

**well
together**

ABINGDON CAROUSEL



Abingdon Carousel is a small independent charity that runs a Family Centre in South Abingdon.

They received £3,967 to contribute towards weekly 'stay and play' groups for 0-4-year-olds, and their parents and carers.



The 'stay and play' group at Abingdon Carousel offers developmental play opportunities for young children alongside support for their parents. These weekly sessions help to reduce feelings of isolation for parents and promote peer-to-peer network building. They also enable play-work staff to support local parents by signposting them to other services. Parents feel they are empowered to enjoy parenting and seek help should they need it.

The team at Abingdon Carousel also support families with children with special educational needs and disabilities to attend the group, ensuring the Family Centre is an inclusive space.

**"The only baby club
that feels like home."**



WEEKLY TIMETABLE

The 'stay and play' sessions form a key part of the activities timetable at Carousel, offering support for families throughout the year. With sessions running five days a week, including a popular Saturday group and baby group, the team are creating a space for families to come together from pregnancy onwards.



BRINGING LOCAL FAMILIES TOGETHER

Attending Abingdon Carousel sessions has made a real difference for local families, creating a welcoming and safe space where children can have fun, develop new skills, and grow in confidence. With a variety of engaging activities, babies and young children are not only enjoying themselves but also gaining valuable experiences that support their development - something 93% of parents and carers have noticed. The sessions offer healthy snacks, giving children the chance to try new foods in a supportive environment.



For many families, these sessions are about more than just play; they provide a vital opportunity to connect with others. A recent user survey showed that 95% of attendees say the sessions have helped them meet other parents and carers, fostering a real sense of community. Parents and carers also feel more supported, saying access to services and sessions has been beneficial. Having the facilities and team in the heart of the community at Abingdon Carousel, provides a space and place for local families to come together in a truly meaningful way.



“We come to S-Club (Saturday group) as it provides a wonderful opportunity for families to play together. It’s great for working parents especially dads (and it’s lovely to see so many dads attend). It’s great that older siblings can come too, which supports the whole family... plus there’s always a friendly face to talk to. S Club is a valuable group.”