



# HopScotch Children's Charity End of Year Impact Report 2025

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A Year of Enjoyment, Personal Growth, and Lasting Impact.

As 2025 draws to a close, we are delighted to share the incredible difference your support has made to children across Scotland this year. Together, we have continued to offer life-changing respite breaks to children living in challenging circumstances who deserve time to play, rest, and simply be children.

Between 24<sup>th</sup> March and 28<sup>th</sup> November, we provided unforgettable breaks for 414 children at our Ardvullin Centre. Each five-day break was filled with adventure, laughter, and care, giving young people a safe space to build confidence, make friends, and create cherished memories that will last a lifetime.



## Highlights from 2025

This year's programme was packed with exciting activities and new opportunities designed to help children discover joy, adventure, and belonging.

- **New activity:** Burn bashing was introduced this year and quickly became a firm favourite – encouraging exploration, teamwork, and fun in nature.
- **Ardgour Alpaca Farm:** First introduced in 2024, continued to be a highlight, with children meeting alpacas, goats, Shetland ponies, sheep, and chickens.
- **Horse riding and beach visits:** Remained two of our most popular activities, giving children the thrill of adventure and the joy of freedom.
- **Other activities:** Canoeing, Indoor climbing, tubing, gondola trips, and team-building challenges helped children grow in confidence and independence.

The impact of these experiences cannot be overstated – children returned home happier, healthier, and more confident, carrying with them a renewed sense of hope.

## Transforming Lives Through Respite Breaks

The children and young people we support face a wide range of challenges: poverty, abuse, neglect, caring responsibilities, family breakdown, or bereavement. For many, a HopScotch break is their first holiday, their first time seeing the sea, or their first chance to feel carefree and supported.

HopScotch breaks help children to:

- Develop confidence and self-esteem
- Strengthen friendships and social skills
- Improve emotional and physical well-being



“It great to see how Hopscotch staff helped my daughter to feel like she could try anything, even being nervous. It was also a great break away from home and living with a young brother with disabilities. Can’t thank you all enough. She often used the phrase great memories and friends made for life and that was amazing to hear”.  
— Parent from the Venchie, Edinburgh

## Building for the Future

We are proud to report significant progress on our Washroom Upgrade Project at Ardvullin. Phase 1 has been successfully completed, enhancing comfort and accessibility for all children. We are now preparing to begin Phase 2 in early 2026, which will further improve facilities and ensure the highest quality experience for every child who stays with us.

## Looking Ahead to 2026

We are already looking forward to the year ahead with great enthusiasm. Our 2026 Respite Break Programme will begin on 16 March, offering a refreshed schedule of activities designed to keep the impact as great as ever for the children and young people we support.

“When I grow up, I want to help other kids have a week like this. This was the best week ever—I didn’t know I could have so much fun!”— Miriam, age 9

## Thank you

HopScotch does not receive local or Scottish Government funding. Our work relies entirely on the generosity of grant funders, donors, and supporters. With a small, dedicated team of six staff, every contribution directly supports children across Scotland to have the break – and the memories – they deserve.

From all of us at HopScotch, thank you for helping children experience laughter, friendship, and hope for the future.



Good childhood memories last a lifetime – thank you for helping us create them.