

MamaBabaMe Evaluation Report 2017



MamaBabaMe 2017

MamaBabaMe was conceived & directed by Christine Devaney in collaboration with composer Greg Sinclair, visual artist Yvonne Buskie and lighting designer Simon Wilkinson. Performed by Nerea Gurrutxaga, Hannah Venet & Robin Mason.

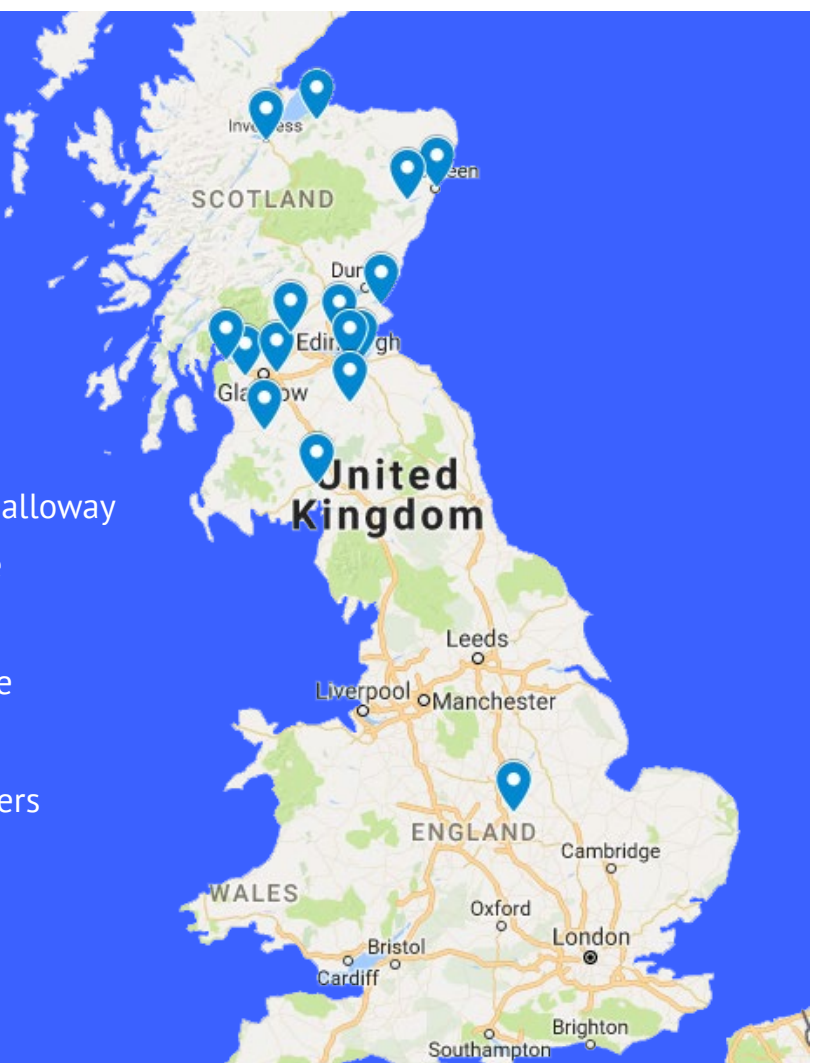
MamaBabaMe combines dance, theatre and live music for infants aged 18 months - 3 years and their parents and carers, exploring themes around birth and relationships.

"Innocent and enchanting, the choreography is a deliciously stylised representation of the relationship between mother and newborn... The piece is brilliantly conceived, wonderfully choreographed and beautifully performed." **Sunday Herald**

TOUR

MamaBabaMe toured Scotland and the UK between May - June 2017 visiting 17 venues, 2 international children's festivals in 16 local authority areas:

Falkirk Town Hall	Falkirk
Johnstone Town Hall	Renfrewshire
Beacon Arts Centre	Inverclyde
The Lemon Tree	Aberdeen
The Brunton	East Lothian
Cumnock Town Hall	East Ayrshire
The Byre	Fife
St Andrews PS	Dumfries & Galloway
The Spark Festival	Leicestershire
EICF	Edinburgh
The Barn	Aberdeenshire
Lochgelly Centre	Fife
Eastgate Arts	Scottish Borders
Platform	Glasgow
Eden Court	Inverness
Forres Town Hall	Moray
Macrobert Arts Centre	Stirling



LINKS

[FILM: MamaBabaMe in development](#)

[FILM: MamaBabaMe trailer](#)

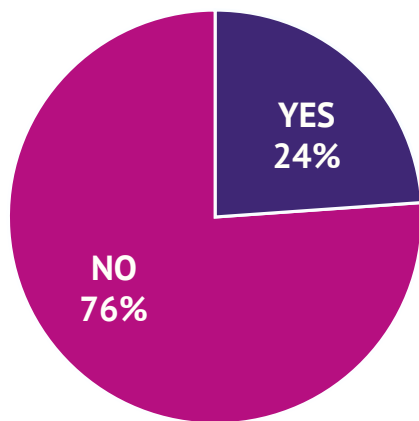
THE TOUR IN NUMBERS



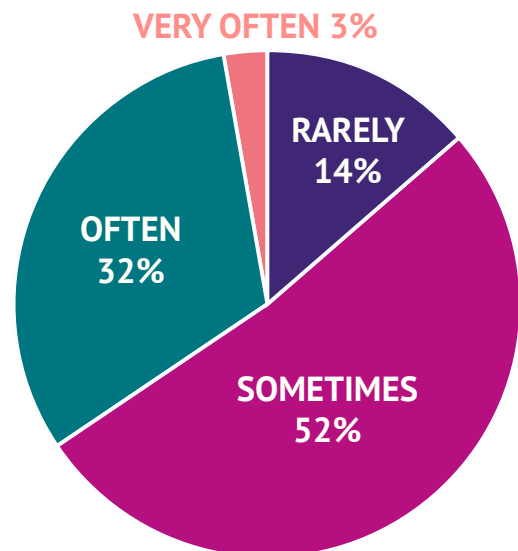
FEEDBACK OVERVIEW

We asked audiences to complete a short survey about their experiences directly after the performances. **196** people completed the survey.

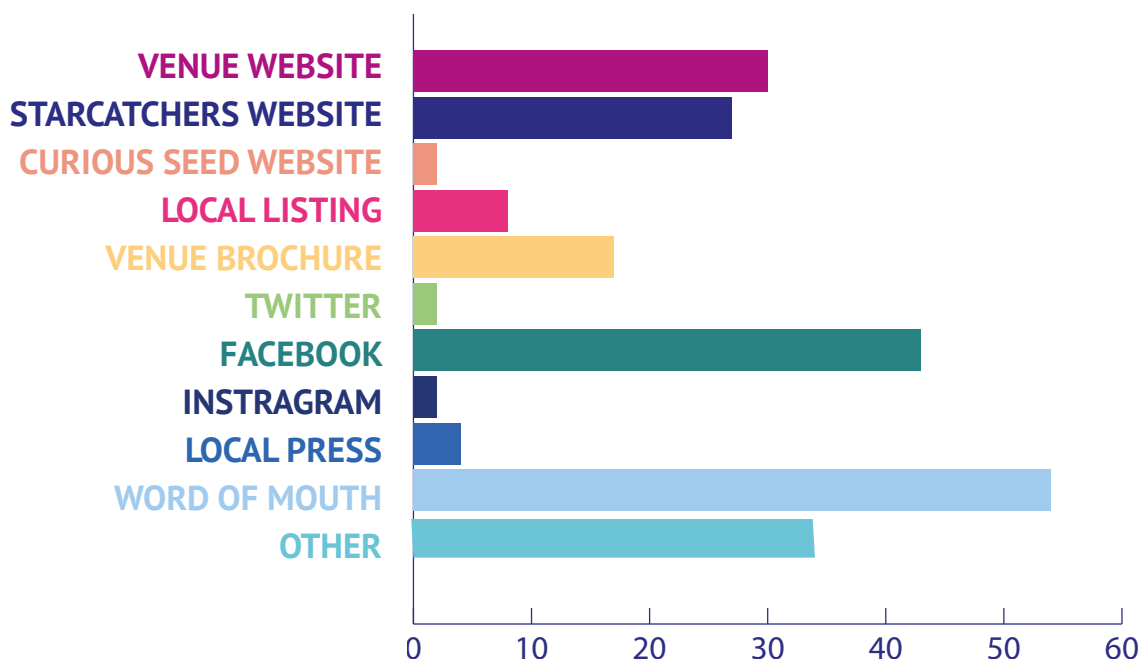
Is this the first arts or cultural experience you have attended with your child?



