

**Holt Under Fives Playgroup & Toddlers**  
**Children's Charity**  
**Interview with Helen Jowett, Playgroup Leader**

**How do you usually describe what you do at Holt Under Fives?**

My staffing team and I provide a range of children's and family services for the residents of Holt and surrounding communities. This include sessional care (children age 2 - 4 ½ years stay without their parents/carers in School Term Time) and a Baby & Toddler group (Tuesday mornings) where everyone can come along.

**Is it just play?**

Our service implements the 2015 Revised Welsh Foundation Phase Curriculum. Our Continuous Provision (areas accessible each time children join us - inside and out) covers sand, water, dough, table top, small world, construction, book corner, mark making, make-it table, painting, home corner, music, number, physical literacy and finding out. Activities and experience are planned in these areas with language, literacy & communication, numeracy and ICT skills running through them.

**That sounds formal?**

Holt Under Fives provide a welcoming, vibrant, engaging environment that children can access to develop their skills and interests, fully supported to move forward in their learning by qualified staff. Families who have spent time with us at Baby & Toddler sessions feel confident that their child knows the setting, have met some of the staff already and understand that the first move for their child/children to stay away from them will be a positive one. We also assist families and their children for the onward journey in education. Plenty of opportunities to investigate, question, laugh, converse, play with their peers and staff members will develop skills ready for moving to a School Nursery.

**Are your services affordable?**

We completed a tender process with regard to Early Entitlement funding (10 hours in the mornings) which we secured for 4 years in 2018. The funding is for 3 year olds to access with us on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 9.00am - 11.30am. We have offered the Childcare Offer Wales since September 2018. Working parents/carers can apply for this (there are also exceptions listed on the website). Search Childcare Offer Wrexham.

**You are a Charity; can anybody get involved?**

Any assistance regarding our fund raising efforts is much appreciated. The Holt Scarecrow Trail is organised by our dedicated committee and our Midsummer Celebration on the Church Green is the biggest event in our calendar. Funds raised enable Holt Under Fives to continue offering childcare services.

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