

Family fun on board the PlayTalkRead bus



Young children and their parents are invited to climb on board the PlayTalkRead bus 'Benji' as it visits Edinburgh.

Designed to help encourage parents and carers to play, talk and read more with their little ones, the bus – affectionately known as Benji – will be stopping at Castle Street, Edinburgh from Monday 10 February until Thursday 13 February between 10-1pm and 2-4pm.

Giving parents and carers of 0 – 3 year olds the chance to hop on board, inside there's ample opportunity for all types of fun with books, toys, interactive storytelling as well as song, rhythm and rhyme sessions.

Minister for Children and Young People, Aileen Campbell commented: "We can never underestimate the power of play and its crucial role in the positive development of our wee ones. The first three years in a child's life are critical to their development. Our PlayTalkRead bus offers free fun for parents and carers of tots, to help give them the very best start in life. The good news for mums and dads is you don't have to wait until your kids are bigger to do fun things together. There are lots of opportunities to get out there and have simple fun every day and for little cost."

Activity on the bus includes demonstrating easy ways for parents to interact with their children during their early years, with lots of low-cost ideas can all be done at home and easily incorporated within daily routines.

The PlayTalkRead roadshow is part of the Scottish Government's

Early Years campaign which focuses on the early years (0 – 3) of children's lives, and is travelling across the country to all 32 local authorities. Entry is free. You can see when the PlayTalkRead buses will next be in your area at: www.playtalkread.org/tour

For more information – plus lots of handy tips and advice – visit www.playtalkread.org. You can also visit the Play Talk Read Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/playtalkread>.