee and surrounding areas. There is no charge to any of our families for any of our activities, and fundraising is ongoing to ensure that this continues.

We aim to provide a fun, safe environment where children and young people who happen to have additional support needs can play and socialise and where their families can feel relaxed and supported.

Since 1902, we have been very successful in achieving this aim.