

Devon Libraries

Resources for children with dyslexia

Factsheet 23

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

Barrington Stoke books

These books are published specifically for children and young people with dyslexia and other reading difficulties. They have yellow or coloured paper, well-spaced text and an easy to read font. Many of the titles are aimed at the 8 to 13 years age group but there are also many titles with content aimed at 13 to 16 year olds. They are stocked in most Devon Libraries, and children can reserve them free of charge.

Spoken Word CDs

Most libraries have stories on CDs and some larger libraries have quite comprehensive collections. Some have an accompanying large print book known as Read Along, and children can borrow all of these free of charge.

Beginner reads

All Devon Libraries have a section for 'Beginner Reads'. These books are intended for emergent readers and they contain simple text ranging from one or two words per page through to short chapter books. The font is often larger and/or bolder than standard print. They may or may not be appropriate depending on the age and interest level of the child.

Large Print Books

The large print story books are aimed at a wide age range. They are available in all libraries, although the main collection is housed at Exeter Central Children's Library. They can be borrowed free of charge at any Devon library.

Computers

All Devon libraries have Dolphin Super Nova software, which can magnify text up to 32 times and has speech facilities. Libraries are also equipped with Wigit '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.

Books for parents and carers

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

Stories featuring characters that have dyslexia:

- **Breslin, T. - Whispers in the Graveyard**
A gripping fantasy thriller about a dyslexic boy called Solomon who likes to hide from his home and school problems in the local graveyard. When workmen start to disturb the graves an ancient and evil power is released. Solomon finds the inner strength to face up to both this and his own problems.
- **Childs, Rob - Moving the Goalposts**
Sam the star goalkeeper has dyslexia. An appealing comic-book format gives an authentic portrayal of Sam's literacy difficulties, but also shows his original thinking skills when he designs new goalposts for his school.

- **Fine, Anne - How to Write Really Badly**

This humorous story is told by know-it-all Chester, who at first is scornful of Joe's learning difficulties. However in the end he is the one who reveals Joe's extraordinary talent for model making and is an unexpected source of support.

- **Jarman, Julia - Ghost Writer**

Frankie Ruggles DBNS (Dyslexic but not Stupid) thinks at first the stories about a ghost at his new school are just to see how gullible he is but he soon finds out it is far from a joke. He becomes involved in trying to help a boy from 100 years before who may have been dyslexic too but to his teacher was "a troublesome boy". What is hidden in the cupboard at the back of room 9?

- **Wilson, Jacqueline - The Illustrated Mum**

Dyslexic Dolphin and her sister are by turns delighted and disturbed by their depressive mum, who has a new tattoo for every celebration in their lives. The story, seen through the resourceful Dolphin's eyes, is distressing but ultimately heart warming.

Useful websites:

- **British Dyslexic Association:** www.bdadyslexia.org.uk

- **Listening Books:** www.listening-books.org.uk

Listening Books provides a talking book machine service, which can provide specially adapted machines for people with different disabilities. There is a good selection of audio books for the under 18 age group, to help those affected by dyslexia, learning difficulties, physical disability or illness. GCSE set texts are available, as well as best sellers like the Harry Potter books. The annual subscription is paid by Devon Libraries.

- **Young Calibre Audio Library:** www.calibre.org.uk

A larger selection of children's books audiobooks is available through Calibre. This is a free lending library of books on CD and mp3, available directly through the post for anyone who cannot read ordinary books. There is a free children's catalogue with over 1,000 special recorded books. Telephone 01296 432 339 for further details.

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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