

REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE 11th June 2007

REPORT ON: GRANT AID TO PLAYGROUPS AND PARENT AND TODDLER GROUPS

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 322 - 2007

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report seeks approval to award grants to local Parent and Toddler groups and Playgroups.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee note and approve the proposals contained within this report and approve the award of grants to Parent and Toddler Groups as outlined in Appendix 1 of this report.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The full cost of this proposal is £2000 which will be met from Scottish Executive funding made available to the local authority through the Child Care Strategy funding..

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This proposal will result in increased access for young children to develop the skills and knowledge needed to enable them to play a full part in society. This funding enables the voluntary sector to contribute more effectively to the provision of good quality play experiences for young children in the local community.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This proposal will enhance choice and diversity in early years' provision and will contribute to improve links with parents and strengthen partnerships across sectors.

6.0 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 Playgroups / Parent and Toddler Groups offer parents and their 0 – 3 year old children opportunities to play, learn and make new friends in their local community. Groups meet for sessions during the week depending on local circumstances. Playgroups / Parent and Toddler Groups, are run by local parents and carers who form committees to plan and organise the programme.
- 6.2 Parents pay an annual membership fee as well as sessional fees. They also organise fund raising events to maintain their activities and pay rents.

7.0 CURRENT SITUATION

- 7.1 These proposals have been developed in partnership with members of Dundee Early Years and Childcare Partnership Committee and members and parents using the Playgroups and Toddler groups

7.2

8.0 PROPOSAL

- 8.1 The award of grants will enable Playgroups / Toddler groups the opportunity to choose from a range of equipment which will promote learning and early development for children 0 – 3 years.
- 8.2 Applications for grants were made in consultation with the Scottish Pre – School Play Association Co – Ordinator who supports the Playgroups and Parent and Toddler Committees. Applications were also made through consultation by the Early Years and Childcare Development officer Early Years and Childcare Partnership Team who also supports groups. The Co – Ordinator and the Officer visit the groups on a regular basis and promote the development of quality and inclusive provision.
- 8.3 In addition the Co – Ordinator and the Development officer attend meetings of the Dundee Early Years and Childcare Partnership and collaborate with other members of the Early Years Team in supporting and monitoring the progression of targets within the Dundee Early Years and Childcare plan in respect of Playgroups and Toddler Groups

9.0 CONSULTATION

- 9.1 This report has been in consultation with the Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and Depute Chief Executive (Finance) .

10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

ANNE WILSON
Director of Education

Date 31st May 2007

APPENDIX 1

This table outlines proposals for making grant awards to Registered Playgroups and Toddler Groups.

Group	Details of Application	Funding amount requested	Recommendation
Barnhill / St Margaret's (Play group)	Art materials A selection of books and tapes to develop literacy following CC inspection report	£100.00	£100.00
Boomerang (Toddler group)	Resources to improve the new outdoor area	£199.99	£100.00
Chalmers / Ardler (Toddler group)	Craft / Art Materials	£110.00	£100.00
Craigie bank (Toddler group)	Art / craft items. puzzles and games	£100.00	£100.00
Douglas Church (Toddler group)	Musical Instruments Role play equipment Safety equipment (radiator covers)	£100.00	£100.00
East Church (Toddler group)	A variety of 0-3's equipment to build on experiences in this area. Some outdoor equipment to improve this area also	£100.00	£100.00
Fintry (Play group)	Replacement Musical instruments	£181.54	£100.00
Fintry leaping frogs (Toddler group)	improvement of under 3's area within group	£100.00	£100.00
Hilltown (Toddler group)	Baby equipment (highchairs etc) Arts and craft materials	£100.00	£100.00
Little Lodgers (Playgroup)	Physical equipment (2 scooters)	£99.90	£100.00
Mill of mains (Toddler Group)	new group 2 x High chairs and Baby mats	£100.00	£100.00
Playtime (Toddler Group)	Improvement to outdoor area playhouse and picnic table	£109.98	£100.00
St Aidens (Toddler group)	Arts and Craft Materials Cars	£100.00	£100.00
St James (Toddler Group)	Role play equipment / activity toys	£100.00	£100.00
St Mary's Lambs (Playgroup)	Play mats Art and Craft Materials	£289.95	£100.00
Stobswell (Toddler group)	Role play equipment Craft Materials	£89.00	£100.00
Toddle tots (Toddler group)	Playmats role play equipment	£109.96	£100.00
Trinity Toddlers (Toddler group)	construction equipment books role play equipment puzzles and games art equipment.	£100.00	£100.00
Under 12's (Toddler Group)	Play table trampoline Play mat	£99.77	£100.00
West end (Toddler group)	Art and craft materials Play Table.	£100.00	£100.00