

Not a bad morning for just £3 per family is it?

When the weather is good we let the children play on the small patio outside, which they love, but despite having a gazebo up, this is not totally satisfactory as there are trees from next door dropping their leaves and also problems with birds and their offerings. Perhaps we'll get it fixed one day

We are also holding MOJO sessions [under 5's physical activities] as part of our programme as Sue has now completed an N.V.Q. 2 as a fitness instructor. Her training was funded by Sure Start, the children's organisation

We manage to do a MOJO session every half term, and in case you're wondering what that involves, it's sort-of like a toddler assault course complete with balancing bars, balls, hoops and even a scramble net. Also things like musical chairs, action songs and of course parachute games.

At the Ark we encourage a feeling of community among the parents and carers, and the group is very welcoming to new parents and those recently moved to the village.

It can be very lonely when you move to a new place and are looking after babies and toddlers at home, especially if you've previously been a working parent.

Last year, the group had an outing to Church Farm in the summer, sharing cars to get there, and we have a Facebook page where members of the group have been sharing ideas of what to do with the children in the holidays.

We held a MacMillan Coffee Morning to raise money for Cancer Support in September and one of our Mums hosted a Fashion show with us on one December evening for all the other mums.

There was the usual Preschool and Toddlers' Nativity before Christmas, which was attended by Haddenham Preschool as well as our Ark families.

Jellytots – Bumps and Babies, meets weekly in the hall on Wednesday mornings. This group is just for expectant Mums and babies under a year old, and although this is much smaller – about 6 mums usually – it is proving to be a really helpful group where the parents support each other and hopefully become long term friends.

The Well Baby Clinic is also held in the hall on Wednesday mornings, twice a month so this is really good, too.

