

## RAFT PLAYGROUP

.....

Dear Allison,

Thank you so much for your help in expanding our playgroup outreach to the community last year. When we first talked in July, we had one playgroup at our church with numbers that were dangerously high, and although we had some help, we as leaders were exhausted.

After our first talk over lunch we canvassed everyone in the church from members of the prayer chain, to the food bank, from older people to young.

Our meeting at the church was set for the following Tuesday morning. You talked to about 30 people in our church hall – the events that took place over the following four months from what you inspired were simply amazing.

We as a group realised we could utilize all the systems already set up in the church to do everything more efficiently.

Some of the changes we saw unfold with God's will were:

A large amount of support from the church ministers, with them now visiting playgroup each month

The prayer chain became involved, so if there is a sick child at playgroup, we only need to ring one of their members

If we require meals for a new mum, we can ring up the food bank and collect them, rather than cooking them ourselves.

We have several older ladies who are willing to do the cutting out for playgroup activities.

We have tea ladies for the mums

We have support staff that help us set up and pack up

We are now running two playgroups, and running them much more efficiently. Because of this we were able to set up a kids' Christmas story drama with craft activities on a Saturday afternoon for the playgroup children, their families and friends. It was very successful.

We have also had our first member of playgroup baptized which was very exciting.

Now that the Church is involved and has taken a more supportive role in the playgroup, enthusiasm has grown, and we would like to start a third playgroup in the future.

Thank you for your time, effort, support and prayers. They have made a huge difference!

Jeanette

RAFT Anglican Church