

# spotlight



## **Spotlight Pack; Resources for Children with Visual Impairment.**

Birmingham Libraries welcomes children with learning difficulties and disabilities. This pack contains information about our services to children with visual impairment, their parents and carers that we hope you will find interesting and helpful.

Children can join the library at any age by filling in a children's joining form and having it signed by a parent, guardian or person over eighteen. Take it to any library - you can find a list in this pack- and they will give you a free library card and a four number PIN which you can use straight away. The PIN number is important because it can be used to reserve or renew books on-line and at some libraries using a self issue system. At Central Library the PIN is needed to book a PC.

Children can borrow 8 items and keep them for 4 weeks. There are no charges for late items borrowed on a child's ticket. In addition children under 5 and children with disabilities do not have to pay for damage.

All libraries hold activities for children such as story times, craft sessions, author visits and teenage reading groups. Contact your local library for details or look at our web site [www.birmingham.gov.uk/younglibraries](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/younglibraries). Please let our staff know if there is anything they can do to make access easier and to ensure your child enjoys the event.

Most libraries also have Homework Support Sessions. The sessions are free and specially trained staff will assist children to find, understand and use information which will help with their homework and projects. Staff can explain how to use the other resources such as computers, printers and photocopiers. Contact your local library for details of the times.

### **Disability Resources in Birmingham Libraries**

All Birmingham Libraries welcome people with learning difficulties and disabilities, for full details of access and what equipment is available at individual libraries phone or ask at your local library, or look on our web site [www.birmingham.gov.uk/younglibraries](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/younglibraries). There is a link to all community libraries and Central Library departments saying what they hold.

Examples of equipment libraries may have to help children with visual impairments are hand-held and fixed magnifiers and magnifying sheets, day-light

reading lamps, computer keyboards with large letters, tracker balls, magnifying software and text reading software. The Centre for the Child on the ground floor of Central Library has a **CleaReader Reading Machine** which will scan pages of text and read them aloud (or through an earphone set). Also **Clear View +** which magnifies the page of a book onto a screen. It can be used in full colour or with black on white or white on black.

## **Computers in the Library**

Computers in libraries can be used for all sorts of things; for fun or for schoolwork and it's free. Some computers can be booked in advance. These sessions last for one hour and can be booked by telephoning or emailing the library you want to use. At Central Library to use computers you will need your library card and PIN. You need to book Central Library computers in advance and can do this using a kiosk PC, or on the Internet at [netloan.birmingham.gov.uk](http://netloan.birmingham.gov.uk), or by asking a member of staff. Computers in Centre for the Child will be reserved for use by children only; computers in the rest of Central Library are reserved for use by adults only.

In community libraries there are also some computers which don't need to be booked. Just sit down at any time at a free computer for a one-hour session. Facilities include Internet, word processing, CD ROM games, and email. Library

staff will be happy to help you to increase the size of the text and pictures on the screen.

At Central Library there are six QuickNet computers in the main entrance hall. These sessions are automatic and last 15 minutes. You need your library card number and PIN to start a session.

The library catalogue is also available on line to search our stock, place reservations, check or renew your loans [www.birmingham.gov.uk/libcat](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/libcat)

## **Bookstart**

Babies love books and Bookstart is a free book gift for all babies. Bookstart now happens everywhere in Great Britain but it was first tried out by libraries and health visitors in Birmingham in 1992.

There are 3 Bookstart packs for each child. In the first there are 2 board books for baby, a place mat, a book list, help for parents and a library joining form. The next pack has books, crayons, a poster and more help for parents. The Treasure Chest has books, pencils, a sharpener and a book about books and reading.

All babies can have a Bookstart pack when they are about 6 months old. They can get them at the check up at their local clinic. They can have another Bookstart pack from the clinic when they are about 12 months old. The year before they start school reception class they will be given a Bookstart Treasure Chest by their nursery. Packs can also be

picked up from local libraries if you missed getting one.



### **Booktouch**

This is an additional Bookstart pack for children 0-4 who have a visual impairment. There are 2 touchy/feely books inside and special information for parents. Ask your health visitor or local library.

### **Bookshine**

This is an additional Bookstart pack for children 0-4 who are Deaf or hard of hearing. There are two books - one a touchy/feely book and one a baby signing picturebook. The nursery rhyme placemat also has simple signing on it. Bookshine also has advice for parents on how to share books with deaf and hard of hearing children. Ask your health visitor or local library.

