

HELP FROM HAMPSHIRE LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICE



What libraries can offer

If you haven't visited your local library recently do come in and see us. There have been a lot of changes, and you may be surprised at what you will find!

There is a wide range of things that you and your child can borrow:

- Board books
- Touchy/feely books
- Picture books
- Story books
- Information books
- Stories on tape/CD
- Videos/DVDs
- Playstation games
- Music CDs

It's FREE to join the library, and there are no fines on children's books.

Access Card

Your child may be eligible for an Access Card, which offers special concessions for any adult or child with a disability which makes reading print difficult or impossible.

It is aimed primarily at people with learning disabilities and at visually impaired people who wish to borrow non-print material. However, it could equally benefit people with other forms of disability, such as those who are unable to hold a book steady and turn the pages, or someone with dyslexia.

With an Access card, children and adults can borrow two items from the following list free of charge

- audio books on tape & CD
- music CDs
- videos
- DVDs
- CD-ROMs
- computer games

There is also a Group Access Card available for any groups of children or adults who like to visit the library, and would meet the description above. For both these cards, just ask at your local library. If you would like someone to talk to your group, or read them a story, contact the library - someone will visit your group, or arrange a special visit for them to the library.

Computers

All libraries now have computers for children and adults to use, free of charge. You can book a computer, or use any that may be free at the time.

Every library has at least one computer with additional access hardware such as a large-print keyboard, and a tracker ball instead of the mouse. If you would like to use any of these facilities, please ask staff.

There are now 600 public access computers in libraries (which together form 'The People's Network') and they all have the Dolphin Supernova program on them.

Supernova is an application that can both magnify images on the screen, and also read out everything, including menus and dialogue boxes, in synthesised speech. It is designed to make computers accessible to anyone with a visual impairment, even those who have no sight at all.

Clear Vision

If you have a visually impaired child, your local library can obtain Clear Vision books for you. There is a small collection available for loan of mainly picture books that have clear pages interleaved in standard books, on which the text appears in Braille.

Your local library can also obtain other material in alternative formats. Ask for further details.

Bookstart

Bookstart is a national programme that gives a free pack for books to young children.

There are three packs

- For babies aged up to a year given by Health Visitors at a health check before the child is one
- For children aged 18 months to 30 months which can be picked up from a local library just take your child's Health Record Book along
- For children aged three to four years old, which will be given to the child just before they start in Year R at school

There is also a special pack for visually impaired children, called Booktouch. Contact your local library for details on how to get one.

If your child does not receive a pack at the appropriate age, contact the Bookstart Co-ordinator, sandy.roberts@hants.gov.uk

Library Activities

Most libraries will have regular story and rhymes times for young children. Visit the website for details or ask next time you visit. Look out, too, for details of holiday activities, and the Summer Reading Challenge.

When a Book Might Help

Every library will have a copy of this newly updated guide to books for children on a variety of situations and conditions. It has brief annotations, and if the books featured are not available from your local library, they will order them for you.

For more details of your library service, visit www.hants.gov.uk/library or pop in to your local library.

