

Devon Libraries

Resources for children who are home educated

Factsheet 27

Libraries are community-based resources for everyone to use, offering a wide range of services for children, young people and their families. All libraries stock a selection of books and story CDs to encourage reading and enhance leisure reading for all ages. They also underpin education by providing stories, information books and public computer access.

Parents of children educated at home can borrow 8 extra books (on top of the normal 12) by registering with the library as “teachers”.

Services we provide include:

- Free loans of books and story CDs
- Hire of music CDs and DVDs for a small fee
- Free reservations of children’s books on children’s tickets, providing access to a wide range of books from other libraries
- Book Crawl – a reading encouragement scheme for under 5s and their families
- Book Track - an incentive-based reading activity for children aged 6 and over
- Summer Reading Challenge – a themed national reading activity run during the school summer holiday period
- Events in libraries during school holidays and regular events such as Bounce and Rhyme and storytimes
- Computer access (normally 30 minutes free but up to an hour free for study), and longer for a small fee
- The Zone: our award-winning website for children, hosted by M@x the cyberdog
- Information on a range of subjects and local groups
- Helpful and committed staff
- A safe place for all to use

In some libraries we have:

- Family Matters collections to help with special situations such as visiting the dentist or a new baby in the family
- Resources suitable for children with special needs such as books in large print, audiobooks, and assisted software on library computers
- Children's book groups which encourage children to read widely and critically, and to discuss their reading with others

Books

Books for children and young people are arranged in sections for ease of access and are intended for all ages from birth to approximately 16 years. Board books, picture books, beginner reads, stories and teenage collections all provide fiction books for a broad cross-section of tastes and reading abilities. Information books reflect both leisure interests and the demands of the school curriculum with its emphasis on key topics. Larger libraries hold a wider selection of stock than smaller ones.

Computers

Our public access computers are popular and it may be advisable to book a time to avoid disappointment or delay. They are available during library opening hours. The Internet offers huge potential for study support, and with their parent's agreement, a child may have access to a broad range of material. Filtering greatly reduces the chances of children and young people accessing unsuitable or offensive material. Please ask for our "[Children and young people using the Internet in Devon Libraries](#)" and "[Safe surfing](#)" factsheets for more information and guidance about using library computers.

Information for home educators

The Devon County Council website contains useful information for parents of home-educated children at www.devon.gov.uk/home_based_education. Other useful sites, which all act as gateways to many further sites that offer support, are:

- www.home-education-resources.org.uk
- www.education-otherwise.org.uk
- <http://home-ed.info>
- www.bbc.co.uk/learning

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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