

## Stories and More - Family Learning

*Stories and More* was a five-week programme for parents, grandparents or others who care for children. Based on the Story Sacks model developed by Neil Griffiths, participants explore ways of enjoying books with children.

The course was a partnership between the local literacy scheme, the library, and the creche. Participants were recruited at the library's weekly *Toddler Time* session. While the parents and carers attended *Stories and More*, the pre-schoolers were ably entertained by a staff member from the literacy centre creche and two of the librarians.



- In week one, the participants are introduced to the idea of a story sack and select a fiction book that will interest their child.
- In the second session they decorate a pillowcase with the theme of that story.
- In the third session they read the book and decorate a background to the story, as well as selecting a non-fiction book to match the theme of the chosen story.
- Creating games and other activities to go with the story is the task of week four. In the final session, the participants complete the story sack by adding a list of activities to enhance what is already in their pack.



- The addition of soft toys completes the experience for a child.
- Of course, the real fun starts when the story sack goes home to be enjoyed by children and adults alike.
- Certificates were presented to all who completed the course by the AEO.