



## Bulwell Community Toy Library launches new project to help families read together - and it's looking for local authors to get involved

Bulwell Community Toy Library in Nottingham is launching a brand new literacy project to help families enjoy listening to stories together - with the aim of giving children a love of reading from a very young age.

The project also aims to help parents re-discover their own love of reading and how to bring stories to life for children when reading to them aloud.

The new project was inspired by the classic BBC radio programme for children called 'Listen with Mother' which was broadcast from 1950 to 1982. The programme featured stories, songs and nursery rhymes for children under 5 and had around 1 million listeners.

The toy library's new project is called 'Listen with Lorraine' and will update the 'Listen with Mother' concept for a whole new generation of families.

Instead of being on the radio, families will be able to tune into 'Listen with Lorraine' online - where they'll be able to listen to children's stories being read aloud.

### **Steve Parkinson, Project Manager at the toy library, explains:**

*"Reading to children has all kinds of benefits for both children and grown-ups. For example, reading is a great way to bond with your baby and develop their speech, language and communication skills. Whilst research shows that reading to children at home can help them to be more successful at school - and in their personal life.*

*We wanted to find a fun and easy way of helping families to enjoy listening to stories together - which will hopefully inspire them to explore more books together.*

*Worryingly, the number of children who don't own a book is increasing. Seven years ago, 1 child in 10 didn't have a book of their own, while now it's 1 in 3. That's really sad and we want to do something about reversing that trend."*



The toy library is looking for local children's authors who would be happy to have their stories included on the Listen with Lorraine website.

**Steve continues:**

*"We'd love to feature local authors' stories on 'Listen with Lorraine' to help them reach a new audience of young readers.*

*Plus, local authors are great role models for our children, in terms of inspiring them to enjoy reading and even write their own stories in the future."*

**Local authors and anyone else wishing to find out more about 'Listen with Lorraine' can contact Steve Parkinson from the toy library on 0115 975 3898 or email [steve@toy-library.co.uk](mailto:steve@toy-library.co.uk)**

**The Listen with Lorraine website will be available soon - details to be announced.**

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