

Overview

We would like to thank the Scotwest Credit Union/Scotwest Community Awards for the support given to Home-Start Glasgow South (HSGS) over the last year. During 2024, you kindly contributed funds towards our Warm Place based in Pollokshaws, allowing us to purchase sensory toys for our early years community hub. In 2024, we welcomed 56 families and 72 children to the weekly sessions.

As the Warm Place has grown, it has formed its own special sense of community, welcoming new mums, carers with their children, parents from BAME backgrounds and a number of dads with their little ones each week. For some of the families who attend, it is the only time that they are able to have a proper conversation with another adult, which is vitally important for their mental health and well-being.

"It's the most inclusive playgroup I've found and makes me feel included as a dad"

"It has allowed me to meet other parents I might not have met otherwise. It gives my son time to play with other children his age, as well as interaction with other adults, which I believe will help him prepare for nursery and school in the future"

"It's great having the same faces at group each week, it gives a feeling of community. I can share my child's development with other parents and volunteers, most of them have seen my child grow over the years. It is a very supportive atmosphere"

Benefits of The Warm Place

Our Warm Place operates as an early year's hub, bringing together not only the specialisms of our own team, but a range of partner organisations who have been on hand to provide information and resources to parents/carers. Having this delivered in conjunction with WP has meant that families have been able to access additional resources.

Partners include:

- Health Improvement Team providing information on food nutrition and oral hygiene
- Local Citizens Advice Bureau around energy efficiency
- Nationwide Building Society for money matters and budgeting
- Neurodiversity Support and awareness for parents/carers
- Daisy Project for Domestic Violence Support
- Workers Education Association Training on Finance
- Enable who provide volunteering and recruitment opportunities for those looking to return to work.

Scotwest Grant

Families who are attending the Warm Place have enjoyed the sensory toys and equipment we have been able to purchase through the Scotwest Grant. The toys and equipment are used regularly by staff and volunteers to support children's development, encourage speech and language, develop balance and movement, express themselves creatively and have fun.

Activities which the equipment has been used for includes:

- Songs under the colourful parachute with our sensory light. The children loved watching the lights spin and change colour as the group sang 'twinkle twinkle' altogether.
- Movement with colourful ribbons and light up tambourine while singing 'under the sea'
- Clearing the children's play area of other toys and using the light up balls to through, bounce, kick and catch together. The children were excited to see the balls light up as they landed on the ground.
- Playing 'Café' with other children, parents and volunteers by role playing with pretend food.
- Using the baby mats with lights and arch to engage babies, they love looking at themselves in mirrors and kicking their legs in happiness.
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Thank You

We would like to once again thank the Trustees of the Scotwest Community Awards for their support in the last year. If you would like any further information, please do let me know and I will be happy to provide this.

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