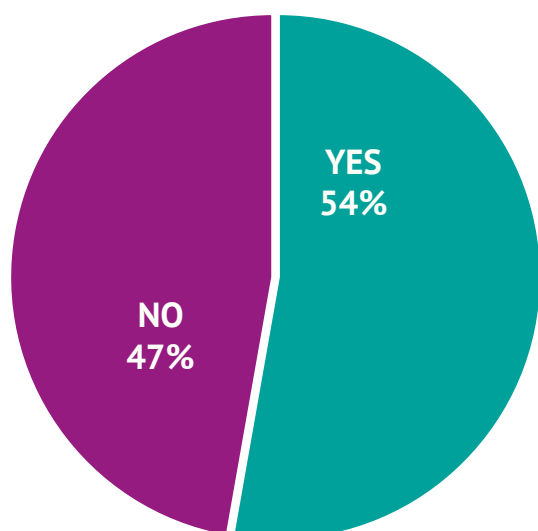
If no, how regularly do you attend arts or cultural experiences with your baby?



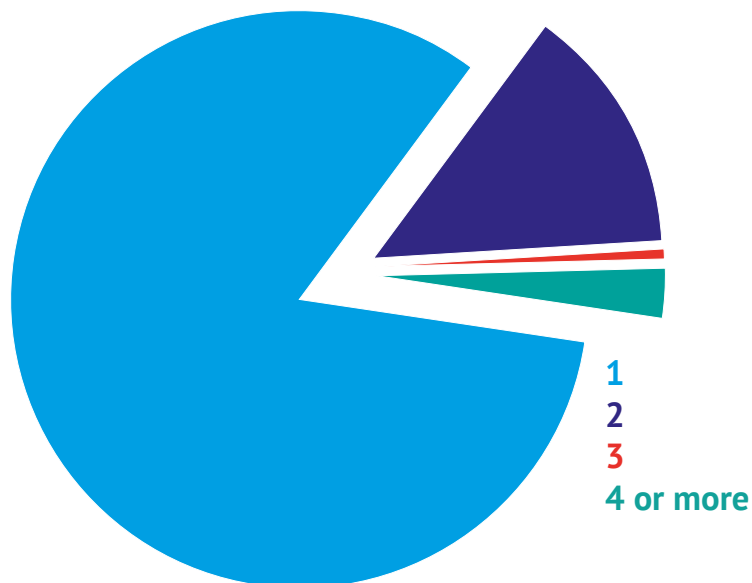
How did you find out about MamaBabaMe?



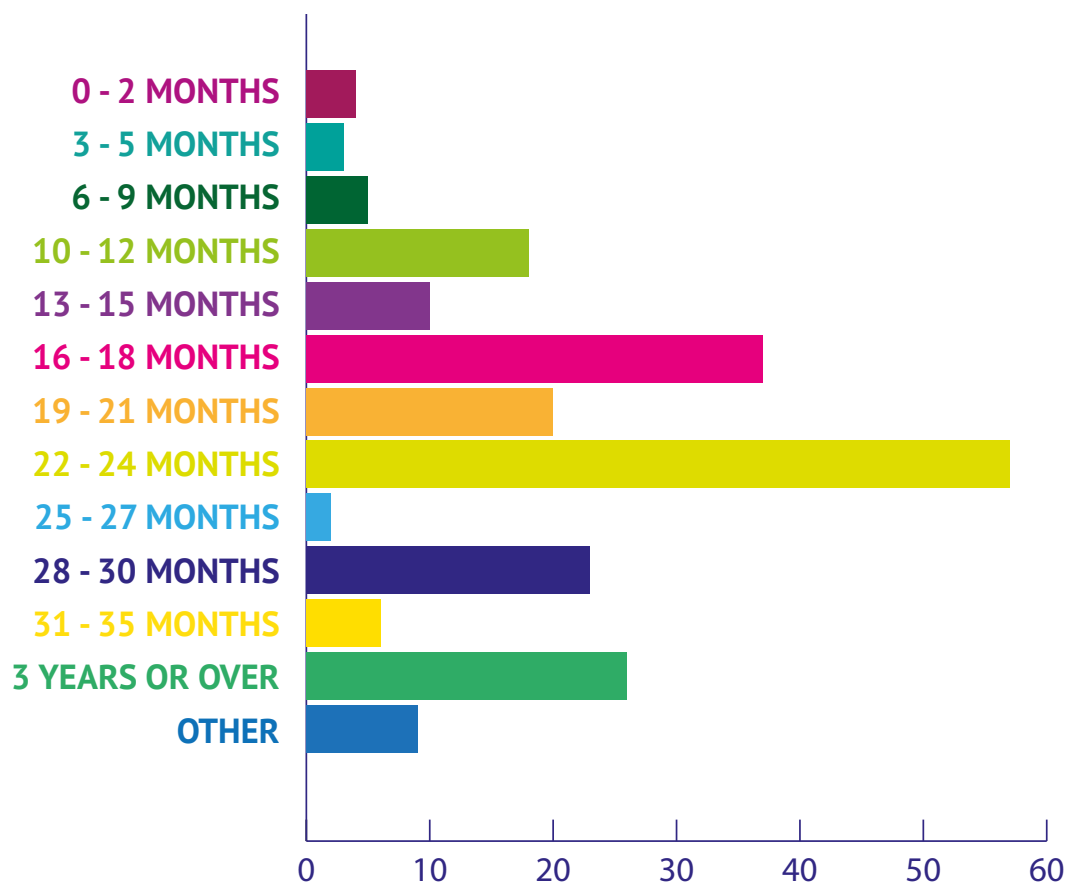
Have you visited this venue before?



How many children did you bring with you today?



How old are the children you have brought today?



How did your child react/respond to the performance/experience?
Do you think they enjoyed it?

He was amazed by the music and movement. Yes, he really enjoyed it.

LOVED IT

Loved it. Never seen him so focused

Yes, I think she enjoyed it. She went into the circle and chatted about what was happening

Absolutely loved it - both were completely entranced. One wanted to participate!

Engaged. Tried to replicate movements! Loved balloons!

He was very calm. Totally still. He was wiggling his toes whenever there was music.

Mesmerised! She particularly enjoyed the cello and when the dancers were near her

She was inspired! Hopefully she'll keep dancing

he was transfixed - sat very still (unusually!) She really enjoyed it and had a calming effect

He tried copying the performance after 20 mins of observing what was going on

Once she knew it was babies she seemed to get the whole performance, telling me 'thats what I did as a baby'

Were there moments or elements they responded to in particular?

He responded v positively to the dancers coming close to him and making eye contact

Singing, balloons. Attention and focus when really looking at them.

Rolling and jumping and intimacy of it. Fabulous show.

A tender, sensory journey. Tot liked the balloons

The change of lights and the movement that interacted with the kids

The white cloth was mesmerising

Really liked exploring set, found music and mood relaxing. Very cuddly

Most of them, very touching (e.g. child birth). Reflection of what we went through.

The more active the performers got, the more attentive he was. The 'mama baba' aspects was great.

Did you enjoy the experience? What did you like the most?

I loved it and found it very moving

Yes: music and lights, the dance, great transitions and loved stor

Eye contact with children and engaging was important. Sweet moments and loved the ending.

