



City mobile crèche service set to expand

The Bulwell Community Toy Library is planning to expand its mobile crèche service in 2012 to help it become more sustainable.

The mobile crèche service was set up by the toy library in 2010 to give organisations from the public and voluntary sectors an affordable way of providing childcare, to make it easier for parents and carers with young children to attend community events or training courses for example.

Organisations pay just £33 an hour for two qualified members of staff from the toy library plus toys and equipment.

The service has proved very popular and has given the toy library a small amount of extra income.

The toy library has been supporting families in Bulwell for over 30 years. It runs a whole range of free play activities for children aged from 0 to 13 years including outdoor play sessions in the woods at Bulwell Hall Park.

It also provides parents and carers with a choice of over 3,000 toys and games, which they can borrow for just a few pence a week.

It gives families one to one support too and uses play to help children with speech and language difficulties for example.

Steve Parkinson, Project Manager at the toy library says:

"We're keen to expand the mobile crèche service as it gives public and voluntary sector organisations an affordable way of providing childcare.

We're all watching the pennies at the moment so the crèche could help organisations save money. In addition, it also provides us with a small amount of extra income. After staff costs, the money we make from running the service is reinvested back into the toy library, which means the money goes towards running free play activities for children. In that way, everybody wins."



Expanding the mobile crèche service also means that the toy library is keen to take on more mobile crèche workers. Experienced childcare workers with an NVQ Level 2 or 3 are welcome to get in touch with the toy library at any time.

Any organisation from the public or voluntary sector can access the mobile crèche service, including small community groups for example.

As long as the venue is suitable, the toy library can run a mobile crèche for children aged from 0 to 8 years anywhere in Nottingham City.

The service includes qualified staff from the toy library to run the crèche, plus toys, games and activities hand-picked to suit the needs of each mobile crèche session. For example, crèche sessions can be tailored for children with physical or learning disabilities or for children from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds. The service is run in line with current regulation, guidance and best practice.

To find out more about the mobile crèche service call Steve Parkinson on 0115 975 3898 or email steve@toy-library.co.uk

Alternatively you can find out more on the toy library's website visit - www.toy-library.co.uk