

Old Sarum
Salisbury
21.12.11

Dear Funders

I am the leader of a toddler group, Messy Mondays, at Old Sarum Community Rooms. This toddler group incorporates messy play with general free play for children aged 0- 5 years. I charge 50p a family and this includes snack and juice for the children and tea or coffee for adults. The 'Spurgeons' toddler group, which runs on a Friday currently let's us use their toys and we have had donations from a local pre-school. We greatly appreciate their kindness.

My target audience is anyone who cares for children of this age in the Old Sarum area. Whether that be Mum's, Dad's, Grandparents or Childminders.

Due to an influx of military families in Old Sarum I find a number of these families do attend as well as civilian families from all parts of the estate. This is now the case with many events held in OSCR. Military families comment that they have a definite need for any activities when they are based a distance from their spouse's base and activities that maybe put on there.

Our average numbers are up to 6 adults and up to 12 children, this is growing. After a fund raising stall at the local school fayre we had 5 new families attend – a very positive response!

Since Messy Mondays has started the group has gelled well and friendships have been formed that continue outside of the group. The regulars are beginning to take ownership of the group and help with activity ideas, equipment, tea making and tidying up. The children's social interaction is improving and many children are growing in confidence. The profile of OSCR has improved as families tell other families about groups being held there.

We have formed a toddler group committee and we are working on a constitution. I have purchased Public Liability Insurance also.

Old Sarum Community Rooms are a lifesaver for many on the estate. Without the rooms there would not be a place for us to meet and forge new friendship, have a moan, gain support from others in similar situations and have fun. This goes for both the adults and the children. Having been a resident in Old Sarum for year I have come to realise that Old Sarum is extremely isolating for those who don't drive or have children under 5 and don't have the confidence to venture far from home. The improvements at OSCR over the last 6 months has meant that this is a safe, secure environment for anyone who uses it, with a wide range of activities going on. It is beginning to be a focal point within our community.

Thank you for your time.

Ruth Humphreys