



"The greatest gift is a passion for reading. It is cheap, it consoles, it distracts, it excites, it gives you knowledge of the world and experience of a wide kind. It is a moral illumination." Elizabeth Hardwick

A Happy New Year, may 2010 be a very happy, prosperous and above all healthy one. I hope that you had a fantastic and joyful Christmas and all those little ones received the presents they asked for from Father Christmas! I am sure he gets busier every year!!! Thank you to all of those brave families who attended the Bookstart Christmas music time, even though it was very snowy and chilly! But what a beautiful sight to wake up to, a blanket of snow covering everything! Finally felt like Christmas! Anyway back to 2010 and here is hoping the year will not fly by as quickly as it did last year!

National Bookstart Day

Slough Libraries celebrated National Bookstart Day on Saturday 10th October. This was a hugely successful event with nearly 100 families in attendance. Families enjoyed a magic show by Rosie, as well as cake. Slough Mayor Councillor Joginder Bal and Fiona MacTaggart, Labour MP, who is a big supporter of Bookstart, helped us celebrate too.

Bookstart Christmas Music Times

Seems like only a few months ago we held these events at Slough and Langley libraries. I love these events and especially this time of the year! I hope that all who attended had a fabulous time and enjoyed meeting the larger than life Bookstart Bear and ever so friendly Father Christmas, who kindly gifted the children with a present each.

I would just like to say a BIG thank you to parents and carers who make these events such a success. They would not be the same without your continuing support.



Upcoming Events

Bookstart Book Crawl

The Bookstart Book Crawl ran from July till September 2009 last year and because it was so successful for that three month period, Slough Libraries have decided to run it again from January till end of March 2010.

Children collect four stickers per card after registering. After every four stickers they receive a certificate. There are a number of certificates to choose from and this year there is a special Gruffalo one celebrating 10 years of this very enjoyable story.

Reading together is so important and should be educational, fun and enjoyable for both carer and child.

More information is available on the website, www.bookstart.org.uk. This website has been revised and is completely interactive.



Dad's Music Times

Slough Children's Library, Saturdays 11am-12pm

9th January	23rd January
6th February	20th February
6th March	20th March
3rd April	17th April



Please check your local library or log onto www.sloughlibrary.org.uk for details of other story and music times.

PARENTS SECTION

Article by Gaby Koenig,
Librarian for children and young people

Every so often I get to "sub" for Salma at music and story times. It is always a fun and lively experience that I look forward to. People often tell me I jump up and down higher than Salma when I sing the songs!! But I know they love her too! It is such a lovely experience to see children and babies of all ages really respond to the music, rhythm and movements. I love to see their smiles and see how children who at first aren't able to join in get more involved and start doing the actions and singing along.

It's amazing seeing that everyone no matter how small or large really gets a lot out of music time. From tiny babies who you wouldn't expect to be interested, seem to be attracted by the music, colour and movement to adults.

Grandmas, Grandpas, Mums and specially Dads love getting involved and sharing a special time with their kids. Teenagers who happen to be around also often get sucked in to it and lurk, grinning round the edges and occasionally joining in. Music time is a real family time and as the (stand in) leader I get to create a giant

extra family through movement and song.

I also love doing music time because it reminds me strongly of my own childhood, as many of the songs we sing are the same as when I was a baby, although I don't remember any crocodiles in Row, row, row your boat when my mum used to sing it to me! On the other hand it's great to sing the new songs, especially as some of them are more multicultural - one of my new favourites is Anansi plays with one drum, and I also love Birds fly high and sing it at least once every music time.

The children's library is a great place to be for young children with lots of fabulous picture books and board books to borrow and also toys! There are small collections of toys to borrow here at Slough as well as at Langley, with larger collections at Britwell and Cippenham.

What is really amazing is that you can now borrow even more books than ever before - now you can have up to fifteen of our beautiful bright books for children and adults on your library card!

Book Borrowing Project

This mobile library service is available at the Sure Start Children's Centres for all, centre users as well as the attached nurseries and the local communities. Books and various other materials are available to borrow in the same way you would at the "normal libraries". Please note the venue, date and times.



- James Elliman Sure Start Children's Centre
Tuesdays 9.45am-11.00am
- Claycots Sure Start Children's Centre
Tuesdays 2.30pm-4.30pm
- Penn Wood Sure Start Children's Centre
Wednesdays 11.30am-1.30pm
- Marish Sure Start Children's Centre
Thursdays 11.00am-1.00pm
- St Mary's Sure Start Children's Centre
Thursdays 2.30pm-3.30pm
- Montem Sure Start Children's Centre
Friday 11.30pm-1.30pm

For more information please contact Salma Barakat, Slough Bookstart Officer on 01753 787509 www.slough.gov.uk/libraries

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