

Devon Libraries

Resources for children who are deaf or have a hearing impairment

Factsheet 26

These resources are available through Devon Libraries. Staff in your local library will be happy to order in any items that are not held in stock.

All libraries have hearing loops at their counters and whiteboards at the enquiry desks to assist with communication.

Signing materials

Many libraries have signing books in stock, or if not, will be pleased to order some in, and DVDs are also available.

Touch and feel books

These are in the picture books section of the children's section in libraries.

Makaton

This symbol based language programme may help children with communication difficulties, and books in Makaton are available through libraries.

Computers

Libraries are equipped with Widgit 'Writing with Symbols' software, which turns text into symbols and which is used and understood by many people with learning and communication difficulties. This also has speech software.

The following libraries have computers which have been specially adapted for use by people with learning, sensory or movement disabilities: Barnstaple, Bideford, Crediton, Dartmouth, Exeter, Exmouth, Kingsbridge, Newton Abbot, Tavistock and Tiverton. Each of these PC+ computers has an adapted keyboard, a large trackerball mouse which can be used with hands or feet, screen magnification and a speech facility. The computers sit on adjustable tables which give room for wheelchairs and also have adjustable chairs and a lap tray.

Puppets

Some libraries have a small quantity of puppets and toys for children to enjoy at the library or at our musical Bounce & Rhyme sessions.

Storysacks

We have a large number of storysacks which were made for libraries by the WI. Each is based on a specific picture book and contains games, toys and other items which are intended to bring the story to life. They are used by childminders and pre-school groups who can order them from their local library.

Books for parents and carers

There is a resource collection covering all areas of special need, including hearing impairment. Just ask in your local library.

Bookstart

There is a Bookstart pack called Bookshine, which is available free to any children aged from 0 – 4 years who are deaf or have a hearing impairment. It was developed in close partnership with the National Deaf Children's Society and contains books and information designed to suit deaf children's needs, including signing materials.

Useful websites

- **The National Deaf Children's Society:** www.ndcs.org.uk
- **British Deaf Association:** www.bda.org.uk
- **Royal National Institute for Deaf People:** www.rnid.org.uk
- **Afasic:** www.afasic.org.uk
A UK charity helping children and young people affected by speech, language and communication difficulties, their families and the professionals working with them. Helpline number 08453 55 5577.
- **Tiny Talk:** www.tinytalk.co.uk
Baby signing classes, information and resources.
- **Signature:** www.signature.org.uk
A charity whose aim is to promote excellence in communication with deaf and deafblind people and offering nationally recognised qualifications in subjects such as British Sign Language and speech to text reporting.
- **I CAN:** www.ican.org.uk
A charity working for children with speech and language difficulties, which runs an Early Years programme called Early Talk.

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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