

APPENDIX AR1

Saints Little Treasures (APR1)

Our Pre-school was founded by a group of local parents, the Pre-school Learning Alliance and Luton Borough Council staff. Firstly an advertisement was put into the local paper to call a meeting to encourage people who were interested in being involved in starting a new pre-school. There were a sufficient number of people that were willing to get involved and so over the last year we have been working hard to form a committee. This required adopting a constitution, and appointing a chairperson, treasurer and a secretary along with other committee members.

At the start of this project there were around fourteen ladies coming to meetings. The numbers have reduced drastically with the requirements of OFSTED as the ladies found it all very overwhelming. However we are left with a core of dedicated committee members who have helped to make this project into a reality. The committee also have their own bank account.

In order to become registered we had to meet all OFSTED standards and put in place all their requirements. The committee have appointed three members of staff, which were chosen from over a hundred applicants! Since then the staff have been appointed and they have been working closely with the committee to get everything in place for the open week on 26th April 2004. This was to enable the parents and children to come and visit the setting and to meet the staff and committee.

We are a member of the Pre-school Learning Alliance (PLA) and have adopted their constitution. We are partially funded by the Government, and are in the process of becoming a registered charity. Once we have charitable status we can then start fund raising. We value our relationship with parents and are committed to working in partnership with parents, staff, the PLA, OFSTED and LBC staff.

We undertook this project with funding from the LBC's previous pre-school funds. This money was used to build toilets in the pre-school room and other various start up costs such as postage, stationery, advertising and insurance. The PLA have also given the group a small amount to cover the staff salaries until the first batch of funding is received.

The first quantity of headcount forms have recently been submitted therefore we will be receiving funding for this term. Saints Little Treasures are registered for sixteen 2-4 year olds. At present we have eight funded children and four children that are paying fees, as they do not yet qualify for funding. The waiting list continues to grow and all involved are confident that next term we will be full. The ladies involved in this project have gained confidence and a lot of new skills. The project is a success.