### **Bookstart Book Crawl**

The Bookstart Book Crawl happens regularly in libraries across the city. Participating children 0 to 4 can have a sticker each time they go to the library. When they have 5 stickers they get a Book Crawl

certificate. There are 10 different certificates to collect. After getting 5 certificates they can have a free book.

Telephone 0121 303 3270 to find out more about Bookstart or if you want to find out how to get a pack.

### **Family Information Service**

The Family Information Service is located within the Centre for the Child on the ground floor of the Central Library. It is a free public service for parents, carers and childcare workers including an extensive loan and reference collection of books, Internet access, magazines and journals. Resources available include information on national support groups, charities and other organisations. A variety of free leaflets is also available.

The Family Information Service can give general advice about childcare services in Birmingham and provide up-to-date lists of childminders, private and voluntary day nurseries, Education Department provision, pre schools (playgroups), parent and toddler groups, out of school playcare clubs and holiday care in any area of Birmingham.

A range of factsheets are available including topics such as, Choosing a childminder; Choosing a nursery; Play and care for children with additional needs; Activities for the under 5's; Support for

children with dyslexia; Support for children with hearing impairment; Support for children with visual impairment.

### **Opening times – public area**

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9.00 am – 6.00pm.

Tuesday and Thursday 9.00am - 8.00pm

Sat. 9.00am – 5.00pm

**Telephone Helpline 0121 303 3521 (Minicom 0121 303 2714)**

E-mail; [familyinformation@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:familyinformation@birmingham.gov.uk)

**[www.birmingham.gov.uk/fis](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/fis)**

### **Music Collections**

There are six collections of recorded music in Birmingham Libraries. Music CDs are based at;

Central Library,  
Acocks Green Library,  
Erdington Library,  
Mere Green Library,  
Sutton Coldfield Library  
Weoley Castle Library.

But they can be sent to any Birmingham library for free. Ask at your local library.

Central Library and Sutton Coldfield have Music Libraries. Both have large collections of CDs, books and music scores. Central Music Library has DVDs and videos about music. You can also book to listen to music for up to one hour a day. This is free. Central Music Library has a "Young Musician" collection for children, carers and teachers. It includes CDs as well as books and printed music. They can all be loaned.

8 CDs may be borrowed on each library card for up to two weeks. There is a charge for this but **people with a visual impairment can borrow 2 at a time for free.**

### **Talking Books and CD Packs**

Every library has CDs and tapes for loan. They are free for children. Audio Talking Books are stories, songs or rhymes on cassette tapes or CDs. Some are whole books read by actors. These are good for children who find reading hard because they can enjoy the same stories as their friends. Book Tape Packs are a story tape and book that can be borrowed together. Children can read the book and listen to the story at the same time. Libraries also have CDs to help with homework. Whether you would like to listen to Harry Potter or Shakespeare, they are in Birmingham Libraries.

## Large Print Books

Birmingham Libraries have a collection of popular storybooks available in large print for a range of ages. These can be borrowed from all our libraries and can be reserved free of charge.

## Large Format Books

These are extremely large copies of popular children's picture books. The books can be as large as 45cm x37cm with print sizes as high as 1.5cm in some cases and down to 0.5cm in others. All Birmingham Libraries have collections of these books for loan. Titles include; -

AHLBERG, J	Each Peach, Pear, Plum
ANDREA, G	Rumble in the jungle
BROWN, R	The big sneeze
BROWNE, E	Handa's surprise
BUTTERWORTH, N	Jasper's beanstalk
CRAIG, H	This is the bear
HILL, E	Where's Spot
INKPEN, M	Kipper's birthday
MCDONNELL, F	I love animals

MILLS, P

Limma's red hot chilli

### **Clear Vision**

Centre for the Child on the ground floor of Central Library and Sutton Coldfield Library have collections of Clear Vision Books. These are tactile books in dual format Braille/print for adults and children to share reading. The titles are suitable for children up to the age of 8.

### **RNIB**

The RNIB Library stocks over 40,000 Braille titles and more than 3,000 Moon titles and also books in giant print and audio. This includes titles for children over 8 at Grade 2 Braille. The service is free to people who are registered blind and can be accessed through Library Services at Home by phoning 0121 464 1118. After joining the RNIB library children can borrow up to 6 books at a time which are sent direct to their homes using a free postal service.

