



## Storytime Foundation – Here to Stay!

Storytime Foundation was established in 1997 as Books for Babes to deliver a programme that opens opportunities for children and families/ whanau that may otherwise not realise their full potential.

We work in partnership with Plunket, District Health Boards, Auckland Libraries and other agencies to deliver the “Books for Babies” programme. The programme is designed to encourage and assist families to bond with their newborn children and develop a love of reading books.

With the help of Plunket and other Well child providers, we give age appropriate books to families, who have not yet had the experience of using books as a stimulus to laughter and joy with their young baby.



Auckland Libraries and education experts help us to make sure that we choose the right books.

Available in 9 different languages - English, Maori, Tongan, Samoan, Niuean, Cook Island Maori, Fijian, Tokelauan and Mandarin - Each family receives 5 brand new beautiful books over 15 months starting with a soft cot book designed for newborns.

*In July this year Storytime Foundation will deliver their 50,000<sup>th</sup> book to an Auckland family.*



## Quotes from health practitioners - delivering the books

“A Samoan grandmother who does not speak a lot of English said, ‘it is very good that I got books for my grandson in Samoan. I can read and show the pictures to him. In response he is laughing and talking with the pictures. Thanks a lot!’”

A Mum was encouraged (by the Plunket Nurse) to read the new books to her 1<sup>st</sup> baby. Being a 1<sup>st</sup> time Mum it was a great opportunity for (the Plunket Nurse) to talk to this Mum about the importance of brain development and ways this Mum and her baby could interact in a positive way now and in the future.”

“Mum rang me to see if she could replace a book already given. It was the child’s favourite, so much so that it had fallen apart.”

“Fabulous! Keep it going! What a great programme”

## Chief Executive Appointed

In March this year, Storytime Foundation appointed Tony Culliney as Chief Executive.

Tony has a background in teaching as well as management roles working with children and families in health, education and social services.

Tony's key focus is on ensuring the long term sustainability of the Storytime Foundation while at the same time delivering a quality programme in Auckland City and expanding to centres beyond Auckland.

"I am a great believer in cooperation and collaboration", said Tony. "Working together with other organisations doing similar work we can achieve great things".



Tony Culliney at the helm – "not my boat" he hastens to add

Like many charitable organisations the Storytime Foundation is constantly fundraising to continue to deliver its services. "We are very grateful to all of the individuals and agencies that generously support us", said Tony.

## In 2011, the Books for Babies programme will commence a gradual national expansion

Storytime has served the Auckland community bringing the joy of books to thousands of families since 1997. Many Plunket staff and other health practitioners outside Auckland recognise the value of the programme and frequently request our help.



With 14 years of development behind us, it's time to expand our services. Over time we would like to serve the whole country! To do this we need funds to buy books and train health practitioners in the delivery. Go to our website and organize an automatic payment each month to Storytime.

In 2011 it costs just \$50 to put a family through the programme including delivery of all 5 books. Contact us at [www.storytime.org.nz](http://www.storytime.org.nz) and see how you can help.

**OR**

Give Tony a call on 021 552 800  
or email Liz: [liz@storytime.org.nz](mailto:liz@storytime.org.nz)

## Partners



Auckland City Libraries  
Tāmaki Pātaka Kōrero



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