

Child's play at St Patrick's

By Vincent Toal

Picture by Paul McSherry



The baby and toddler group at St Patrick's, Dumbarton, is thriving. After less than a year, it has over 50 children eager to get through the doors on a Friday morning. The group was formed after the Parish Pastoral Council identified the need to reach out to younger families.

Laura Banks, a member of the PPC and a new mother, said: "Becoming a parent can be quite isolating as so much of your time

is taken up looking after the baby. "So the baby and toddler group seemed a great idea. The only thing was that all the forms for funding were terrifying." That was until Laura approached the St Nicholas Care Fund. "The application form was straightforward. All we had to do was outline who we were and specify our request."

A grant for £2000 was awarded – and quickly spent on climbing frames, slides, bouncy chairs and other fun items. Mums, some dads, and grandparents go along to the group each week. It's a chance to meet, share stories and the adventures of seeing little children grow and develop.

A grateful Laura said: "On behalf of the children and parents at St Patrick's Babies and Toddlers we would like to thank the St Nicholas Care Fund and all who contribute towards it for your support."

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