



# Nottingham charity Playworks aims to bring stories to life as part of Nottingham's Year of Reading

## **'Are you sitting comfortably? Then I'll begin.'**

Those were the famous opening words of the BBC's legendary 'Listen with Mother' radio show for children, which introduced several generations of children to reading, from 1950 to 1982.

Times have changed of course and they're aren't many families that gather round the radio for story time any more - but that doesn't mean that reading aloud to children isn't any less important.

According to the independent UK charity, the National Literacy Trust, reading aloud to children from a young age helps to develop their social and literacy skills, whilst stories encourage children to express their own thoughts and emotions.

Now, Nottingham charity Playworks is aiming to take the benefits of story time even further, by showing parents, schools and other professionals and volunteers who work with children how to bring stories to life - and how stories can help create all kinds of simple, affordable play activities and resources.

**The charity is running a series of story-telling workshops starting on:  
Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October from 10am to 1pm at Playworks on Alfred Street North in St Ann's.**

**Additional workshops will be held on:  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2012 from 10am to 1pm and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February from 1pm to 4pm.**

The workshops, which are part of Nottingham City Council's Year of Reading initiative, will show parents, volunteers and professionals how to really engage children in story telling, by tapping into children's innate sense of curiosity about the world around them for example.

Plus, they'll show participants how stories are just the beginning...



**Liz Asher, Project Director at Playworks explains:**

“Reading is an essential skill that is vital for children of all ages. It can open up new avenues of enjoyment and provide hours of entertainment. Not just in terms of the books themselves but the games and activities that stories can inspire.

For example, a simple object like a bucket can become a limitless play resource when it’s linked to an exciting story. Listening to the story inspires children to see everyday objects in a whole new way and to really use their imaginations, so all of a sudden a bucket can become anything from a rocket to a magic hat!

A fourth workshop is being held especially for children who have been victims of domestic abuse, at a city centre women’s refuge.

Playworks is the city’s leading resource centre for play. It aims to improve the quality and quantity of play provision for children and young people in Nottingham by providing training, education, resources, support, advice and information to parents, schools and organisations.

For example, it runs a scrapstore offering a huge range of affordable arts and crafts materials to parents, schools and organisations, together with advice and ideas on using materials.

**Liz concludes:**

“We’re really excited to be involved in Nottingham City Council’s Year of Reading initiative and as well as the story-telling workshops, we’ll be planning more activities very soon.”

**To find out more about the story-telling workshops  
or to book a place please call Playworks on 0115 958 9199.**

**To find out more about Nottingham City’s Year of Reading  
initiative please visit [www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk](http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk)**