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Loads of fun with the grandies

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RESTHAVEN Paradise has teamed up with Campbelltown Council and Salvation Army for a weekly intergenerational playgroup for residents and children, held at the home - and it's a hit with all involved.

Resident Oriole Beaty, 88, sums it perfectly: "I have great-grandies who I don't get to see, so when I come to the playgroup, it's like I have them all."

Oriole has formed a particular bond with six-month-old Lillian.

"Everyone does a marvelous job, and we all look forward to it so much," she said. "Some of us aren't quite as active as we used to be, but we still enjoy the activities.

"It's so good for all of us."

The feeling is mutual. "Lillian's grandparents are an hour and a half away, so it's nice for her to have this interaction," Lillian's mum Zara said.

"It's good for the kids to get used to different age ranges. My other daughter, Delilah, 2, loves coming and playing with the toys.

"This is only our second time; we just started. It's only a five-minute walk away, so it's perfect for us.

"I think it's great for residents to have the kids around. The ladies love having a 'borrowed grandkid'."

Oriole is certainly no stranger to grandparent du-

ties, having three daughters, nine grandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren, with another due in January.

She is relishing the time with littlies at the playgroup, and has been attending the group since it began.

— THERESE MURRAY



Zara Connelly, Oriole Beaty and baby Lillian. Picture supplied