



## 50,000<sup>th</sup> book celebrations!

Storytime Foundation recently celebrated an amazing milestone - the delivery of its 50,000<sup>th</sup> book into the tiny hands of baby Reece Christian and her father, Thomas.

Pam Carter of Penguin Books also presented a book pack to Reece and her delighted four year-old brother, Charlie!



*Thomas Christian with baby Reece and Plunket Nurse Aly Hall*

### Amazing work of Storytime Foundation

Storytime Foundation's 50,000<sup>th</sup> book achievement was marked by celebrations at Manurewa Library, attended by a group of over 50 people, including key partners and funders.

The Honorable George Hawkins, MP, spoke at the event, praising the Foundation and what it had achieved with families in Manurewa and throughout Auckland. He also commended key partners of Storytime Foundation – including Auckland Libraries and the Royal NZ Plunket Society - as well as local funders and the community for their support of the Books for Babies programme.

Auckland City Plunket Manager, Sheryl Orton, spoke of the importance of the programme and its ability to open doors for nurses to work with more families. And Storytime Chairman, Ian Leader, said: "You cannot underestimate the value of engaging with 10,000 families - that translates to over 50,000 people coming into contact with the programme!"

## Reading to Baby



*Aly Hall with Casey Roper and baby Manny Niu*

If reading to baby doesn't come naturally to you - don't worry you're not alone! But don't give up. The benefits of reading to young babies are numerous, including increased stimulation of bubs and a wonderful bonding experience between you and your baby.

Plunket and other well child nurses provide the following hints for reading to newborns:-

- Pick a time when baby is calm and alert and has a full tummy!
- Find a quiet place if possible
- Read out loud or talk while pointing to pictures or shapes
- Allow baby to touch and feel the book

## Key experts join Advisory Board

Storytime Foundation has established a new Advisory Board to provide expert input into the development of the Organisation and its programmes.

The Board, which met for the first time in October, includes experts from Cognitive Education Limited - advisors to governments both here and overseas. Representatives from Storytime's partner organizations, Plunket and Auckland libraries also make up the board.

The appointment of Dr Cameron Grant - Paediatrician at Starship Children's Hospital and Associate Professor of Paediatrics at the University of Auckland - has further strengthened the Board.

The Foundation has created this group at a time that it embarks on a major expansion after 14 years of service focused on Auckland families. It is an important progression for us and an opportunity to receive expert guidance to help us monitor our programme and its development.

## Growing baby's brain

There is so much research that supports the advantages of reading to baby.

In the first three years of life, children develop the knowledge and skills required to survive in the world. If their experiences in the first three years are nurturing and loving, the child has an exponential ability to build high literacy, effective social interaction and good health.

Hearing words and stories also helps build a rich network of words in baby's brain - which is a great help when they begin to talk.

Families often have difficulties with the demands of newborn children and Books for Babies helps those most in need.

## Expanding out of Auckland

Having served the Auckland community since 1997, Storytime Foundation is keen to expand the Books for Babies programme to include other parts of New Zealand.

Recent discussions have been held with Plunket and with Libraries in Northland and Waikato and once funding has been secured, we will commence the programme in those two regions. Each newborn will receive five books over a 15 month period - one at each well child visit.



### You can help!

It costs just \$50 to put a family through the Programme, so please help us provide this valuable service by going to our website at [www.storytime.org.nz](http://www.storytime.org.nz) and making an automatic payment each month to Storytime. Alternatively, give Tony a call on 021 552 800 or email Liz: [liz@storytime.org.nz](mailto:liz@storytime.org.nz) to see how you can help. This quarter we would especially like to thank Fairfax Media for a generous donation of books to our programme.

## Partners



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