

How can we help?

Libraries and Looked After Children

“Taking a child to the library is the single most important thing parents can do to give their child a good start in life”

Prof Cathy Silver (Institute of Education) speaking to the Commons Select Committee

We can help you to improve the educational outcomes of children in care. Here are ten ways in which libraries can offer support:

1. There are **no forms to fill out** for a library ticket: we add details straight on to the computer. Instant tickets are available for adults and children who don't have ID, allowing three items to be borrowed. Otherwise, children may borrow up to eight items and adults may borrow twelve items if they have ID.
2. **Independence for young readers.** Children can join without a parent/carer being present. We write to the parent/carer to let them know that the child has asked for a ticket.
3. **Storytimes, Rhyme times and activities** for children of all ages. Adults and children are encouraged to try our library events, ranging from poetry days to belly dancing, arts and crafts and even boxing (at Showfields Library)!
4. **Free photocopies and print outs** (limited to approx five per day) for pupils with homework to do.
5. **Free Internet and word processing** at all of Kent's 101 libraries.
6. **Free reservations** for children and teenagers: they can ask for *any* book they've ever wanted to read.
7. **Summer Reading Challenge.** An annual promotion in all of Kent's Libraries encouraging children to read six books over the holidays to win stickers, certificates and a medal.
8. **Books for Caring** leaflet. This list of books on topics such as Adoption, Bullying, Being in care and Refugees has been distributed to every LAC in Kent. All the books on the list can be borrowed through Kent libraries.



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Libraries & Archives



9. **Carer's ticket:** a ticket that enables Carers to borrow up to 30 books at a time for up to eight weeks, ensuring that there will always be books in the home. No fines are payable, and we will not charge for reserving children's books on this ticket. Stories on CD may be borrowed using this ticket, but DVDs and music CDs need to be taken out on the Carer's own ticket.
10. **Every child matters.** Libraries are a safe place to be: a place where children can read a book or magazine in comfort, do their homework or meet their friends.