Thoroughly! I smiled all through. Fantastic

Yes. Atmosphere, lights, reaction of my daughter

Yes. Dancing/representation of different stages. Thank you :D

The humour in it - the nappy dance EXCELLENT thank you :D

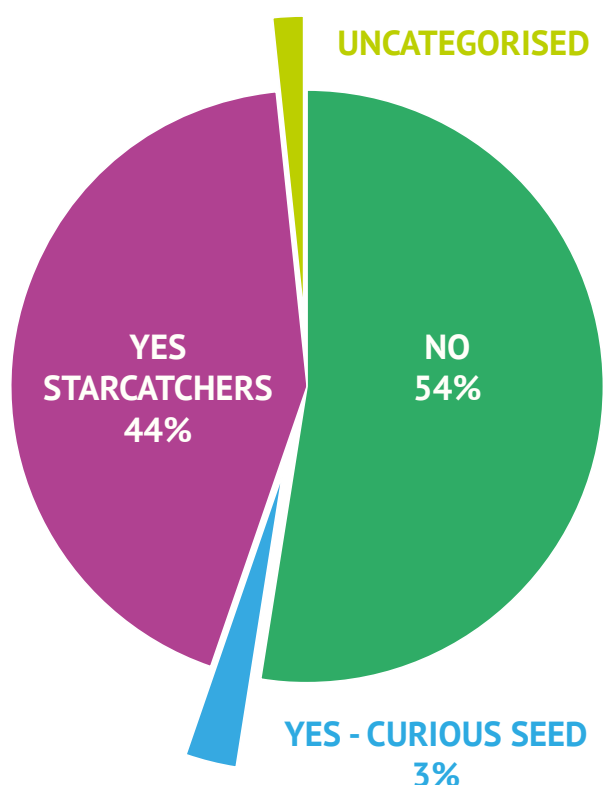
Non verbal dramatisation of the mother-baby relationship

Absolutely brilliant. Beautiful observations of tiny children. Just perfect.

I found it quite emotional as a mum and enjoyed watching my son engage. The standard of music/performance was excellent.

Yes, I love taking her new and exciting things and things I love too! I liked the whole atmosphere performance and music (I went to shape of things + liked this because it also had music)

Have you attended a Starcatchers or Curious Seed production before?



SOCIAL MEDIA RESPONSES



Michelle Watched this performance last Tuesday at Cumnock Town Hall. It was beautifully choreographed, I thoroughly enjoyed watching it 😊
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 4 · 21 May at 19:26



Allison Beautiful. My 14 month old granddaughter, who is normally on the move constantly, sat entranced throughout the whole show.
[Love](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · 14 June at 13:31



Alicia Bruce
@picturemaking

[Follow](#)

Entranced by @starcatchersuk & @CuriousSDance #MamaBabaMe this morning. What an amazing experience for tiny ones. The set design was fab.



We were at the glasgow show on Sunday and it was wonderful! My little baby boy was in rapture 💙💙 thank you 🙌🙌



Lenka reviewed Starcatchers – 5
15 June at 22:05 ·

Me and all three kids loved the performance today. The 8 month old was entranced, three year old totally absorbed and six year old giggling, bouncing and full of questions. Thank you!

Like Comment Share

My son Grayson came to your show mama baba me yesterday with his nursery, his teacher said he loved it so much !!



[Following](#)

parkheadartist Thank you @starcatchersuk for yet AGAIN an amazing show! My boy had the best time! It was a beautiful thing to watch him totally immersed in the performance, mirroring the movement and sound. I think today birthed a new contemporary dancer from Parkhead! Here he is with "the dancers" who stole his heart



starcatchersuk, sharrybarry, horrocks_happenings, joannemacdonald, whistlingsusanxo, revjudywhite, lauren_e_byrne, ruth87ie and debscraig like this

1 DAY AGO

[Add a comment...](#)





Gemma

Lovely show for the little ones. My 3.5 year old was entranced and said how he liked it afterwards. Kept my 16 month old engaged too and was fun to watch her and others play in the centre afterwards and how the performers had captured their movements.

Love · Reply · Message · 1 · 7 June at 23:26



Lenka

Mine three loved it yesterday. (8m.o., 3y.o. and 6y.o.) Each in their own way.



Ema Parkhill reviewed **Starcatchers** – 5★

20 May at 14:08 · 🌐

Loved show today! Little girl 10 mo was mesmerised. I love taking her to see something so beautiful but relatable



Like



Comment



Share

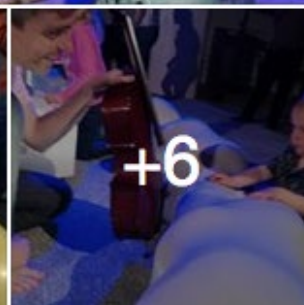


Madelaine

added 10 new photos — with Gabrielle and Sally at 📍 Forres Town Hall.

16 June at 10:04 · Forres · 🌐

Highly recommended [#mamababame](#) to anyone around forres, kids loved it and the ice cream after.



+6



8



Marion

Jun 1

@ImagineUK @CuriousSDance @StarcatchersUK #MamaBabaMe delightful, gentle dance totally captivated the audience of toddlers and adults.



1



Heather Armstrong and 2 others liked



Alice

Jun 2

#Mamababame didn't disappoint. A beautiful production that had the weest ones in the room transfixed. Congratulations @CuriousSDance



4



7



Laura

May 27

This was brilliant, kids were mesmerised throughout! #mamababame

The Spark @thesparkarts

A lovely morning spent in the beautiful & calming MamaBabaMe little ones were very intrigued by the space @StarcatchersUK @AttenboroughAC



3



6



mary glasgow and 2 others Retweeted



D&G Arts Festival @DGArtsFest · May 21

Had a room full of absolutely mesmerised toddler's for #mamababame. Huge thanks to @StarcatchersUK @CuriousSDance. Calm now between shows



1



7



8



THE LIST ★★★★★

A perfectly pitched dance experience for toddlers and those who look after them

Starcatchers, the pre-school age children's theatre specialists, has teamed up with dance company Curious Seed to create a piece of dance that is accessible to children aged 18 months to three years, and those who nurture them.

And nurturing is very much the key. This is a duet which uses cuddles and holding, feeding and reassuring, as its language. It has no particular narrative, more an evolution using the kind of movement and dance that intrigues an audience. There is plenty here for adults too, with elements that recall the magical state of holding and interacting with a child who is completely trusting of your actions.

It's all played out on a circular stage, with dancers Hannah Venet and Nerea Gurrutxaga surrounded by a low wall of soft material. The audience sits on carpet outside the wall, which the toddlers amongst us soon realise is just the right size to lean on or clamber over – but high enough to feel like a barrier for those who might start out intimidated by the experience.

While Christine Devaney's choreography develops and expands on the changing relationship between child and adult, cellist Robin Mason provides music which is both a commentary on the movement and a soundtrack to dance to. It starts with an Ivor Cutler-esque simplicity, but later has a jazz feel, Mason bending the notes so that the performance becomes a trio between dancers and instrument.

Pitched perfectly for its target age range, MamaBabaMe's presentation and environment is completely understanding of their needs.

THE EDINBURGH GUIDE ★★★★★

The intense bond between mother and child, that in early days can be so close that identities blur, is at the core of the eponymous MamaBabaMe that's part of this year's Edinburgh International Children's Festival (EICF), formerly Imagine.

Two Edinburgh based companies are behind this latest collaborative work - Starcatchers, that specialises in creating performances for babies and children aged 0-5 and their carers, and Curious Seed, an award-winning experimental and dance company.

Within a circle of soft rocks, floored with grey soft carpet, a strange white cloth shape sits. When the cloth is pulled away by cellist Robin Mason, the coiled and intertwined foetal shape of the two dancers, Nerea Gurrutxaga and Hannah Venet, is revealed.

What follows is a beautifully interpreted gamut of birth and motherhood, skilfully directed by Christine Devaney, that goes through the closeness; the gradual letting go; the protected first faltering steps; the nourishing and nurturing between mother and child. Infantile movements are perfectly mimicked through the dancers' fluid and flexible movements that are clearly identifiable by the wee tots seated round the mini arena.

Engaging and playful, MamaBabaMe continues to experiment with a strip of cloth that becomes a nappy and a binder, in either the physical or metaphorical sense of that laden word. All this is done under soft nursery lighting and to the gentle music by Greg Sinclair that's played on the cello under a hanging mobile by Robin Mason.

Particularly touching was some inadvertent mirroring when some very young audience members were being fed while a similar action was taking place in the performance, that seemed to strengthen the show's message.

MamaBabaMe is a tender, sensuous, encompassing piece of children's theatre that manages a remote intimacy with its very young audience before going to full interactive mode at the end when children get to step over the bouncy looking boulders and play together with the performers.

