Booktrack at the library: information for parents and carers

Factsheet 12

What is Book Track?

Book Track is an activity run for children to encourage and support them in their leisure reading. It's open to all children aged 6 and over who are developing reading confidence and are happy to talk to adults about books they have read.

How does it work?

Children are given a personal folder where they can record the books they read. When they visit the library, they talk to a member of staff about their reading, focussing on different aspects such as plot, characters, illustrations, rather then just “re-telling the story. Although the majority of books will always be books from the library, children may sometimes choose to talk about books from home or school. Fiction and non-fiction books can be included.

At key points throughout their reading they are awarded badges and stickers as incentives and, for those who read 100 books, there's a gold badge and a certificate in recognition of their achievement.

Is there a timescale?

Children will decide for themselves how fast they want to do Book Track: we tell them it’s not a race or a test. They shouldn't expect to discuss more than 4 books at a visit, and at very busy times library staff may be unable to do Book Track interviews. Please check with your library for local arrangements. Sometimes children decide to take a break from Book Track and may return to it after some weeks or months. We're happy for them to do this.

Can younger children do Book Track?

No, but they can do Book Crawl, which is designed for children from 0-5. Please ask for our Book Crawl factsheet. You might also like to ask if your local library holds Bounce and Rhyme sessions for babies and toddlers.

Why do it?

The most important thing is that children enjoy their reading and gain confidence and a sense of achievement from doing Book Track. It’s also an opportunity to practice talking about books with someone else and a way to get to know library staff. They like

to hear what children think too! We hope that your child enjoys Book Track as much as the many hundreds who have already taken part.

Contact details

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Different formats

If you would like a summary of this in a different format such as large print, Braille or tape, or in a different language, please contact our Customer Service Centre on 0845 155 1015 or email customer@devon.gov.uk

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