

FACTSHEET 32

Choosing a Parent and Toddler Group

What is a Parent and Toddler Group?

Parent and Toddler Groups are small groups where you can take your baby and/or toddler, where you can find friendship, fun, support and a first opportunity for learning outside the home for very young children and a chance for parents and carers to socialise with other adults. It is an opportunity for adults to talk with others about the joys and anxieties of bringing up children.

They are set up to meet the needs of parents or carers, and their babies and young children alike. As everyone has different needs, no two groups will be exactly alike. Groups vary in size, organisation and management.

Most groups cater for children under the age of three, although some do include older children. Parents and carers remain with their children throughout the toddler group session and retain full responsibility for them. Groups usually meet once or twice a week for around 1.5 to 2 hours.

Where are they held?

The groups are usually based in church halls, community centres or centres where children are cared for such as nurseries or playgroups.

The groups can be organised by the parents themselves or by members of a church, health visitors or social workers. In many groups, the parents organise and run the activities but some will pay a play worker to do this.

What do they provide?

The groups provide a range of activities for the children, which can include painting, playing with water and sand, music, books, climbing frames etc. Some groups organise trips and fun days.

What are the advantages of using a Parent and Toddler Group?

There are many advantages to using a parent and toddler group for both parents and children:

- children can join in new fun activities and play with new toys
- children will learn to socialise with others without being left alone
- Parents/carers will be able to socialise with others and avoid the feeling of isolation by meeting people who are in similar circumstances

What do they cost?

Prices can range from around 50p to £2.50 per session. Sometimes this includes refreshments, and there may be reductions for 2 or more children from the same family.

Registration

As parents/carers do not leave children unattended, and remain responsible for their children throughout, Parent & Toddler Groups do not need to be registered. Parents are responsible for their own children - particularly any discipline necessary. To look at information on services that ARE required to register, these can be viewed on www.careinspectorate.com

Where can I find my nearest Parent and Toddler Group?

Dundee Children & Families Information Service has information on Parent and Toddler Groups throughout Dundee City. The majority of groups have information on our local Dundee area of www.families.scot.

Starting a new Parent and Toddler Group

If you don't have a Parent and Toddler Group in your area and are interested in starting one you can contact Early Years Scotland for advice:

Website: www.earlyyearsscotland.org Helpline Telephone: 0141 221 4148
Email: info@earlyyearsscotland.org

For further information about childcare available in Dundee go to www.families.scot or contact Dundee Children & Families Information Service on cis@dundeecity.gov.uk or telephone 01382 433900.

Information is also available on our Dundee pages of the national website where alongside details about childcare services you can also access our online Directory for further advice, groups, activities and other services available for families locally and nationally

Information last updated 7 March 2019

www.families.scot

Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/FISDundee
Follow us on Twitter www.twitter.com/FISDundee or Instagram
www.instagram.com/FISDundee

www.dundeecity.gov.uk/childcare/childcareinfo

www.families.scot

www.facebook.com/FISDundee www.twitter.com/FISDundee
www.instagram.com/FISDundee