THE SUNDAY HERALD

MamaBabaMe, the latest performance piece (for children aged 18 months to three years) from Scottish pre-school theatre specialists Starcatchers and Edinburgh-based physical theatre outfit Curious Seed.

The very young audience, and their accompanying adults, are arranged around the outside of a padded circle. A cellist (who provides the live dimension of the sumptuous musical score) reveals two performers (Nerea Gurrutxaga and Hannah Venet) who swirl around the space in an affectionate, tactile journey of mutual discovery. Innocent and enchanting, the choreography (by director Christine Devaney and the cast) is a deliciously stylised representation of the relationship between mother and newborn.

Gurrutxaga and Venet display tremendous physical dexterity as they express the play of babies at the crawling stage. As they do so, cellist Robin Mason plays a suitably evocative tune, while singing simple, descriptive lines, such as "upside down" and "roly poly".

The performers then find their feet, appearing like marionettes as they begin to toddle tentatively. A sheet is put to various uses, including in a tug-of-war and, after much wrapping (and to the delight of some in the young audience), as a nappy.

The piece is brilliantly conceived, wonderfully choreographed and beautifully performed. However, its interactive element doesn't really come into its own until the end, and some little audience members were, understandably, showing signs of distraction some way short of the show's 45 minutes.

THE HERALD

Two Scottish companies, Starcatchers and Curious Seed, beguile tots (18 months to three years) with a dance piece, MamaBabaMe, that puts early years discovery at the centre of a cosy, padded circle. Christine Devaney's choreography for Hannah Venet and Nerea Gurrutxaga reflects the tactile connections between mother and baby as well as the moments when crawling becomes standing, becomes an adventure!

Cellist Robin Mason provides vocalisings and joins in the fun, as do young onlookers at the end.