### **Translation Service**

Information produced by Birmingham Library Service, including this pack can be supplied in accessible formats, such as audio tape, large print, Braille, and community languages. Please phone 0121 303 4647.

## **Tactile, Noisy and Smelly Books.**

Birmingham Libraries offer a wide selection of tactile books designed to stimulate and engage young children. As the child explores a tactile book, a variety of different textures and even smells are used to demonstrate words and meaning.

### **Noisy Books**

#### **HILL, E – Spot's busy week.**

Spot goes to stay with his grandparents. Children can press the buttons to find out about all the noisy things he does.

#### **MCKEE, D – Elmer's concert.**

It is concert day in the jungle and all of the animals want to join in. Press the different buttons to make the different animal noises from kangaroos bouncing to lions roaring.

#### **NOISY farm book.**

Discover the noises that different animals make by pressing the relevant button.

#### **PIENKOWSKI, J – Door bell.**

Phone book.

Road hog.

Toilet.

A series of pop up books where children can press a button to hear the appropriate noise.

## **Tactile Books**

### **CAMPBELL, R - Look touch and feel with Buster.**

Feel the textures around Buster's home and find out about Buster's toys, pets and garden.

### **CAMPBELL, R- I won't bite.**

Most of the animals in this book are gentle, cheeky or naughty but they definitely won't bite. However the crocodile has sharp teeth, so feel them if you dare. If he gets the chance, he will bite!

### **CAMPBELL, P – Stroke Henry.**

Henry the dog wants to play and let children feel his toys.

### **CARTER, D – Feely bugs.**

Feel the different textured bugs in this simple picture book. There are sticky bugs, feathery bugs, velvety bugs and many more besides.

### **CARTER, N & D – What am I?**

A furry mouse is looking for his mother and meets lots of other animals along the way.

### **DAMON, E – Molly's hair.**

Molly does not like her curly hair and tries lots of different way to disguise it.

**DORLING KINDERSLEY Touch and feel books –**

**Baby Animals.**

**Bedtime.**

**Clothes.**

**Home.**

**Playtime.**

These small books enable children to explore the tactile experiences of familiar situations and objects.

**GERTH, M AND HULISKA-BEITH, L – Ten little ladybirds.**

Feel and count the ladybirds in this unusual rhyming board-book.

**INKPEN, M– Kipper touch and feel books –**

**Kipper and the egg.**

**Kipper's kite.**

**Kipper's sticky paws.**

**Kipper's surprise.**

A series of books about Kipper the dog. These books have the advantage of clear black print on a white background as well as a tactile experience.

**JACKSON D – Hairy monkey.**

Hairy monkey does not think he stands a chance of winning the prize for the best coat at elephant's party but he receives a surprise at the end.

The story features shapes and textures that can be felt.

**LODGE, J – Patch in the garden.**

**Patch and his favourite things**

Small touch and feel books about Patch the dog.

**RODDIE, S – Chicken Pox.**

**Hatch egg, hatch!**

**A pet please mamma.**

The story of little chicken and his mother. These feely books have more text than most.

**VAN FLEET, M – Fuzzy yellow ducklings.**

Feel the different shapes and the textures associated with animals.

**WIGGLY bug wants wings.**

The story of a bug who wants wings and knows exactly what they will feel like.

## **Smelly Books**

DORLING KINDERSLEY Scratch and sniff books –

**Christmas**

**Food.**

**Garden.**

**Halloween.**

**Party.**

**Shopping.**

Small board books that allow children to experience special events and different 'smelly' environments.

All these books are available for loan from Birmingham Libraries. If you cannot find the one you would like to borrow the staff will be happy to reserve it for you free of charge. Or you can reserve it on our web site [Birmingham.gov.uk/libraries](http://Birmingham.gov.uk/libraries).

## **Visual Impairment in Books.**

### **PICTURE BOOKS**

#### **COUSINS, L. What can rabbit see**

A lift the flap book featuring a rabbit who wears glasses.

#### **HEST, A. Baby duck and the bad eye glasses**

Baby duck doesn't like her new glasses until she realises that they are just like her grandpa's and they help her see much better.

