



DIOCESE OF HEXHAM &
NEWCASTLE

**CARITAS HEXHAM & NEWCASTLE
GRANT REPORT**

NAME OF GROUP Wonder Tots Playgroup (Holy Family Parish, Hartlepool)

NAME OF CONTACT Rachel Slatter

ADDRESS & POSTCODE

St Joseph's Parish, Musgrove Road, Hartlepool

DATE/AMOUNT OF GRANT £500 March 2021

WHAT YOU WANTED THE GRANT FOR

Our aim was to create a playgroup that was free and open to everyone in the local community. As parents ourselves we were aware of the cost of taking our small children to groups and activities. We felt there was a need for a group in Hartlepool that was free to give parents an opportunity to go somewhere each week that didn't depend on having money that week. We also wanted to create a group which had Montessori principles and sensory play.

WHAT YOU DID WITH THE GRANT

We have been able to resource our group from scratch. Each week we provide refreshments for our participants; tea and coffee for adults and juice/water and a snack for children. We have three areas; Baby, Toddlers and song/story area. We have purchased foam mats and large rugs to split up each area. There are toys relevant to each age group and musical instruments. We have been able to buy almost everything we have needed due to the grant, along with donations from kind parishners.

WHAT IMPACT HAS YOUR PROJECT MADE *(WHAT DIFFERENCE HAS IT MADE TO THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH IN YOUR COMMUNITY?)*

Our group has only been running a few months but just in that short time there has been some great fruits. Many of the adults we have spoken to are really grateful to have a free group where they can relax with a drink and chat to old friends or make new ones, while their children play and craft.

Inviting parishners to be on our refreshment's rota has been an unexpected bonus. They taken to providing refreshments with such fervour and it allows the playgroup leads to focus on interacting with participants. They too have received so much by simply being there weekly to help.

Our Youth Ministry coordinator has been able to meet new parents who he has been able to invite to future Youth events.

We have been able to share faith based or moral based stories with the group and focus our craft activities around these. We hope to incorporate our parish Godly play resources into this in time .