IMAGES



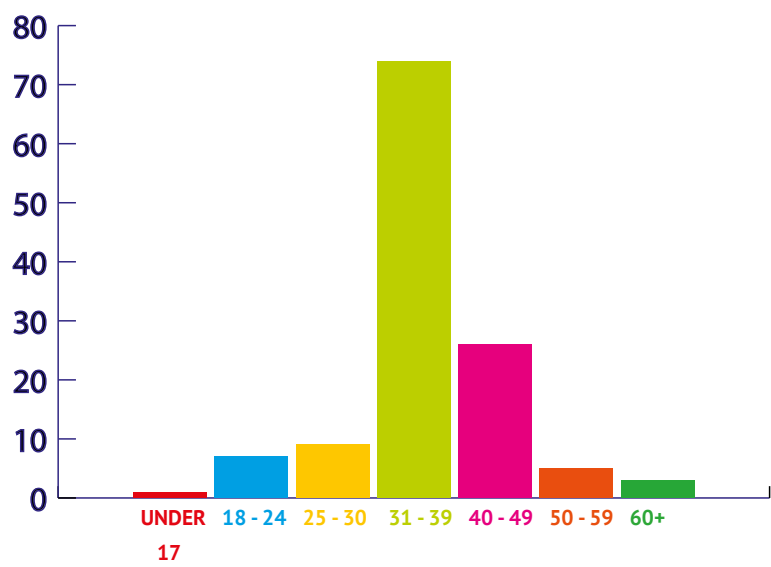




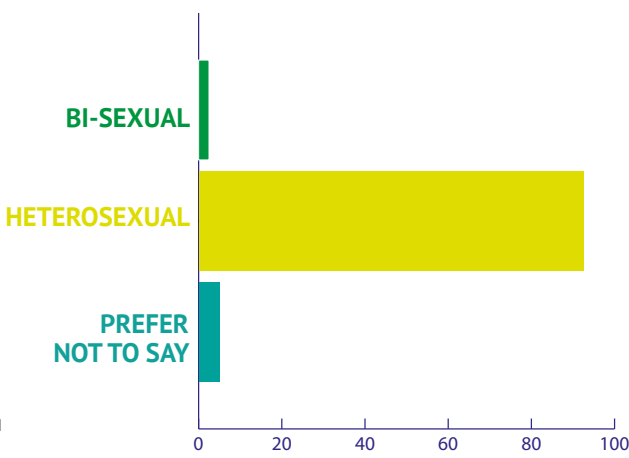


EQUALITIES & DIVERSITY MONITORING

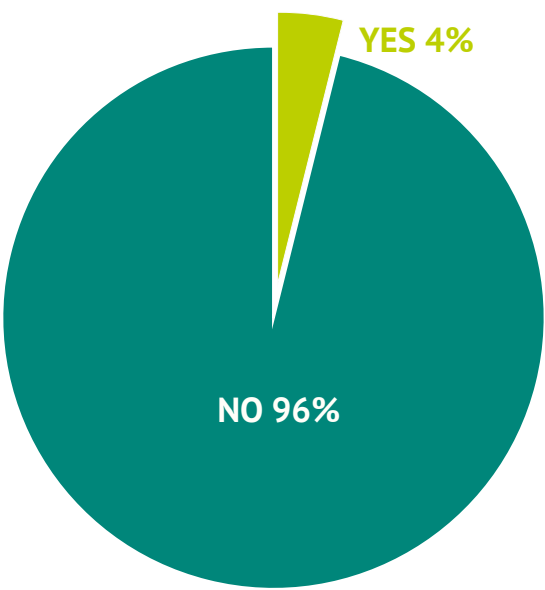
AGE



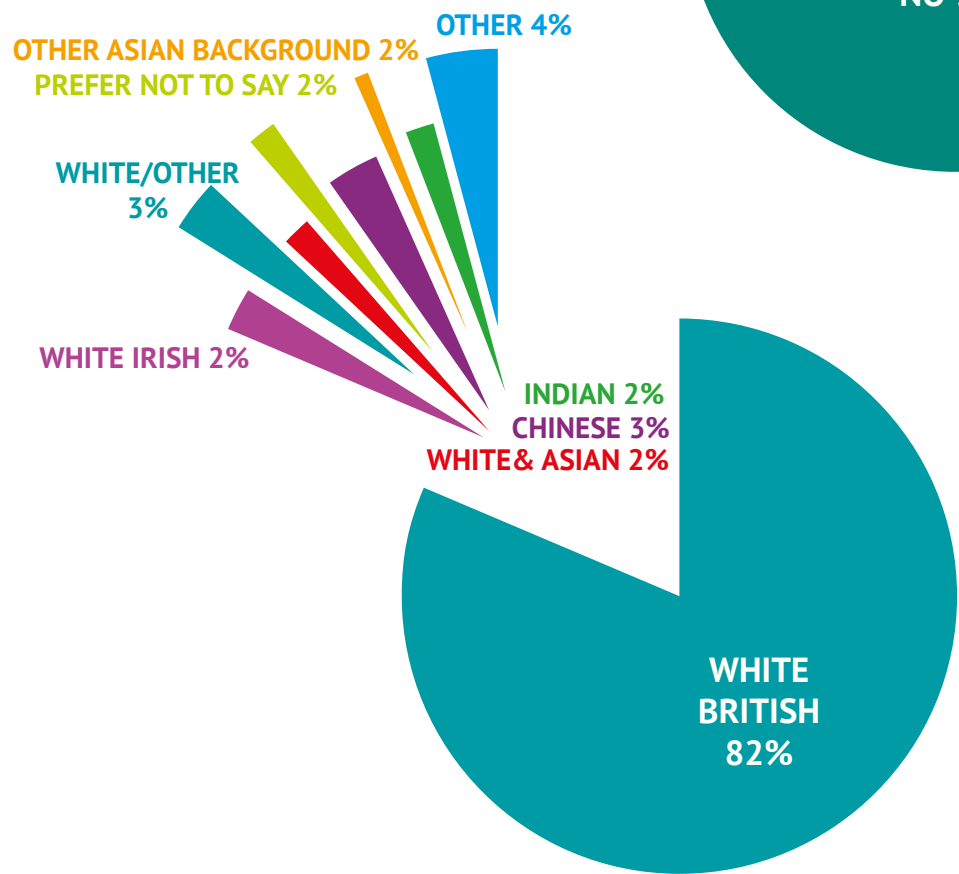
SEXUAL ORIENTATION



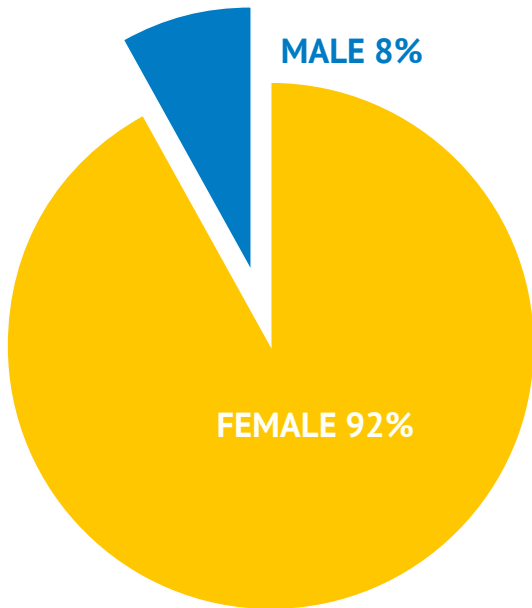
DISABILITY



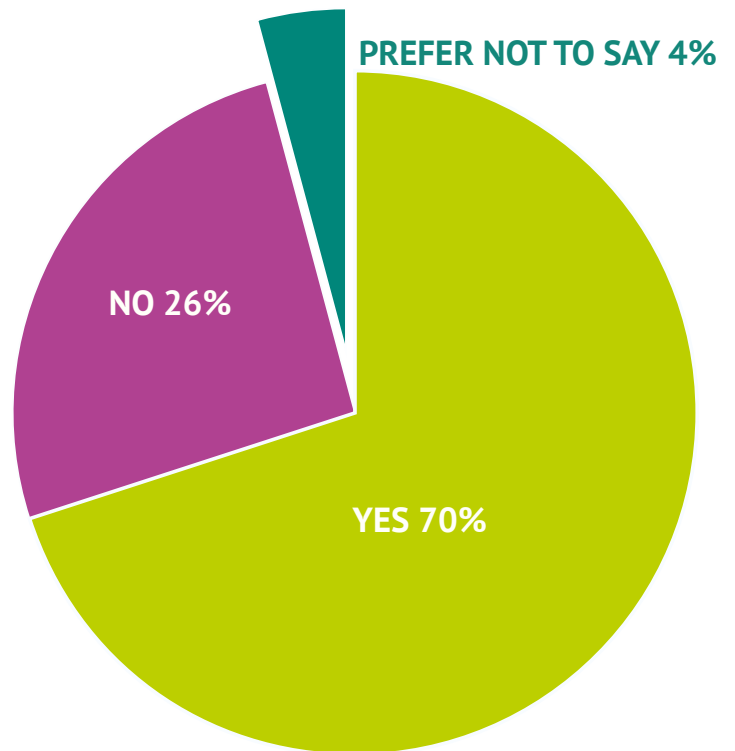
ETHNICITY



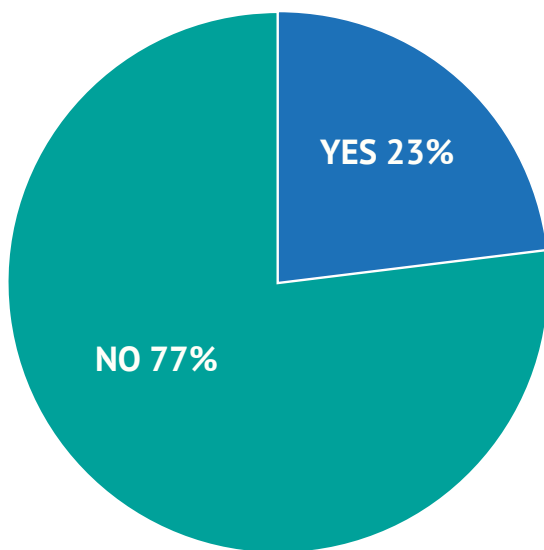
GENDER



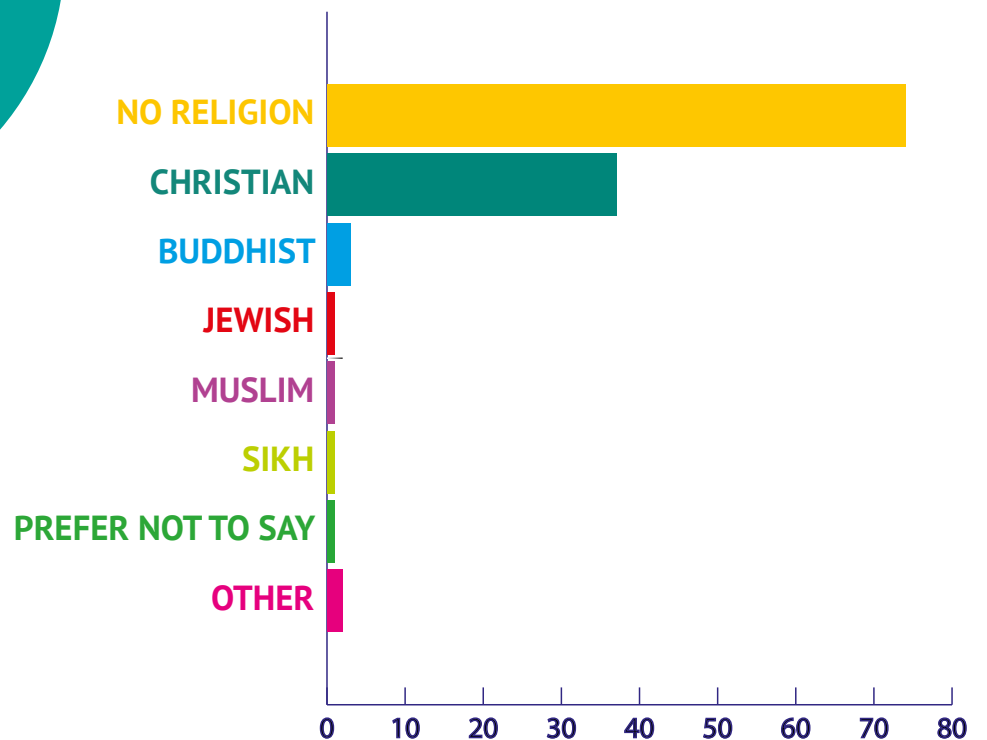
MARRIED OR IN A CIVIL PARTNERSHIP



PREGNANT, ON MATERNITY LEAVE OR RETURNING FROM MATERNITY LEAVE



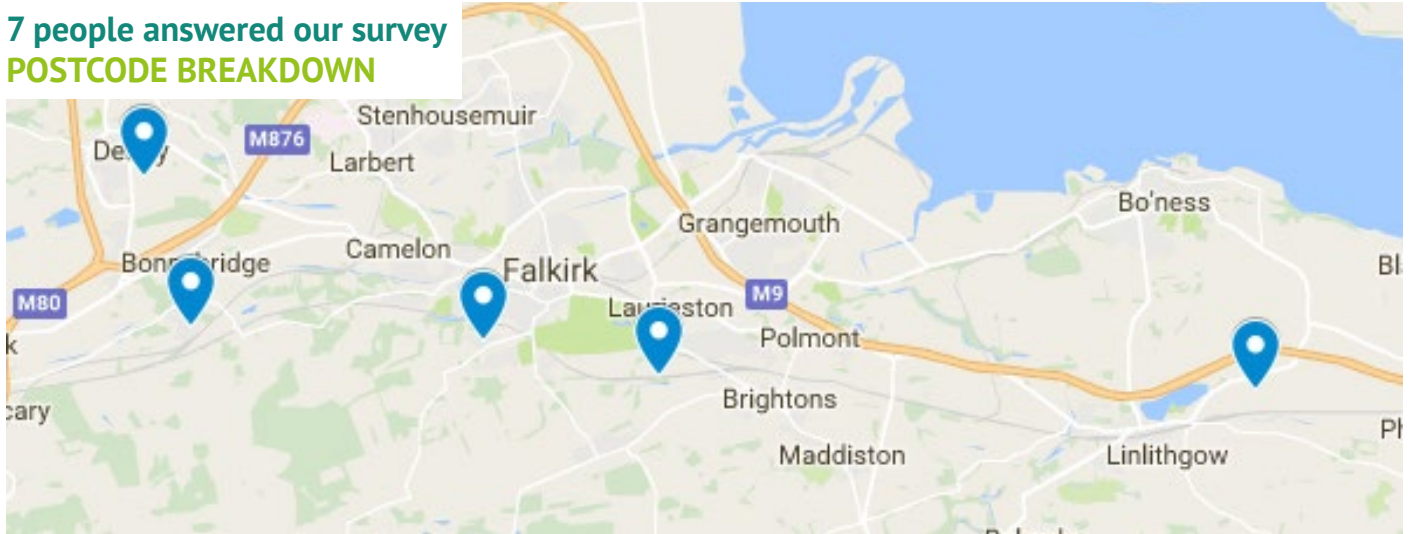
RELIGION



VENUE BY VENUE FEEDBACK SUMMARY

FALKIRK TOWN HALL | FALKIRK

7 people answered our survey
POSTCODE BREAKDOWN



Is this the first arts or cultural experience you have attended with your child?

