

## **RAINBOW TOTS - ABOUT US**

**Rainbow Tots is a parent/carer, baby and toddler group started in 2008 by St Andrews Church.**

**We meet during term time on Tuesday mornings in the Ogilvie Hall, Thorpeness from 10am to 11.30am.**

Each week the hall is set up with an array of activities for our babies and toddlers (up to about three and a half years old) to explore and enjoy. These range from toys on a colourful 'rainbow' foam mat, sand pit, tent with balls, tent to 'make' home', ride on trikes and tractor, a slide, painting and gluing, jigsaws, books, car mat, etc. The children and their parent (yes, sometimes Dads, sometimes Grandparents, sometimes a Carer) are welcomed by our young doorkeeper Joan (93 and a half: And how the children love her) and off they go to meet their friends and explore.

Each week celebrates a different colour, which is reflected at 'feast' half way through the morning. We enjoy bananas, raspberries; tomatoes, as well as jammy dodgers, pink wafers etc: The tots are encouraged to 'sit' to eat and during this time any paintings already done are admired and praised.

We have a 'sensible' and 'realistic' approach to the 'swine flu' situation realising that a happy, mobile and energetic group such as this cannot be protected except by any child or parent feeling 'off colour' remaining away till symptoms have passed, and if contact has been made with definite diagnosed sufferers to steer clear for the recommended time. We have removed all soft toys and endeavour to be vigilant with the cleanliness of apparatus, the mat and other toys provided. Parents must bring their own 'hand washing' gel for use before 'feast'. There will be some available if forgotten.

We need a balanced, respectful approach to the situation, remembering that it is also important for life to continue and fun to be enjoyed!

A few sessions have been held in the grounds of the Ogilvie Hall on sunny days and enjoyed by all, especially the youngsters who do not have gardens of their own.

We finish each week with 'Kate' teaching us to sing and sign and if the children are in high spirits we attempt a 'parachute' game or 'band'. It is all very informal, hopefully relaxed, and fun for all who come. If you would like to visit and enjoy a cup of coffee with us you are most welcome and how grateful we are to 'helpers' who have turned up each week to boil the kettle and serve all the grown-ups with drinks.

We thank all who have supported us and in particular the Rector, Rev Christine Brooks and our other friends from Aldringham Church. Why not join us. JS and ET(!)

Please contact us for further details, or just come along on the day.