Name of Library	Logan City Council Libraries
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Title of project/innovation/initiative	**Technology for Toddlers**
Date initiated	2010
Date completed	Continuing

The issue/challenge

The Technology for Toddlers program addressed a gap in technology and computer training services to parents/guardians with children under 5.

Project details

Technology for Toddlers sessions were held at Logan City Council Libraries for parent/carers and their children aged 2 to 5 years in 2010. The sessions involved staff demonstrating and leading participants in using a range of free resources available to help develop literacy and computer and technology skills in young children.

The aim of the sessions was to provide participants with opportunities to:

1. Gain new knowledge and understanding of the ways technology (computers) can help their children learn.

2. Discover the range of computer software in the library to support and enhance learning.

3. Build links between the home and the library.

4. Attain new skills to further develop a home learning environment.

5. Gain an understanding of why children should become familiar with technology.

6. Learn how young children can use computers.

7. Participate with their child/ren in activities exploring hands on use for computers, hardware and software available for parents learning alongside their children.

A trial of the technology for toddler sessions commenced in February and May 2010 across the nine Logan City Council Library branches. Due to the program's success the sessions continue to be held at various branches in 2011.

Session content focused on creating confidence in using the computer and resources both for adults and toddlers as well as promoting library resources, e-books and educational on-line resources. The first part of the sessions involved building confidence in using the computer and included mouse and keyboard skills, and basic operation of programs using a range of enjoyable games and applications. A range of word, alphabet, literacy, mathematics skills and other resources focusing on concepts suitable for toddlers were then explored. Library e-books, on-line resources such as 'Bookflix' and 'Tumblebook' and book and character related websites were also examined with participants.

The sessions were not just about educating the young children how to use the computers and learning software but they were about educating the parents and carers attending. Parents and carers are the first and most influential educators of children and these sessions were about putting quality free technology resources available from the libraries for the very young into the hands of these educators. Many adults are happy to explore technology resources with young children at home or at the library but there are many who need help to know where to start and what is available. Children don't just learn by using a computer or watching television but through the active interaction and guidance they receive when using these resources with a parent or carer.