YES 14%
NO 86%

Have you visited this venue before?

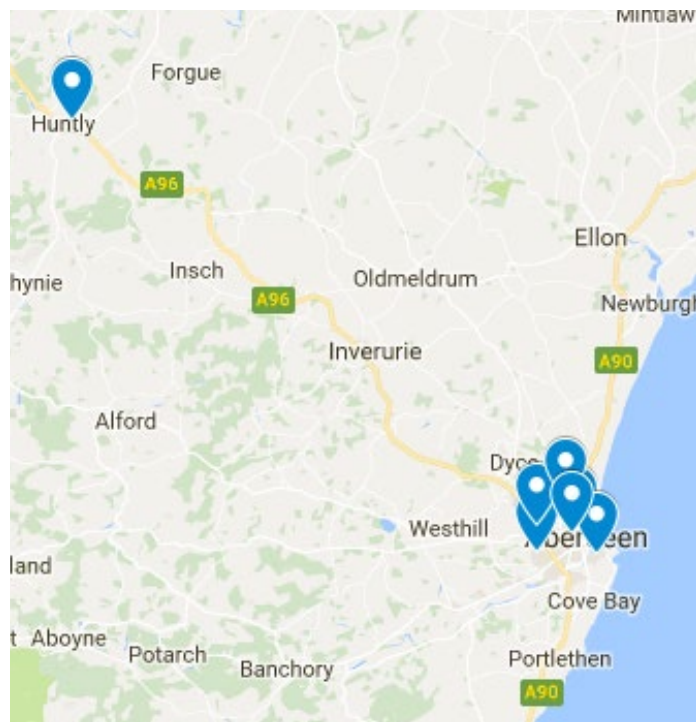
YES 71%
NO 29%

How did you find out about MamaBabaMe?

VENUE WEBSITE 50%
STARCATCHERS WEBSITE 17%
FACEBOOK 17%
CURIOUS SEED WEBSITE 17%
VENUE BROCHURE 17%
STARCATCHERS EMAIL 17%

THE LEMON TREE | ABERDEEN

12 people answered our survey
POSTCODE BREAKDOWN



Is this the first arts or cultural experience you have attended with your child?

YES 25%
NO 75%

How did you find out about MamaBabaMe?

VENUE WEBSITE 42%
STARCATCHERS WEBSITE 17%
VENUE BROCHURE 8%
WORD OF MOUTH 25%

Have you visited this venue before?

YES 82%
NO 18%

THE BRUNTON | EAST LoTHIAN

13 people answered our survey
POSTCODE BREAKDOWN



Is this the first arts or cultural experience you have attended with your child?

YES 31%

NO 69%

Have you visited this venue before?

YES 77%

NO 23%

How did you find out about MamaBabaMe?

VENUE WEBSITE 15%

STARCATCHERS WEBSITE 8%

VENUE BROCHURE 23%

FACEBOOK 30%

INSTAGRAM 8%

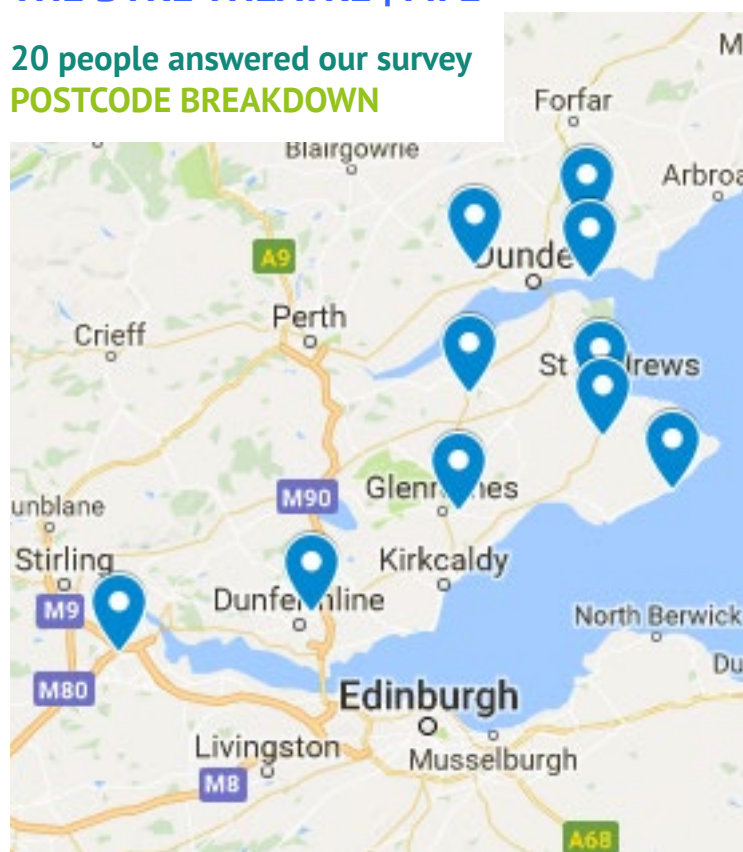
LOCAL PRESS 8%

WORD OF MOUTH 23%

OTHER 8%

THE BYRE THEATRE | FIFE

20 people answered our survey
POSTCODE BREAKDOWN



Is this the first arts or cultural experience you have attended with your child?

YES 15%

NO 85%

Have you visited this venue before?

YES 65%

NO 35%

How did you find out about MamaBabaMe?

VENUE WEBSITE 15%

STARCATCHERS WEBSITE 20%

VENUE BROCHURE 5%

TWITTER 5%

FACEBOOK 35%

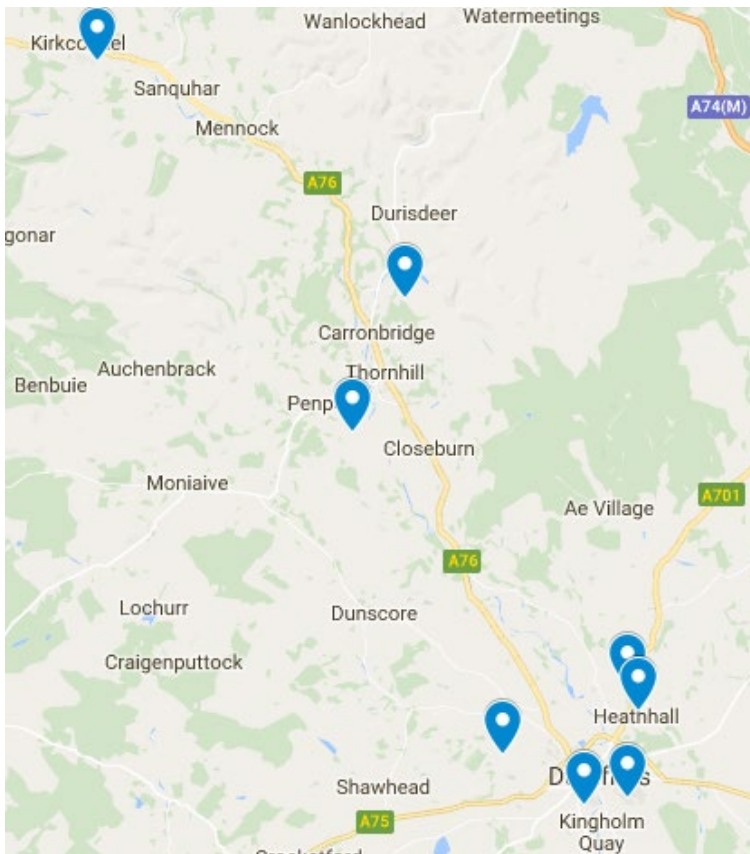
LOCAL PRESS 10%

WORD OF MOUTH 15%

EMAIL 5%

ST ANDREW'S PRIMARY SCHOOL | DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY

15 people answered our survey
POSTCODE BREAKDOWN



Is this the first arts or cultural experience you have attended with your child?

