

Little Fishes Playgroup

The past year at Little Fishes has again been a busy one. We are now fully registered to provide funded places for 3 and 4 year olds, we held our first ever AGM, we are wading through a quality assurance scheme and (pause for the fanfare from the squeaky red plastic trumpets, as befits our usual sophisticated approach to music at Fishes..) we had a successful and very positive Ofsted inspection! We have also received some lovely, encouraging feedback from the parents' questionnaires we introduced which is just as important!



We are currently running four sessions a week, three of them full to bursting point and the fourth, supposedly our smaller, quieter group for newcomers, almost full too. We currently have 55 children on roll with a couple of others about to join. We could easily fill more morning sessions were the church rooms available, though I'm not sure the twitching, exhausted staff team would survive it! There has been a steady stream of new referrals coming in all year and the waiting list for September is looking healthy too.

The children have enjoyed all sorts of activities from making compost to making pancakes, ceramics to swimming, and trombone playing to horse riding (not to mention giving the staff some very strange looks when we joined in during dressing up week...well you don't see many tigers in Aldridge...) A favourite project has been the 'Little Fishes Garden' just outside the church rooms. Though we still have a long way to go before we rival Kew, the children have loved all the activities involved.



We are privileged to work with such delightful children and families, and it is particularly special to see many of them coming along to our Sunday services, some having no previous church connections. We have recently had several children from families of other faiths join the group so please pray that we will be sensitive to the situation, whilst not compromising what we believe.



Thank you again to our church family for all the support we receive. Whether it is accounts advice, phone answering, turf laying or fervent prayer in the face of Ofsted, we really do appreciate it! Please continue to pray for us, that God will be able to work through Little Fishes as we seek to serve him in our local community and stand out as a caring Christian group.

Finally we just want to say thank you to God for all the lives and families represented at Little Fishes and for his amazing love, protection and provision.

We look forward to another exciting year ahead – oh and look out Alan Titchmarsh...you have serious rivals!

Anna, Rachel, Annette, Emma, Eliza & Sue

