

## Storytime and Rhymetime volunteer

### WHERE

This opportunity is available at all Explore Centre Libraries and Gateway Libraries.

### WHAT WILL I BE DOING?

This is an exciting opportunity to gain experience in working directly with babies, young children and their parents and carers. It's also an amazing opportunity to introduce babies and children to whole new worlds that are only available through listening to stories. The thrill you get when you hold the attention of a young child for an entire story is unforgettable!

The library delivers a whole range of services specifically for children under 5, including books and information aimed at the needs of parents and carers. Research has shown that reading books to babies can help their development in future years. Being read to improves literacy and numeracy skills as well as aiding memory recall. Our story times are fun and interactive for children and adults alike. Every library holds a weekly session, some hold more than one. The sessions last between 30 minutes up to an hour. You will plan what books to read and songs to sing. You will be confident in interacting with children and their carers making them feel welcome. You will promote other relevant activities and events.

### HOW AM I HELPING YOU?

You would be helping our library service to deliver an interactive and fun storytime session for children under 5. Holding storytimes is a great way to get children borrowing books so you would also be helping introduce children into the world of reading for pleasure. You would also help by promoting the sessions on social media (training provided)

## TASKS

- Choose books and stories to be read aloud at the under 5's storytimes.
- Prepare supporting materials e.g. colourings/crafts
- Deliver a fun, entertaining story session using books and nursery rhymes.
- Play basic musical instruments e.g. drums, tambourines etc.
- Use other aids such as story sacks and Archives boxes.
- Sing nursery rhymes in public!
- Record the number of participants on a spreadsheet.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN AND WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED?

- Be confident to welcome people from all backgrounds, respecting the values and reputation of Explore.
- To be able to interact confidently with all children, parents and carers.
- To have the confidence to read stories and sing aloud to groups of children and their parents/carers in public (and not worry about the quality of your signing voice!)
- Training will be given on how to choose the appropriate books and rhymes/songs to put together a quality session.

## WHAT AIDS ARE AVAILABLE AT ANY GIVEN LIBRARY AND HOW THEY CAN BE USED?

- Training will be given on online resources to enable you to source suitable supporting materials such as colourings and crafts.

## HOW MUCH TIME DO I NEED TO COMMIT?

Our storytimes last approx 30 minutes to one hour, but the volunteer opportunity would be for up to 2 hours to give you the opportunity to choose the books and activities for the session.

Minimum commitment is 1 hour per week.

You can choose which library you would like to volunteer at and you may choose more than one.

Some of our storytimes are at weekends. There are no evening opportunities for this role.

You will be invited to attend one of our Explore induction sessions which happen twice a year.