YES 40%
NO 60%

Have you visited this venue before?

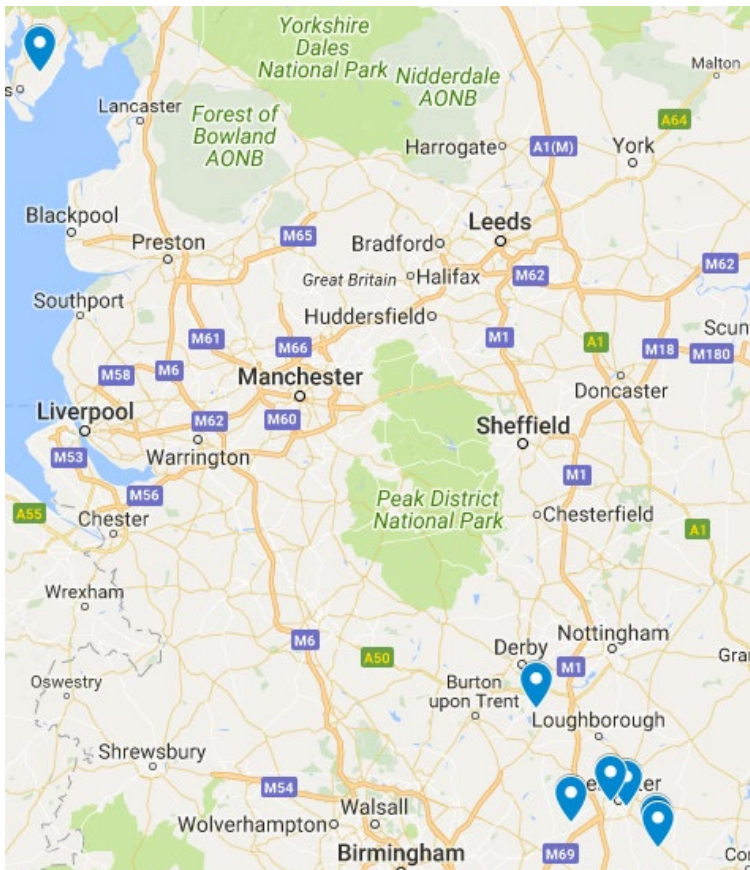
YES 7%
NO 93%

How did you find out about MamaBabaMe?

LOCAL LISTING 7%
BROCHURE 7%
FACEBOOK 27%
LOCAL PRESS 7%
WORD OF MOUTH 33%
FLYER/PRINT 27%

SPARK ARTS FESTIVAL | LEICESTER

13 people answered our survey
POSTCODE BREAKDOWN



Is this the first arts or cultural experience you have attended with your child?

YES 38%
NO 62%

Have you visited this venue before?

YES 7%
NO 93%

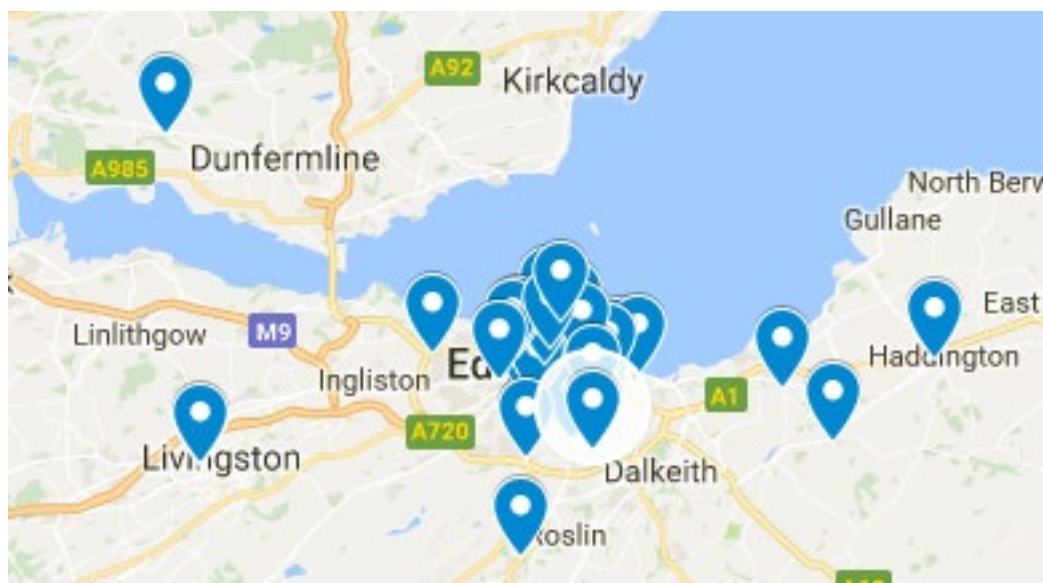
How did you find out about MamaBabaMe?

VENUE WEBSITE 8%
CURIOUS SEED WEBSITE 8%
LOCAL LISTING 31%
FACEBOOK 15%
WORD OF MOUTH 31%
GOOGLE 15%

EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL | EDINBURGH

52 people answered our survey

POSTCODE BREAKDOWN



Is this the first arts or cultural experience you have attended with your child?

YES 13%

NO 87%

Have you visited this venue before?

YES 20%

NO 80%

How did you find out about MamaBabaMe?

IMAGINATE WEBSITE 39%

STARCATCHERS WEBSITE 20%

LOCAL LISTING 4%

BROCHURE 6%

TWITTER 2%

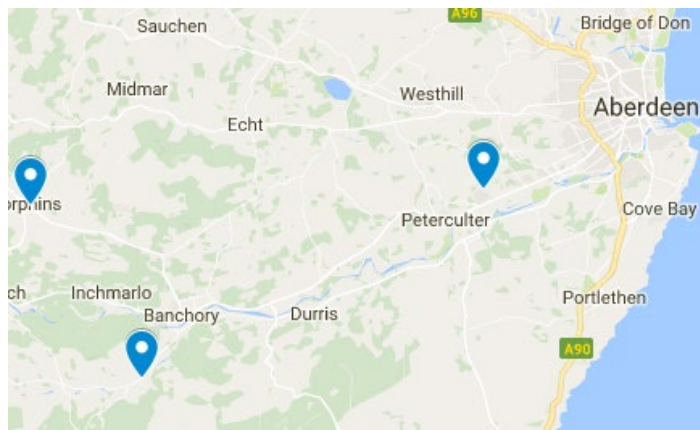
FACEBOOK 22%

WORD OF MOUTH 25%

THE BARN | BANCHORY

7 people answered our survey

POSTCODE BREAKDOWN



Is this the first arts or cultural experience you have attended with your child?

YES 43%

NO 57%

Have you visited this venue before?

YES 83%

NO 17%

How did you find out about MamaBabaMe?

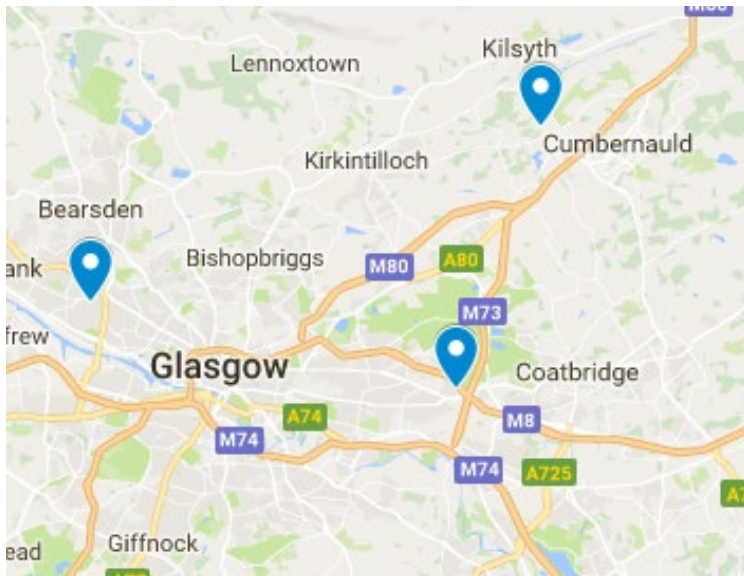
VENUE WEBSITE 43%

FACEBOOK 14%

WORD OF MOUTH 71%

PLATFORM | GLASGOW

9 people answered our survey
POSTCODE BREAKDOWN



Is this the first arts or cultural experience you have attended with your child?

