

## Appendix 3

### Case Study

#### Barbican Children's Library

*We asked one of our regular customers how he and his family used the library and about the impact the library has had on their lives.*

Myself, my wife, and our daughter (now aged 3) are regular visitors to the Barbican Library, specifically the children's library.

From my daughter's viewpoint, her visits (which started when she was circa 3 months old) have allowed her to interact with children that she did not know, and in a different setting to home or a nursery.

She has used the baby and toddlers rhyme times, dad's rhyme time, the seasonal special events (Easter, Halloween, Christmas etc) and has enjoyed them all. She looks envious of the older children doing craft on regular basis and I think it won't be long before she joins in with those.

This is all of course on top of "just" being able to come in and choose from a wide selection of books for story time.

From my wife's perspective - the activities they have attended together (singing, playing) have helped her to fashion and structure learning activity at home.

In the earlier days, the babies rhyme time especially allowed her to meet other mothers and discuss what developments were going on with each other's babies and so what would be coming next for us or them.

From my viewpoint, which is taken mainly from the Saturday morning (previously dad's) rhyme time - the Library has been a great place to do two things: -

- 1.) see my daughter interact with other children - a welcome boon for me as work doesn't always allow this in the week.
- 2.) meet and speak to other dads to go through how we're coping, what to expect next, and just generally catch up with people in same position as myself.

We've all made very good friends at the library, both with the staff, and the other families.

Earlier this year, we even arranged to be on holiday at same time and same place as another family - and what was great about that is other than the bonding over children, it is unlikely we'd ever have met/spoken to the other parents, despite us living relatively close together. I think in summing up, that is probably the library's greatest strength/impact to us - it allows us to build/be part of a community right in the centre of a city, rather than us having to move away from the centre to find one.