

## **Thurton & Ashby St. Mary Pre-School and Parent Baby and Toddler Group**

Report submitted to Ashby St. Mary Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting 2007.

Thurton & Ashby St. Mary Pre-school has maintained a consistent number of children through the year. Six children left in July to attend Thurton school or Loddon Nursery and a number have joined since September. This term we are expecting a further seven children to start bringing our number of registered children to twenty five.

We are still running four sessions a week with a lunch club on Thursdays during the summer term and employ four members of staff.

We started the new school year in September with an unannounced Ofsted Inspection. After getting over the shock we went on to have two very good inspection mornings achieving a 'Good' in Care and a 'Good' in Education with an overall 'Good' judgement which we were all very pleased with as it is the second highest standard.

The Committee is very busy organising fundraising events as, although we receive grant funding for the children the term after they are three, this does not cover staff wages and hall rent and we have no other money coming in apart from the younger children's fees which we try to keep to an affordable price for parents. We have supported village activities again during the year including a stall at the St. Georges Day event on Saturday 21st with a Jumble Sale this week in aid of our own funds.

With the mild winter this year we have enjoyed being in our garden much more than normal and the children have benefited from fresh air and the freedom to run, dance, climb and explore which is a very important part of the Early Years Curriculum. Our aim is to continue to give the children the best start in their education and to work in partnership with parents to achieve this.

Thurton Parent, Baby & Toddler Group has continued to provide new families with a friendly environment for them to meet new friends, share problems, milestones and information. Our Toddler Leader has provided hours of craft, play and fun for the children to help them take their first independent steps and since Christmas, numbers have steadily increased.