#### **HUDSON, C. Dan and Diesel**

Dan is a little boy and Diesel is his guide dog. They have lots of fun together.

#### **MCKINLAY, P & TECKENTRUP B**

##### **Bumposaurus**

The story of Bumposaurus who is so short sighted that he bumps into lots of trouble and even mistakes his sister's tail for dinner. His grandmother provides the answer to the little dinosaur's problems when she presents him with a pair of glasses.

**MOON, N. Lucy's picture**

Lucy decides to make her grandad a picture. Instead of just using brightly coloured paints Lucy uses twigs and feathers, velvet and sand so that her grandad can see it with his fingers.

**STROM, Maria Diaz. Rainbow Joe and me**

When Eloise tells her mum that Rainbow Joe can mix colours her mother says that it's impossible because Rainbow Joe cannot see. However the colours Rainbow Joe mixes are the notes he plays on the saxophone.

**WILD, M. All the better to see you with**

Katie does not know that she cannot see very well and it is not until she becomes lost on a beach that Katie and her parents realise she is short sighted. With the help of new glasses Katie can see much more clearly and this book shows what an advantage the glasses are.

**BEGINNING TO READ**

**RYAN, M. Robbie and the alien**

Robbie doesn't want to go to school because he is scared that everyone will laugh at his new glasses. However, when he meets KT the Alien he realises what an advantage wearing glasses can be.

## **STORY BOOKS**

### **Creech, Sharon. Granny Torelli makes soup.**

Rosie and Bailey are best friends and love spending time together but Bailey goes to a different school because he has a visual impairment. Occasionally Rosie and Bailey fall out but Granny Torrelli can put things right with her stories and wonderful cooking. Don't read this book while you feel hungry!

### **DOHERTY, B. Spellhorn**

A fantasy story featuring Laura who sees with her 'mind's eye'. She senses a world where the 'Wild Ones' are searching for their lost unicorn. They find the creature with Laura and she becomes drawn into their world.

### **FORRETAL, E. Someone like me**

This is an adventure story set in Australia. Tas is always an outsider at school and when Enya and her family move in next door he thinks that at last he will have a friend. However Enya's family have a secret and this will lead to Tas questioning Enya's loyalty and friendship.

### **HORGAN D. Charlie's eye**

Charlie, who is at primary school, wears a glass eye which she often uses to her advantage, hiding it in her dad's coffee or organising eye diving competitions when she goes swimming. However, when a new boy starts school, he taunts her about her glass eye and she feels bullied. As the story

progresses Charlie discovers that bullies sometimes have problems of their own.

**WILDE, Nicholas. Into the dark**

When Matthew goes on holiday with his mother he befriends Rory. Little does he know that Rory is a ghost reliving the last days of his life.

**WILSON, J. Take a good look**

A story about Mary who is nearly blind. When she visits the sweet-shop she becomes involved in a robbery and shows how resourceful she can be.

## **INFORMATION BOOKS**

**ARCHER, E. Judo champion**

This book follows the story of Ian as he goes to a judo competition in Germany.

**CHURCH, D. Going on a school trip**

A simple information book about Georgia and her friend Kamilla. Georgia cannot see very well.

Whilst the book focuses on the children's school trip, strawberry picking, the reader finds out about Georgia's everyday life and routines.

**CONDON, J. When it is hard to see**

This book covers everyday life as well as biographical information about famous people.

**WESTCOTT, P. Living with blindness**

This is quite a detailed book about the causes of blindness and what it is like to have a visual impairment. The book focuses on the lives of three children and one adult, describing their daily routines, attitudes and ambitions.

**WHITE, P. Think about being blind**

This book gives lots of information about what it is like to be blind. It also contains historical details and information about inventions.

All these books are available for loan from Birmingham Libraries. If you cannot find the one you would like to borrow the staff will be happy to reserve it for you free of charge. Or you can reserve it on-line at [www.birmingham.gov.uk/libcat](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/libcat).

