



A Guide to Toddler Groups

What is a toddler group?

These are groups where parents, carers and grandparents can meet with their young children. They provide an opportunity for the children to play and socialise with other children and also for the adults to meet and chat. Groups are usually organised and run by parents and carers themselves. They are open once or twice a week for an hour or two during term time, either in the morning or afternoon. They are often in venues like church halls, community centres or on school premises.

Do toddler groups need to be registered?

No, groups are not required to be registered with Ofsted as they don't provide childcare. Parents and carers must stay with their children so are therefore responsible for their children's care and safety whilst on the premises.

How do you find a toddler group?

First Point can provide lists of toddler groups for each postcode area in Sheffield. Alternatively, information can also be found on the online directory www.asksid.net. The lists include a named contact and telephone number for the group and further details of the service it provides. Sheffield Information Link updates the lists regularly and we always welcome hearing of new groups to add to our lists. Groups may also advertise locally in shops, libraries, post offices or on noticeboards in church halls and community centres. If there isn't a baby and toddler group in your area, you might think of starting one up. For details see the 'Useful contacts' section.

How old are children who attend toddler groups?

Groups are run for parents and carers with babies and children right up to the age of 5, but this does vary depending on the group. First Point's lists will tell you what age range each group is for.

Is there a charge to attend a toddler group?

Many groups are free but there is more often a small charge to cover hire of the room and refreshments. The average cost in Sheffield is £1.00 per session, but this can range from 50p - £3.00. There are often discounts if you have more than one child.

Can you go to more than one toddler group?

Yes, you can attend as many groups as you wish.

Will I be expected to help out with the group?

You may be. As groups are run on a voluntary basis you may be needed to help out once in a while or join in with fund-raising activities to enable the group to buy toys or equipment.

Visit First Point 8.30am to 5.30pm or ring us on 275 6699

8am to 6pm Monday to Friday.

First Point is in the city centre at Howden House, Union Street - close to the Peace Gardens.

www.sheffield.gov.uk/firstpoint www.asksid.net



Does your child have a special need or disability?

Sheffield Information Link provide a specialist information service for families with children who are disabled or have special needs. The service, which is called SIGN, can provide information on services, support and specific conditions and disabilities. SIGN is based at the Ryegate Children's Centre and has an enquiry line. For details see 'Useful contacts' section below.

Useful Contacts

Sheffield Information Link

Tel: 0114 249 8271 (out of hours answerphone)

9 Leopold Street, Sheffield, S1 2GY

Email: info@sheffinfoolink.org.uk

Website: www.sheffinfoolink.org.uk

Sheffield's Family Information Service. Additional support for families requiring childcare and other services for children and young people in Sheffield.

SIGN (Sheffield Information Giving Network)

Tel: 0114 266 9476 (out of hours answerphone)

Ryegate Children's Centre, Tapton Crescent Road, Sheffield, S10 5DD

Email: sign@sheffinfoolink.org.uk

Monday – Friday 10.00am – 3.00pm, drop in and phone service

Free information for parents and carers with children or young people with special needs or disabilities.

Pre-school Learning Alliance (PLA)

3rd floor, 9 Leopold Street, Sheffield, S1 2GY

Tel: 0114 273 1007

Monday – Friday 9.00am – 4.00pm

Website: www.pre-school.org.uk

Offers support and training to pre-schools, playgroups and toddler groups.

***The information on this factsheet is developed and maintained by Sheffield Information Link
© Sheffield Information Link 2011***