



December 2021

SPELL

Support for Play & Early Learning in Lanarkshire

NEWSLETTER

Baby and Toddler Groups

In last month's newsletter we mentioned how SPELL were reopening Little Hands Baby & Toddler Group in Fairhill, Hamilton. We are pleased to see the group flourishing and will continue to support the group until the parents and carers feel confident in running the group on their own. As a result of us advising that we offer this service we have been approached by a couple of parents who are also looking to start up groups in the Hamilton locality. We look forward to being able to update you on news of these groups which will hopefully be welcoming new parents and their children in January. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page [@SPELLSouthLanarkshire](#) for details.

If you are interested in setting up a baby and toddler group anywhere in South Lanarkshire, please get in touch by emailing us at spell.org@btopenworld.com

Group Insurance

Please ensure that you have adequate insurance for your group. SPELL have recently managed to secure a good rate for all groups registered with SPELL, with Greenwood Moreland Insurance Brokers, a Scottish company with an office in Hamilton. If you would like more information please contact our office at spell.org@btopenworld.com and we can provide you with details. There are other

companies that offer insurance who we can also provide details for.

In relation to insurance, if you decide to open during the school holidays and open these sessions to older children, your insurance may not be valid. Please check with your insurance provider beforehand and arrange extra cover if necessary.

SPELL Office and Support Workers

Vicky and Wendy usually work from our office in Hamilton however due to the pandemic they are splitting their time working between the office and home. The easiest way to contact them is email at spell.org@btopenworld.com.

Our SPELL Support Workers have a wealth of experience in supporting pre-5 groups in the voluntary sector. As well as being home based they also visit groups by appointment.

Katie Campbell - Hamilton, Blantyre, Bothwell & Uddingston, Cambuslang & Rutherglen
Katiec.spell@gmail.com / 07385380739

Lorna Henry - Clydesdale
Lorna.spell@gmail.com / 07385380637

Michelle MacDonald - East Kilbride, Strathaven & Stonehouse and Larkhall
Michellemacdonald.spell@gmail.com / 07385380334

Play Activities

We have started to re-introduce our Play Activity Programme which has been fantastic. Due to the current situation with Covid-19, we hope you understand that we are having to put strict measures in place for these activities; limiting the numbers attending the session, making sure that face masks are worn and that where possible everyone remains socially distanced. These measures are in place to keep not only parents, carers and children as safe as possible but, also our Play Tutors. When Wendy takes a play activity booking, she will explain all the measures that need to be in place at your group. We appreciate your understanding and support at this time and hope we will see a return of a more 'normal' play activity programme soon. If you would like to contact Wendy regarding a play activity, please email her at spell.org@btopenworld.com

Training

SPELL have run several training courses this term which have been a great success. We usually have a waiting list for our courses so if you are unable to attend at the last minute, please still let us know so that we are able to offer your space to someone on the list.

We will be releasing our training calendar for 2022 at the end of January. This will be emailed to everyone on our mailing list, included in our newsletter and put on our Facebook page [@SPELLSouthlanarkshire](https://www.facebook.com/SPELLSouthlanarkshire)

If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please email us at spell.org@btopenworld.com using Mailing List as the subject.

Baby & Toddler Groups

With the introduction of 1140 free childcare hours, many baby and toddler groups have reported a reduction in the number of toddlers attending, and an increase in the number of babies.

To make your group more inclusive to babies, here are a few ideas.

- ❖ The name of the group - It would be useful for parents to see 'Baby' & Toddler Group and not just Toddler Group.
- ❖ Social Media - new parents tend to look to social media for information on groups in their areas. Facebook pages are great to advertise and keep in touch with everyone. SPELL have a Photo and Video policy which includes the use of social media. If you would like a copy, please email us at spell.org@btopenworld.com
- ❖ Designated areas at the group - There should be a separate baby area, away from the active play area which may have bikes, cars, climbing equipment etc)
The baby area could have large wipeable mats which can be placed on the floor and cleaned between sessions. Large cushions creating a safe barrier around the area, baby gyms and age-appropriate toys are all recommended. Chairs should be assembled around the area providing adults with some comfort especially if a parent is feeding their baby.
- ❖ Changing area - Hopefully there is a specific area in the venue. If there is not this facility, the group should set up an area for this.

If you would like any support with ideas for your baby area, please drop us an email. 😊