## Library Contact Details

Acocks Green Library **0121 464 1738**  
Text Phone 0121 464 0109  
acocks.green.library@birmingham.gov.uk

Aston Library **0121 464 1184**  
aston.library@birmingham.gov.uk

Balsall Heath Library **0121 464 1962**  
balsall.heath.library@birmingham.gov.uk

Bartley Green Library **0121 464 4473**  
bartley.green.library@birmingham.gov.uk

Birchfield Library **0121 464 4202**  
birchfield.library@birmingham.gov.uk

Bloomsbury Library **0121 464 3466**  
Text Phone 0121 464 0636  
Bloomsbury.library@birmingham.gov.uk

Boldmere Library **0121 464 1048**  
Text Phone 0121 464 1048  
boldmere.library@birmingham.gov.uk

Castle Vale Library **0121 464 7335**  
castle.vale.library@birmingham.gov.uk

Central Library

General Enquiries **0121 303 4511**  
Text Phone 0121 303 4547  
centrallibraryCS@birmingham.gov.uk  
Centre for the Child **0121 303 2421**  
Text Phone 0121 303 2714  
centre.for.the.child.@birmingham.gov.uk

Druids Heath Library **0121 303 8852**  
Text Phone 0121 464 7171  
druids.heath.library@birmingham.gov.uk

Erdington Library **0121 464 0798**  
Text Phone 0121 464 0898  
Erdington.library@birmingham.gov.uk

Frankley Library **0121 464 7676**  
frankley.library@birmingham.gov.uk

Glebe Farm Library **0121 464 4210**  
glebe.library@birmingham.gov.uk

Hall Green Library **0121 464 6633**  
hall.green.library@birmingham.gov.uk

Handsworth Library **0121 464 1185**  
handsworth.library@birmingham.gov.uk

Harborne Library **0121 464 1596**  
harborne.library@birmingham.gov.uk

Hawthorne House Library **0121 464 6120**  
hawthorne.house.library@birmingham.gov.uk

Kents Moat Library **0121 464 5755**  
Text Phone 0121 464 5755  
kents.moat.library@birmingham.gov.uk

Kings Heath Library **0121 464 1515**  
kings.heath.library@birmingham.gov.uk

Kings Norton Library **0121 464 1532**  
kings.norton.library@birmingham.gov.uk

Kingstanding Library **0121 464 5193**  
Text Phone 0121 464 0648  
kingstanding.library@birmingham.gov.uk

Mere Green Library **0121 464 4592**  
mere.green.library@birmingham.gov.uk

Mobile Library **0121 464 6171**  
mobile.library.service@birmingham.gov.uk

Northfield Library **0121 464 1007**  
northfield.library@birmingham.gov.uk

Perry Common Library **0121 464 0481**  
Text Phone 0121 464 0138  
perry.common.library@birmingham.gov.uk

Quinton Library **0121 464 7400**  
quinton.library@birmingham.gov.uk

Selly Oak Library **0121 464 0403**  
Text Phone 0121 464 0717  
selly.oak.library@birmingham.gov.uk

Shard End Library **0121 464 6779**  
Text Phone 0121 464 6779  
shard.end.library@birmingham.gov.uk

Sheldon Library **1201 464 3512**  
sheldon.library@birmingham.gov.uk

Small Heath Library **0121 464 6155**  
Text phone 0121 464 0154  
small.heath.library@birmingham.gov.uk

South Yardley Library **0121 464 1944**  
south.yardley.library@birmingham.gov.uk

Sparkhill Library **0121 303 1134**  
sparkhill.library@birmingham.gov.uk

Spring Hill Library **0121 464 7422**  
spring.hill.library@birmingham.gov.uk

Stirchley Library **0121 464 1534**  
stirchley.library@birmingham.gov.uk

Sutton Coldfield Library **0121 464 2274**  
Text Phone 0121 464 1544  
Sutton.coldfield.lending.library@birmingham.gov.uk

Tower Hill Library **0121 464 1948**  
Text Phone 0121 464 0738  
tower.hill.library@birmingham.gov.uk

Walmley Library **0121 464 1842**  
walmley.library@birmingham.gov.uk

Ward End Library **0121 464 0366**  
Text Phone 0121 464 0179  
ward.end.library@birmingham.gov.uk

Weoley Castle Library **0121 464 1664**  
weoley.castle.library@birmingham.gov.uk

West Heath Library **0121 464 7548**  
west.heath.library@birmingham.gov.uk

Wylde Green Library **0121 386 5492**  
wylde.green.library@birmingham.gov.uk

Yardley Wood Library **0121 464 2110**  
Yardley.wood.library@birmingham.gov.uk