



Sheffield  
Information  
Link

# FACTSHEET

## A guide to toddler groups

### What is a toddler group?

These are groups where parents, carers and grandparents can meet with their young children. They provide an opportunity for the children to play and socialise with other children and also for the adults to meet and chat. Groups are usually organised and run by parents and carers themselves. They are usually open once or twice a week for an hour or two during term time, either in the morning or afternoon. They are often in venues like church halls, community centres or on school premises.

### Do toddler groups need to be registered?

No, groups are not required to be registered with Ofsted as they don't provide childcare. Parents and carers must stay with their children so are therefore responsible for their children's care and safety whilst on the premises.

### How do you find a toddler group?

Sheffield Information Link (SIL) can provide lists of toddler groups for each postcode area in Sheffield. Alternatively, information can also be found on our online directory [www.asksid.net](http://www.asksid.net). The lists include a named contact and telephone number for the group and further details of the service it provides. We update the lists regularly and we always welcome hearing of new groups to add to our lists.

Groups may also advertise locally in shops, libraries, post offices or on noticeboards in church halls and community centres. If there isn't a baby and toddler group in your area, you might think of starting one up. For details see 'Useful contacts' section on the reverse.

### How old are children who attend toddler groups?

Groups are run for parents and carers with babies and children right up to the age of 5, but this does vary depending on the group. SIL's lists will tell you what age children each group is for.

### Is there a charge to attend a toddler group?

Some groups are free but there is more often a small charge to cover hire of the room and refreshments. Costs can vary depending on area and can range from 50p - £2.00 per session.

### Can you go to more than one toddler group?

Yes, you can attend as many groups as you wish.

### Will I be expected to help out with the group?

You may be. As groups are run on a voluntary basis you may be needed to help out once in a while or join in with fun fund-raising activities for the group to enable them to buy toys or equipment for children at the group to use.

### Does your child have a special need or disability?

SIL provide a specialist information service for families with children who are disabled or have special needs. The service, which is called SIGN, can provide information on services, support and specific conditions and disabilities. SIGN is based at the Ryegate Children's Centre and has an enquiry line. For details see 'Useful contacts' section overleaf.





## Useful contacts and information



### Sheffield Information Link

Sheffield's Family Information Service.

11 Leopold Street, Sheffield,  
S1 2GY

**Tel: (0114) 275 6699**

Text phone: (0114) 249 4939

Email: [info@sheffinfolink.org.uk](mailto:info@sheffinfolink.org.uk)  
[www.sheffinfolink.org.uk](http://www.sheffinfolink.org.uk)

Drop-in Service & Library Opening Hours:

Mon: 9.30am to 5.30pm, Wed: 9.30am to 6.00pm,

Fri: 9.30am to 4.00pm

Telephone service available daily.

Out of hours answerphone.

### SIGN Information Service

Free information for parents and carers with children or young people with special needs or disabilities.

Ryegate Children's Centre, Tapton Crescent Road,  
Sheffield, S10 5DD

Monday – Friday 10.00am – 1.00pm,  
drop in and phone service

**Tel: (0114) 266 9476** (out of hours answerphone)

Email: [sign@sheffinfolink.org.uk](mailto:sign@sheffinfolink.org.uk)

### Pre-school Learning Alliance (PLA)

Offers support and training to pre-schools, playgroups and toddler groups.

3rd floor, 9 Leopold Street, Sheffield, S1 2GY

**Tel: (0114) 273 1007 or (0114) 249 8894**

Monday – Friday 9.30am – 3.30pm

[www.pre-school.org.uk](http://www.pre-school.org.uk)