

WHAT DOES THE GROUP INVOLVE?

Signing up to be part of our Stepping Stones programme means you are committing to:

- 8 sessions a month of supported play lasting up to 2 hours each day (*Child Only*)
- 1 Stay & Play each month to allow parents to meet staff and see their children in the room (*Parent and Child*)
- A Parent Support Network coffee morning (*Parent Only - While child is in programme*)
- A Parenting Support Programme around February Time (*Parent Only - While child is in programme*)
- 3 Home Visits across the year from your child's keyworker to discuss progress
- A Transition Planning Meeting around May/June time to support the move to nursery/preschool.

As part of our Stepping Stones programme, your family will also have access to:

- Regular input from the wider Sure Start Team including Family Support, our Health Visitor and Speech and Language Therapist
- Timely onward referrals to any services which may be required to support your child in the future, including Core Speech and Language Therapy, Community Paediatrics, and Educational Psychology

CONTACT US

If you have any questions about this programme or would like to find out more, please contact the office at **028 3083 0022** or **info@surestartsa.org**

Eileen McEvoy - *Early Years Team Leader*
Jennifer Carragher - *Stepping Stones Programme Leader*



STEPPING STONES

October 2026 - June 2027



BACKGROUND

During your child's education journey, they'll experience many 'Stepping Stones' between classes and schools. South Armagh's Stepping Stones programme is designed to give children the very best foundation.

In the last 12 months, Sure Start South Armagh have completed a full review of the services we offer, and based on feedback from parents, are rolling out the Stepping Stones programme to meet the needs of children who would benefit from a higher level of intense input.

The programme is designed to boost children's readiness to make the big move into pre-school / nursery the following year.

KEY AIMS

- Support children's learning, social and emotional well-being and physical needs
- Improve children's communication skills and social interactions
- Strengthen support for parents empowering caregivers with helpful resources, and aid them navigating health and education systems
- Work with external organisations to create integrated services and joint programmes
- Make transitions easier for children moving to new educational settings
- Boost parents skills, knowledge and confidence in identifying and expressing their child's needs in different settings

OUR TEAM



Jennifer
Leader

Fiona
Deputy Leader



Jolene
Deputy Leader

OUR PROGRAMME

Up to 4 hours of supported play each week.

*Thursdays and Fridays
9:30 - 11:30 AM*

Custom designed, safe and play-filled room and outdoor space.

Cullyhanna Programme Room on the grounds of St Patricks PS, Cullyhanna

High levels of input from Sure Start's experienced practitioners including Early Years Leader, Speech and Language Therapist and Health Visitor

Small group of 6 children and 3 adults, ensuring a high children to staff ratio

WHO IS THIS PROGRAMME FOR?

Our in-house Speech & Language Therapist will offer regular guidance and support to staff, to ensure the best possible outcomes in this year and beyond!

Because of the smaller group size and higher adult ratio, activities and play opportunities can be fully tailored to support children's:

