

Devon Libraries

Services for pre-schools

Factsheet 31

Devon Libraries support pre-schools by offering a wide range of resources for loan, and our members of staff are happy to provide help and advice.

There is a **special membership ticket** for pre-schools which entitles groups to borrow 30 books for up to 3 weeks, with no overdue charges on children's books. There are also free reservations for children's books on this ticket.

You can borrow:

- Collections of action rhymes and poems
- Picture books
- Traditional tales
- Simple illustrated information books
- Stories in dual or other languages
- CDs featuring stories, songs or nursery rhymes.
- Books for special situations such as starting school, new baby etc
- Tactile or touch and feel books
- Resources to help children with sight or hearing impairments

You will also have access to:

- Large format books which are excellent for using with a group
- Storysacks, each containing a book, props and sometimes an activity

Visiting the library

You might like to bring your children into the library for a visit, and staff will be happy to arrange a group visit with you.

There may be special events in your local library – just ask or look online.

The children in your group can also join the library, with their parent's agreement. They will have their own special membership card featuring a beautiful bear illustration by John Prater. There are no overdue charges on children's books borrowed by under fives on their own tickets. Just like adults, they can borrow up to 12 books at a time for up to 3 weeks, and they can usually be renewed by phone, online or in the library.

Benefits

It's never too soon to start sharing books with young children, and it has many advantages:

- Improves language development
- Stimulates imagination
- Helps develop concentration
- Is a good preparation for school
- Helps children read sooner
- Helps build relationships
- Shows that it is an important way to spend time

Books to help you

Libraries have books on childcare and child development which you may find helpful. These can be found in the adult section. Early Years staff may also reserve professional development material free of charge from the Kingfisher House collection at Exeter Central Library, which can be sent to your local library for collection.

Bookstart packs

All children are entitled to these free packs:

- Baby pack at 9-12 months, given out by health visitors
- Plus pack at 2 – 2 ½ years, again given out by health visitors
- Treasure Chest pack at 3 - 4 years, distributed through pre-school settings

If any children in your setting have missed receiving a pack through the normal channels you are welcome to enquire in your library.

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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