NO 100%

Have you visited this venue before?

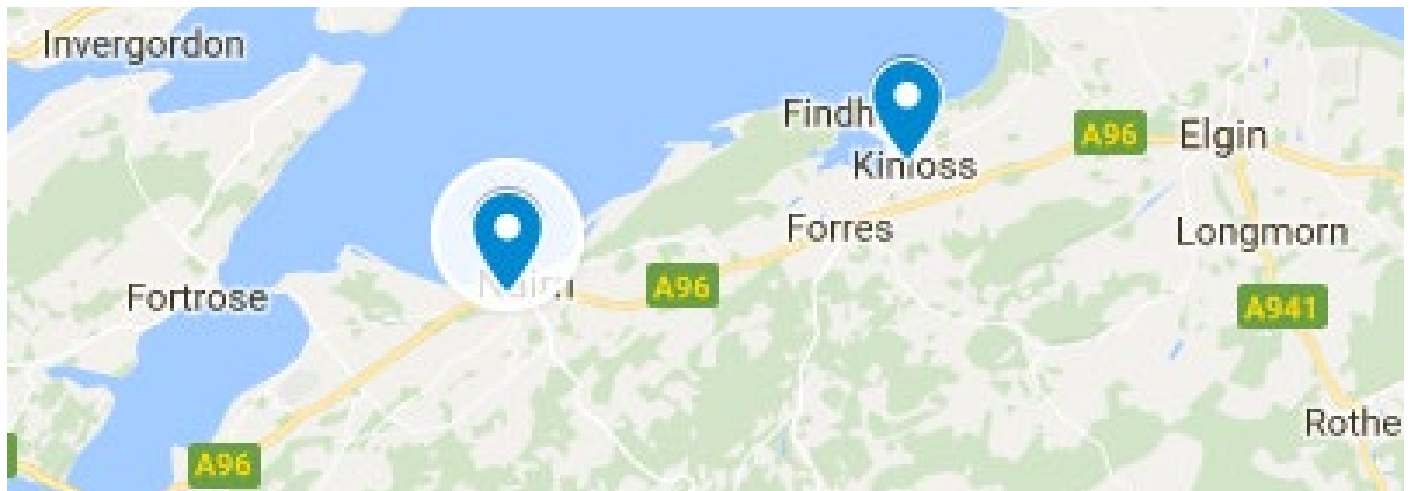
YES 20%
NO 80%

How did you find out about MamaBabaMe?

STARCATCHERS WEBSITE 33%
VENUE BROCHURE 11%
FACEBOOK 56%
WORD OF MOUTH 22%
IMAGINATE 11%

FORRES TOWN HALL | MORAY

6 people answered our survey
POSTCODE BREAKDOWN



Is this the first arts or cultural experience you have attended with your child?

NO 100%

Have you visited this venue before?

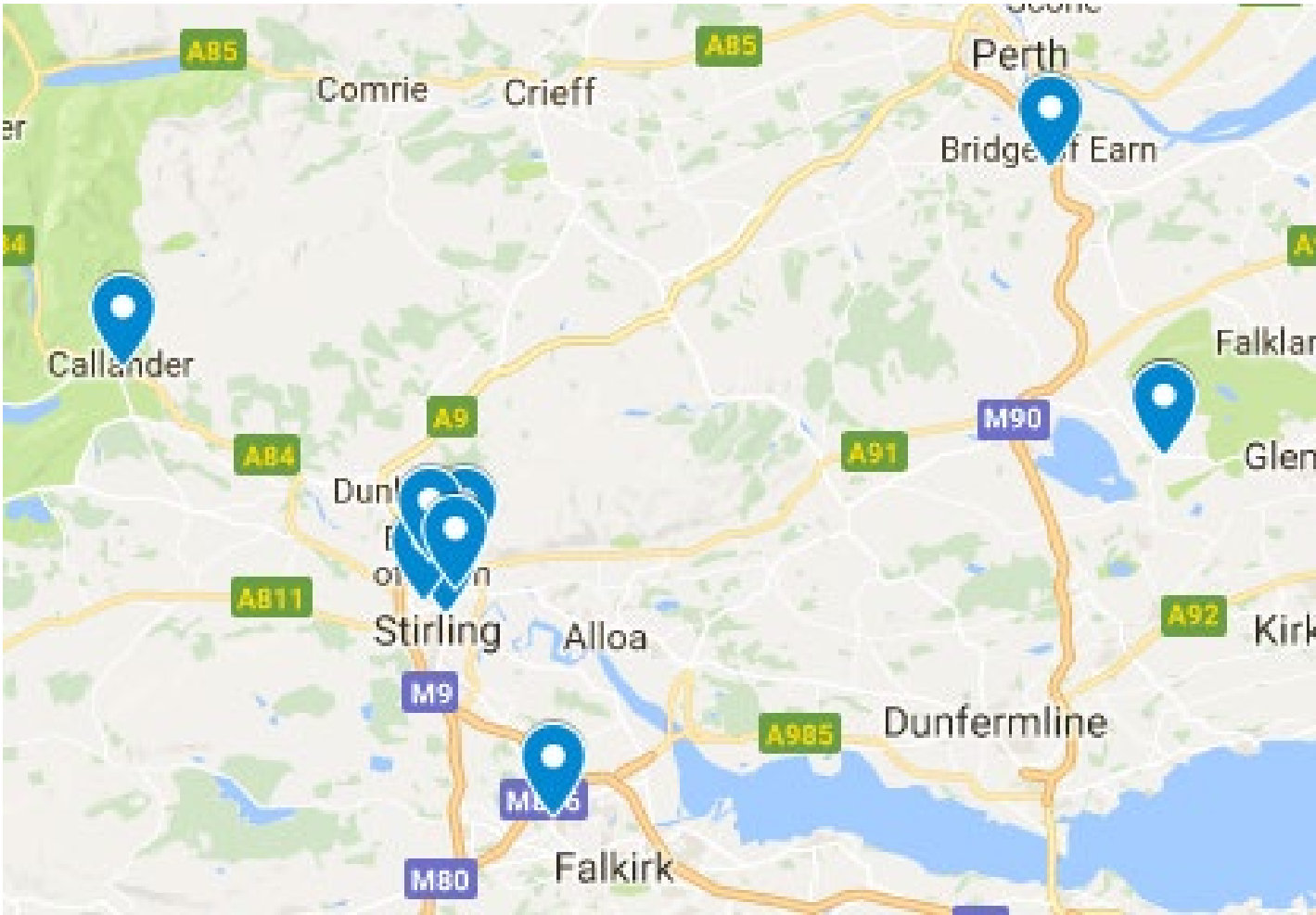
YES 20%
NO 80%

How did you find out about MamaBabaMe?

LOCAL LISTING 17%
VENUE BROCHURE 17%
FACEBOOK 33%
WORD OF MOUTH 33%
PHOENIX STORE 17%

MACROBERT ARTS CENTRE | STIRLING

18 people answered our survey
POSTCODE BREAKDOWN



Is this the first arts or cultural experience you have attended with your child?

YES 44%
NO 56%

Have you visited this venue before?

YES 20%
NO 80%

How did you find out about MamaBabaMe?

VENUE WEBSITE 24%
STARCATCHERS WEBSITE 6%
VENUE BROCHURE 12%
FACEBOOK 6%
WORD OF MOUTH 53%
EMAIL 6%
HOME START 6%
POSTER 6%

ALL AUDIENCES
GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD

