

# Choosing a Playgroup or Parent and Toddler Group



Falkirk Council

## Falkirk Childcare Information Service



Falkirk Council

### Useful Links

Care Commission	● Regulation of care services & inspection reports	<a href="http://www.carecommission.com">www.carecommission.com</a>
Care Standards	● What to expect from care services	<a href="http://www.infoscotland/nationalcarestandards">www.infoscotland/nationalcarestandards</a>
Child Protection Line	● Worried about a child? Call 0800 022 3222	<a href="http://www.infoscotland.com/childprotection">www.infoscotland.com/childprotection</a>
Disclosure Scotland	● Criminal records check organisation	<a href="http://www.disclosurescotland.co.uk">www.disclosurescotland.co.uk</a>
Falkirk Council	● Local authority, information & leaflets available	<a href="http://www.falkirk.gov.uk">www.falkirk.gov.uk</a>
Fire Safety	● Fire Law in Scotland	<a href="http://www.infoscotland.com/firelaw">www.infoscotland.com/firelaw</a>
HMIE	● Education inspection reports	<a href="http://www.hmie.gov.uk">www.hmie.gov.uk</a>
Scottish Government	● Government information and Care Standards	<a href="http://www.scotland.gov.uk">www.scotland.gov.uk</a>
SPPA	● Scottish Pre-School Play Association	<a href="http://www.sppa.org.uk">www.sppa.org.uk</a>
SSSC	● Register of social care staff	<a href="http://www.sssc.uk.com">www.sssc.uk.com</a>

### How do I find a Playgroup or Parent and Toddler Group?

Falkirk Childcare Information Service can provide you with full details and also a wide range of information on childcare provision, pre-school education and childcare issues.

Phone - 01324 506632

Fax - 01324 506604

Email - [childcare@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:childcare@falkirk.gov.uk)


Website - [www.scottishchildcare.gov.uk](http://www.scottishchildcare.gov.uk), [www.falkirk.gov.uk/childcare](http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/childcare)



**Playgroups and Parent & Toddler Groups** provide a stimulating environment where children learn through play and having fun. These are key factors in promoting children's development and learning. Parent & Toddler Group sessions are attended by parent and child.

Written in conjunction with the Scottish Pre-School Play Association.

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**Groups are found throughout the country. They are often run by parents/carers on a voluntary basis.**

Parents/carers generally support playgroups in two ways:-

- By taking turns to help at play sessions
- By participating in fundraising activities throughout the year

Parents/carers involved will also take away transferable skills from their experience as a committee member.

Gaelic speaking playgroups are available in some areas.

### **What are the plus points?**

- Children can enjoy learning and playing in a small group
- Parents/carers can get to know other people in their area
- Through their involvement in the group parents/carers learn about the children's development and may also be able to develop their own skills and interests.

### **How do I know my child will be safe and secure?**

Parents/carers know their children best – look for a playgroup you feel will suit your child. A check on the premises is carried out to make sure it is safe and suitable for children.

Playgroups are registered with the Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Care (commonly known as the Care Commission). Qualified staff must be registered with an appropriate registering body and all staff must have an enhanced disclosure.

Further details regarding Registration & Inspection, Questions to ask and other Top Tips can be found in Falkirk Childcare Information Service Making Choices leaflet, please phone and ask for a copy or download from Falkirk Council website. This leaflet is also available in Cantonese and Urdu.

Some playgroups are in partnership with Falkirk Council Education Services to

provide pre-school education for three and four year olds.

Groups should have their registration certificate displayed on their notice board and you can ask to see their latest inspection report.

Parent & Toddler Groups are not registered as parents are always in attendance with their child.

### **What age are the children in playgroups?**

The minimum age for children in playgroups is 2½ years and they can attend up to the age of five.

### **When are playgroups open?**

Playgroups are usually open for two to five sessions per week. Each session is likely to be for about 2½ hours.

### **What about full time children?**

Playgroups are not normally geared towards full-time day care. There are groups that offer lunch club sessions and arrangements may be possible for transporting children to another local nursery

provision. Some parents prefer to combine playgroups with childminding to meet their needs.

### **How much does a playgroup cost?**

Playgroups cost on average £2.50 per session. However for children who have accessed a pre-school place within a Local Authority partnership playgroup this place will be free of charge.

### **Parent & Toddler Groups**

Parent & Toddler Groups are usually situated in a community setting (church hall, community hall) and are operated by a voluntary group of parents. Groups allow parents to meet other parents in the area and children to interact before pre-school and primary school. Their may be a small charge/donation to help with the cost of equipment and premises.