

Children's Centres Offer

Books and other resources – for children and parents

Children's Centres can borrow books for their families to use. These include board books, picture books and simple information books for children; and fiction and information books (including parenting) for adults.

You can borrow 30 children's books and 50 adults' books free of charge from your local library.

We can offer Children's Centres advice on buying their own books and resources.

Library awareness and book promotion

Library staff can promote reading, books and what the library has to offer. We can target these towards the needs of specific groups. After an initial visit to the Children's Centre, library staff would encourage families to use their nearest library. We can arrange for parents and children to receive library cards, so that they are able to use the services at their local library.

We are keen to consult Children's Centre users about the services we offer.

Bookstart

This national scheme promotes the love of books by giving free books to young children and guidance materials to parents and carers. We deliver three packs - Bookstart (0-12 months), Bookstart + (18-30 months) and My Bookstart Treasure Chest (36-48 months) currently in partnership with registrars, health visitors and pre-school settings.

We welcome the opportunity to work with Children's Centres to distribute the packs.

Bookstart Book Crawl

This fun scheme encourages pre-school children to become regular library users. Each time they visit the library they receive a sticker and once they have collected four stickers they can choose one of 10 attractive certificates. The Book Crawl runs continuously throughout the year.

We can offer sessions at Children's Centres to introduce and promote the Book Crawl to families.



CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE



Events in libraries

- **Rhyme times**

These fun sessions enable very young children and their parents/carers to join in with nursery rhymes and action songs, providing an enjoyable way to develop language.

- **Toddler times**

These include nursery rhymes and action rhymes, and some shorter stories too.

- **Storytimes**

These sessions enable pre-school children to experience a range of stories, encouraging them to read and developing their listening skills.

Where a Children's Centre is close to a library that holds these events, families are very welcome to visit the library for these sessions.

We can also offer training for Children's Centre staff to run sessions themselves, or arrange volunteers to run sessions in Children's Centres.

For more information please contact Lindsay Prestage, Family & Lifelong Learning Services Manager on 01622 605213, email lindsay.prestage@kent.gov.uk or Karen Sillifant on 01843 256211, email karen.sillifant@kent.gov.uk.