

'Getting together with other local groups has been such a wonderful opportunity for prayer and encouragement.'

Facebook



There is a Facebook group where people support one another, share ideas and expertise

www.facebook.com/groups/1277make-themcount/



make them count

National Network of Church-based Toddler Groups



make them count

National Network of Church-based Toddler Groups

National Month of Prayer June

Get your church praying for their toddler group; the volunteers, the children and their families and the communities they are part of.

There are ideas and resources to help you advertise and organise a Prayer Day/Event in June from the 1277 website.

www.1277.org.uk



make them count

National Network of Church-based Toddler Groups

Joining the Dots



The value of prayer networks and how to connect with other local toddler groups

www.1277.org.uk

Bringing Toddler Groups Together... the value of prayer networks

Joining the dots—an example

In 2002, two friends leading different church toddler groups in the same town decided to meet on a regular basis to share ideas and encourage each other, but more importantly to pray and be prayerful about the work God had given them and the families they welcomed each week. So they started by setting a date and a place to meet and they soon decided to invite others to join them.

With a shared vision, passion and heart for ministry and mission through toddler groups, they grew as a valuable support to each other. As they shared the joys and challenges of being toddler group leaders, seeking God's direction and guidance.

Praying and sharing together as a local network has been an effective way of supporting each other. Over the years. The group has hosted training events and has become a recognised initiative within the town's Christian mission and Churches together.

How to start a prayer network

- **Pray**
- **Get in touch with another local group (even if it's just one!)**
- **Use existing Christian networks—Churches together etc.**
- **Arrange a date and time to meet—maybe a coffee shop at first or take turns to host in a church or home setting. Maybe meet once a term.**
- **Keep it short and simple—bring your own lunch or just have coffee or tea.**
- **Recognise that each toddler group is unique—big, busy, small, intimate. Each has value.**
- **Agree on confidentiality. Listen and encourage.**
- **Join in National & local prayer initiatives**
- **Celebrate and encourage what is going on in other groups**
- **Set up a closed Facebook Group or email connections**
-

Benefits

- Seeing God at work
- Sharing passion and vision
- Fellowship!
- Seeking God's guidance
- You are not alone!
- Helps with persevering and seeing things afresh
- Great to share good news and encouragements
- Great to gain insights on practical aspects and ideas
- Can avoid 'reinventing the wheel'
- Sharing resources
- Sharing good practice
- Someone to contact if you have a problem
- Opportunities to run local home grown training or topic focussed meetings.
- Host training days with external speakers
- A local voice for toddler groups
- Being part of a bigger picture

How about starting one during national month of prayer for toddler groups?