



## Unheard Voices

### Stop 4: June Unheard Voices

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# Factfile

## Unheard Voices

**“Children must be seen and not heard”**



The expression 'children should be seen and not heard' is an old English proverb, dating from the 15th century.



In the original form it was specifically young women who were expected to keep quiet.



This opinion is recorded in the 15th century collection of homilies (poems) written by an Augustinian clergyman called John Mirk in Mirk's Festial, in 1450:



The word "Sawe" or "Saw" as we would spell it now, is a Medieval way to say "Proverb or Saying".

**“Hyt ys old Eng-  
lysch sawe: A mayde  
schuld be seen, but  
not herd.”**

**“It is old English  
Saying, A Maid  
should be seen, but  
not heard”**

A 'mayde' was normally a young woman, usually unmarried, although it was also used to denote unmarried men. 'Girls' however, could be of either sex, the term simply meaning 'young child'.



But, although children were silent, their brains were active and their imaginations wild. Some children invented some really important things that we love to play with today



Teenager George Nissen invented the trampoline in the 1930s. He was a gymnast. He and his coach created a piece of equipment out of scrap steel and tire inner tubes to help prepare for his act in the Iowa Hawkeye Circus.



Louis Braille lost his sight at the age of three. Yet he excelled at school and while he was there he began developing a system of tactile code that could allow blind people to read and write quickly and efficiently. He presented his idea when he was 15.



In 1904 Frank Epperson was 11 years old when he invented the ice lolly. One cold winter he accidentally left soda water out in the snow.



Chester Greenwood invented earmuffs in 1873 to help him through the brutal cold weather of Maine, USA. Born in Farmington, Maine on December 8, 1858, he was 15 when he invented them.



# An invention to improve Children's lives.

Have you got a big or a little idea for an invention to improve the lives of children in the 21st century?

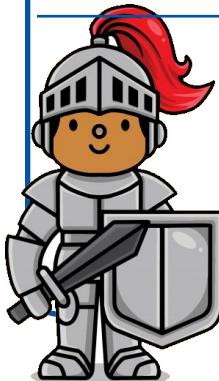
Tell us about it and we'll look after it here at the Archives. If you grow up to be a famous inventor we'll have a copy of one of your earliest ideas for people to look at in years to come. You can write about it or send us a picture or a diagram to [archives@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:archives@gloucestershire.gov.uk) .



# Write a letter to children of the future, telling them what your life is like today

## Today's date

Dear



## Write a letter for children in the future.



Think about what life is like for most children, but also give examples from your own life.

