

Puppets



to help children read

THE children's library (Pusat Bimbingan Kanak-Kanak) will have more interesting activities to help children read more.

Believing that puppet play can encourage reading among children, the library-cum-recreation centre in Jalan Pekeliling will organise such shows.

Cik Alimah Salam, the centre's chief librarian — after returning from a one-week conference/workshop on *Living Children's Theatre in Asia* in the Philippines — ~~said~~ puppet play is the right way to make children read more.

"I was able to see other forms of theatre shows and they have given me more creative ideas to encourage reading among children."

The workshop organised several performances by representatives from Asean and Japan.

She is convinced that theatre shows and plays not only encourage reading among children, but also increases their interest in drama.

Puppets are useful audio visual aids for reading and, with colourful puppets, story-telling sessions become interesting.

Cik Alimah also attended simple puppet-making sessions organised by the Filipino representatives and other puppet shows performed by the Thais, Indonesians and Japanese.

Cik Alimah plans to hold more puppet shows. She is now teaching children puppet-making.

Schoolteacher Bustam Kamri, who is helping at the centre, also gives a helping hand. "Encik Bustam is interested in puppet-making and has been helping us since early this year," said Cik Alimah.

The centre hopes more volunteers will come with ideas and help run the place.

Cik Alimah said the title of the forthcoming puppet show is *The Magic Ladle* (a Japanese legend).

It is about a magic ladle owned by a giant, who kidnaps two children — a poor boy and girl. The children manage to own the ladle and make their wishes come true.

Puppets are also used for poetry reading sessions. "This is to create more interest in poetry among children."