



December 2019

# SPELL

Support for Play & Early Learning in Lanarkshire

SPELL close for the Christmas break on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December and re-open on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you in 2020.

## 2019 and 2020

2019 has been an extremely busy year for baby and toddler groups, playgroups and nurseries across South Lanarkshire. During 2019 SPELL supported over 130 groups and provided training to over 135 parents, volunteers and childcare workers. A total of 2900 children and 2500 adults attended SPELL's play sessions and over 100 children and their families attended our Outdoor Toddler Group Little Hedgehogs.

2020 brings new but exciting challenges to all of the pre-5 voluntary sector with the expansion of the free childcare hours increasing to 1140 from August 2020. Many of the baby and toddler groups have seen changes with older children taking up nursery places and an increase in the number of babies attending. Many of the playgroups and nurseries in partnership with South Lanarkshire Council have increased their session times and feedback has all been very positive. Playgroups which are not registered with the Care Inspectorate continue to operate for up to 2 hours a day with many signed up to our Quality Assurance scheme.

## Toy Appeal

Little Monkeys Toddler Group and the Salvation Army in East Kilbride are running a Christmas Present Appeal for children, families and others who have little or nothing under the tree on Christmas morning.

All new, unwrapped toys and gifts are welcome and will be distributed in the community in time for Christmas. Last year the appeal struggled with gifts for babies and young children. Suggestions are soft toys, rattles, bath toys etc. For older children EK gift cards, cinema vouchers, back packs, make-up, jewellery, perfume, aftershave etc would all be very welcome. Drop-off points are Costa Coffee (opposite M&S) and Toy Town, East Kilbride Town Centre. Bank of Scotland will also be a drop-off point during the first week of December. For more information please visit the Salvation Army East Kilbride Christmas Toy Appeal Facebook Page or click [here](#).

The Salvation Army in Hamilton and Rutherglen are running the same appeal. Donations to Hamilton can be dropped off before 12pm at the Salvation Army, Burnblea Street ML3 6RB. Last donations will be accepted on 10<sup>th</sup> December. For more information please call 01698 282464.

Donations for Rutherglen are being accepted until 15<sup>th</sup> December at the Salvation Army Hall, 165 King Street, Rutherglen, GT3 1BZ.



## Newsletters

If you would like something included in our January newsletter please email us with the information by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

### Photo and Video Policy / Social Media

Please make sure that your groups have a photo and video policy which is given to and signed by all members at the group. If you are using photos of children on your group Facebook page or website please make sure you have their permission. Parents and carers should not publish any material on social media sites and the internet that contain images of any children other than their own as the group has no control over these images once they are in the public domain. Please be reminded that there are many reasons why parents / carers may not want their children's photos on social media. This can include child protection issues so this must be taken seriously.

If you would like a sample photograph and video policy please email us at [spell.org@btopenworld.com](mailto:spell.org@btopenworld.com) or speak to your Support Worker.

### Training Programme

Details on our Spring / Summer training programme will be released in our January 2020 newsletter. This training programme is FREE and open to all parents; and childcare staff and volunteers who work within toddler groups and playgroups in South Lanarkshire. Please note that our courses get booked up quickly so if you are interested in attending any of the courses when the programme is announced please contact Wendy on 01698 768944 or email [spell.org@btopenworld.com](mailto:spell.org@btopenworld.com) as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

## Winter Car Safety

We have featured this before but as the weather turns colder we thought it would be good to remind parents and carers about the concerns of over dressing your children in the car. Good Egg Safety who produced the poster below is endorsed by Police Scotland, Road Safety Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. Their advice is to remove children's coats and jackets, and strap them into the car seat properly. Tuck a blanket around them which can be moved if they get too hot. For more information about choosing the right car seats and keeping your children safe in the car you can visit their website [www.goodeggcarsafety.com](http://www.goodeggcarsafety.com)

Keep your little snow angels safe



Why is it a problem for your child to wear a thick or puffy coat in their car seat?

- 1 The harness does not fit close to your child's body if a coat or jacket is worn.
- 2 Thick clothing can make it easier for your child to slip their harness straps off.
- 3 When the car warms up, your child can easily overheat.

   

**Thank you to everyone for your support during 2019. We wish you all a lovely Christmas break and look forward to seeing you all in 2020.**  
**Vicky, Wendy, Katie, Lorna, Michelle, Barbara and Kim x**