

APPENDIX 1: ENGAGING TODDLERS AND UNDER FIVES

These toddler activities are designed for pre-school children who may be attending because another family member is involved.

Many younger children will want to join in the whole-group activities, the singing and story, but at other times, providing something that can engage them is useful. Many of these activities are also good for children who have additional needs, as they are very sensory.

Ongoing activities

Investigating hidden objects in a sensory tray or treasure box. You could also have available a sand tray, rice jars, play dough or Duplo.

Create a space with cushions and books where the children can be quiet – this is something that could be up all week.

Ruth

Suitcase treasure box. This is a 'what's in the box' type of activity, with items relating to the story (travelling from home, loving each other). Let the toddlers play with the items, and explore what they think about them.

Mary and Martha

Create a cooking corner with pots, pans and play food. Be busy like Martha. Encourage children to use the quiet space, and be still and quiet like Mary.

Timothy

Today we are cheering people on, like we did when we cheered for the NHS. You can bang pots and pans, or use musical instruments.

You may want some quieter cheering activities, too. You could make a non-noisy party blower. Make a cardboard straw and cut a strip of



wrapping paper, and make it into a tube (make sure there are no leaks), join the two parts, and curl the wrapping paper up. Put it to your mouth and blow – you may need to roll it up after each blow. Or you could make some cheering pompoms.

Abraham and Sarah

Abraham and Sarah were told they would have more descendent than the number of stars in the sky, so explore things which that get more and more and more in number. Bubble fun - have a basin of soapy bubbles and lots of objects to create fun with; alternatively, you could create some 'find the stars' activities.

Esther

Make some linking hearts by cutting heart shapes out of card, and play with them by linking them all together. Alternatively, play with balancing or linking toys you may already have.

Create mystery images using a mud tray, or disappearing pictures in water painting.

