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# Business files

## Club makes splash in national awards

By Alex Blackwell

**A PRE-school club for youngsters set up by a Harborough mother after she was made redundant four years ago is going swimmingly!**

The Little Splashers pre-school swimming club, which was established by businesswoman Jo Wilson in 2007, recently finished in the top three of a national competition which attracted more than 1,500 entries and over 140,000 online votes.

Jo's firm finished as one of two runners-up in the Best Local Activity category of the What's On 4 Little Ones awards sponsored by Prima Baby & Pregnancy magazine.

For former marketing manager Jo, the surprise award represented some recognition after two years' hard work.

"It took me totally by surprise", mum-of-two Jo said. "I

got a phone call out of the blue last month from the competition organisers saying I had been nominated."

Little Splashers was put up for the award – unbeknown to Jo – by a satisfied parent whose youngster enjoyed the club.

Jo, who lives in Tymecrosse Gardens with husband Christian, son Kane (6) and daughter Millie (3), started the company after being made redundant from a Lubenham firm in 2005.

"I was looking for a new challenge and to be able to work around my young family, so I retrained as a specialist infant aquatics swimming teacher," Jo said, "Little Splashers is going from strength to strength. I now employ two part-time staff and I'm a finalist in a national competition. Hope-

fully, it may inspire other mums or Harborough Mail readers who have been made redundant and it is some good business news amid this credit-crunch recession."

The club offers swimming lessons to babies from 10 weeks old to pre-schoolers of four years of age in Rugby, Coventry and Leamington Spa. She initially investigated setting up the classes in Harborough but could not find a venue for the group.

The Harborough Athletics Club member and keen triathlete added: "To be nominated and become a finalist is a big achievement. I get so much pleasure in teaching such a valuable life skill and I think my passion comes across in my classes."

The sessions (£48 for six weeks or £80 for 10 weeks) promote the gentle 'birthlight'



■ Making a splash... Jo Wilson and her daughter Millie.

approach to baby swimming, which is about relaxing, having fun and developing a baby's natural reflexes into swimming skills. Lots of songs and games are also used which aim to

develop tots' confidence in the aquatic environment.

More information is available on the website [www.littlesplashers.co.uk](http://www.littlesplashers.co.uk) or by phoning 07968 015292.