

Welcome to First Steps

First Steps is a friendly, sociable group for all children under 5 (babies, toddlers and pre-school) with their parent, grandparent or carer. We meet term-time only on **Tuesday mornings from 10.00 to 11.30 am** and charge £2 per family per session to cover costs. There are a variety of toys and activities for the children to play with inside and outside (weather permitting).



We start with a period of free play as people arrive and then have a fixed time for refreshments (about 10.20-10.30). We can provide hot drinks for adults and squash or water for the children plus pre-wrapped biscuits, or you are welcome to bring your own. There is usually a craft for the older children to do if they want to. At the end of the morning we pack up the toys and have songs and a Bible story together and share any notices and birthdays. Please help your child to engage with this.

Please leave your **prams and buggies** outside. We are very sorry there is nowhere under cover to store them so you will need to leave rain covers on in bad weather. We are happy on occasions to accommodate sleeping babies, rather than leave them outside, but obviously space is limited.

If you come to First Steps by car, **please park carefully** and considerately. Meeting Street is a busy, winding road and there is a bus stop opposite. If possible park in Spinney or Elms Drive and walk round. Please do not park directly outside the church so there is a clear view for carers and their children emerging from the gates. Please do not park on the pavement, it is illegal and dangerous for pedestrians, including others coming to First Steps.

Baby **changing facilities** are in the accessible toilet to the right as you go outside. For health and safety reasons please do not change nappies in the main toilets or hall.

Although restrictions have now eased we feel that it is both sensible and appropriate to continue to take some measures to limit the spread of Covid-19.

- Numbers will be limited and you will need to **book a place in advance for half a term at a time**. If you don't attend for 2 weeks and haven't contacted us then your place will be offered to someone else.
- Please do not attend if you, or anyone else in your household has covid symptoms or been in contact with anyone who has tested positive for covid.
- We will keep contact details and a record of attendance. If there is a local outbreak of covid or we are short of leaders, then we may have to close temporarily and so would need to be able to get in touch with you.
- We will continue to provide sanitiser and wipes for cleaning of hands and shared items. Toys can be shared but we won't be using soft toys for now - only toys which are easily cleaned and have not been used for at least 48 hours.
- We will not insist on people wearing masks as we think it discourages conversation and interaction between adults and children, but you are welcome to wear one if you want to.

Please remember that **your child's safety**, the way s/he relates to and plays with other children, are your responsibility. Look after, and encourage your child to look after the room, the equipment and each other.

First Steps is run by volunteers from Quorn Baptist Church and we value your comments on the group and welcome any feedback you give us. We hope you enjoy your time at First Steps.