

Library services for children

Factsheet 6

You're never too young to join the library!

One of the best ways to give your children a great start in life is to take them to the library and introduce them to books from babyhood onwards. There are:

- Board books, picture books and beginner reads
- Stories
- Books and magazines for teenage readers
- Information books for homework or leisure
- Books in different languages, large print, or Braille
- Stories on CD
- Children's DVDs (for hire on adult tickets only)
- Computers with safer Internet searching for children offering different levels of access

Joining the library

Joining is free and children can become members at any age. A parent (or legal carer / guardian or grandparent) will need to visit the library and sign a membership form as guarantor for young people up to the age of 16.

Using the library

Just like adults, children may borrow up to 12 books at a time for up to 3 weeks, and they can usually be renewed by phone or online or in the library.

There are NO FINES on children's books borrowed by under fives on their own tickets and charges for 5 – 17 year olds are kept at a low level.

Children can reserve books without charge.

Looking after children?

Libraries have:

- Books on childcare and child development
- Books to help with experiences such as visiting the dentist or the arrival of a new baby
- Special loans for pre school groups, childminders and teachers
- Storysacks and large format books for use in storytelling by play groups and child minders

Libraries run many activities for children. Look out for:

- Bounce and Rhyme for babies and their parents or carers
- Under Fives' story times
- Book Crawl stickers and certificates for 0 to 5 year olds to collect
- Book Track – choose books to read, tell the staff about them and collect stickers and badges, for ages 6 and above
- Holiday activities
- Book groups
- Websites that only library members can access on home computers, to help with homework and study information
- Our interactive website [The Zone](#) featuring [M@x](#), our library mascot, and lots of things to do, or the [UR Library](#) website for young people

Library staff will be happy to answer your questions and help you find the right books for you and your child.

What about other services for children?

For information on childcare and local groups in your part of the county, visit www.devon.gov.uk/disc

If you are a [foster-carer](#) and the children in your care have not received a library membership card, please contact us.

If you are a [Traveller](#), please ask about the "Keep IT moving" scheme to enable your children to have access to library computers.

Contact details

Address: Devon Libraries Headquarters
Great Moor House
Bittern Road
Sowton
Exeter
EX2 7NL

Phone: 01392 384315

Fax: 01392 384316

Email: devlibs@devon.gov.uk

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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