**Report on term 1 of Holy Trinity English Class Language Play Pilot**

**Background**

HOTEC has provided a crèche for the children of students for many years. Recently the demand has been very high and some children have been very resistant to being left by their mothers. Neither children nor mothers have been able to have a good learning experience and frequent requests for mothers to return to their children also disrupt the “normal” class. The Pilot project is an experiment in taking the English learning experience into the crèche for the mothers of these children, while continuing to provide the crèche service for those for whom it is working well. More detail of the thinking behind the project is available in the bid document.

**Progress**

The project started on 13th January, one week later than our regular class term. It has run twice a week for nine weeks and has met and beaten its targets in the sense of:

1. Continuing the normal crèche provision
2. Attracting up to 5 students in the first half of the term, rising to eight in the second half of term
3. Providing an enjoyable experience for children and mothers
4. Managing the experience of children whose mothers have continued in the downstairs class, while other children around them have their mother with them
5. Being a learning experience which we have recorded assiduously

There has been a great deal of qualitative progress in the sense of improved sense of “fun” for all concerned and the gradual development of the understanding that learning can occur in all sorts of informal situations. There are still challenges and more things to try during the second term of the pilot which starts on 21st April.

**More detail for those who want it**

The class register is attached (one doc for each half term). As the pilot is a new venture students have been accepted onto the course on a rolling basis. Their percentage attendance is calculated from the session to which they first came, not from the beginning of the term. Generally each mother has come with one child, though occasionally the child has been left at home. In total there have been 10 different children attending with their mothers at one time or another.

In addition mothers who are on the register for the downstairs class have brought 11 different children to the crèche at least once. Attendance from both groups is quite erratic. The average number of children per morning has been 8 (max 15, min 3).

The programme has been developing as we go along. A document showing an outline of the Spring term Learning and a timetable for the daily sessions is also attached.

**How are we assessing the project’s likely impact?**

Prior to starting we thought through what we hoped for in the way of impact and how to assess it. An annotated copy of the note recording these thought is attached as an interim report.

Marion Jackson (Co-ordinator) and Charlotte Woodbridge (tutor), 26/03/15