

West Sussex Libraries



Have you looked recently to see what West Sussex County Council Library Service has to offer?

While access to West Sussex library buildings is limited, we have developed an [alternative library offer](#) online.

Some of our resources require a library card number for access. Don't have a library card yet? You can [join online](#) for **free** and it's really easy to do, or you may prefer to phone your [local library](#). Our current opening hours and services are subject to change at short notice, so please check before visiting.

For our latest updates, follow West Sussex Libraries and Schools Library Service on Twitter – [@WSCCLibraries](#) and [@WestSussexSLS](#) – or join our [Family Corner](#) Facebook group.

[Help with children's learning at home](#)

The link above takes you to a whole range of information and websites to support you and your children with learning at home. Some highlights can be found below.

For younger children (preschool and KS1)

[Booktrust](#) has a wealth of resources and advice for parents of children from birth and onwards. They've created a [Home Time Hub](#) with book-related quizzes, games, drawalongs and videos for families to enjoy.

The [Schools Library Service](#) (SLS) booklists page has suggested reading for picture books, beginner reads and short chapter books on a range of subjects.

Every year, the SLS offers schools the opportunity to take part in their [Picture Books to Shout About](#) book awards. View their lists of past winners and longlists for more recommended reads.

For older children (KS2 onwards)

See the [Schools Library Service](#) website for KS2 booklists to support the curriculum, including information book titles for class topics and fiction suggestions for each year group.

Your library card gives you access to a range of [eInformation](#) resources including the junior and student levels of the [Britannica Library](#), and [Oxford Reference](#), which has over 100 reference titles such as dictionaries, timelines, flags and maps.

Take a walk around where you live and find out about your local area, with our town and village guides on the [West Sussex Past Portal](#). It also has lots of resources to support local history projects, and [West Sussex Past Pictures](#) gives you access to thousands of historical images from our own collections and from local museums.

For coding activities, visit the [Scratch](#) website, which has free guides and projects for children to try at home, or request a [micro:bit](#) Starter Kit to borrow from us on our [catalogue](#).

If you cannot find what you're looking for, use our [Ask a Librarian](#) form to contact our Enquiries Team, who will find information on any subject and respond to your query within 7 working days.

[Reading for Pleasure](#)

Reading should be fun! One of the best things you can do for your children's learning is to make reading together part of your routine. Read aloud, use funny voices, talk about the pictures, or act out parts of a story; there's no right or wrong way to share a book. Don't worry if children can't sit for long or are easily distracted, just a few minutes a day can make all the difference. The most important thing is to let them choose something they'll enjoy!

You can find some great things to do in your free time on our [Children's Activities](#) page, with amazing videos and downloads from authors, illustrators and publishers. For a huge range of fiction and non-fiction reviews and recommendations, [LoveReading4Kids](#) is a brilliant website.

Poetry is fantastic for engaging even the most reluctant readers, and is an effective way of introducing different themes and ideas to children. You can explore poetry collections by topic on the [Poetry By Heart](#) website. Poetry is often best enjoyed out loud, so listen to some brilliant recordings on the [Children's Poetry Archive](#), which organises their collection by subject and audience age range.

Library staff have also recorded plenty of [Rhymetime and Story Time](#) videos, for you to watch and join in with from home.



We have a dedicated page [for teens](#), with links to author websites, podcast recommendations and reading suggestions.

Help from Libraries

Not sure what to read next? Complete our [Staff Select form](#) and we'll chose for you! It's helpful if you can provide some information such as your child's age, interests, and type of books they enjoy, so we can choose something we know they'll love. So whether you have run out of Tom Gates, like books about bugs, or want some interactive picture books for a lively little one, get in touch!

Alternatively, you can use your library card and PIN to reserve any items from across West Sussex Libraries for **free** via our [online catalogue](#), or place requests by phone. We'll contact you to let you know when they are available at your chosen branch, and you can collect them from library front doors during their opening hours. You'll be able to return items to our drop boxes at the same time.

Libraries also have [eBooks](#), [newspapers](#) and [magazines](#) for children, teenagers and adults which can be downloaded free of charge, and we're adding more titles every day. All you need is your library card.

For customers who are unable to visit the library in person, we can arrange to bring a selection of items to you via our [Essential Delivery Service](#).

SEND

We have a range of specialist resources for children and young people with additional needs.

A collection of sensory stories, created by [Bag Books](#), are available to reserve and borrow to share at home. While these stories are enjoyed by all, they are particularly suited to children with a wide range additional needs and disabilities. [View the collection](#) on our catalogue.

Library staff have recorded some DIY sensory stories for you to try at home, which include a list of props you can gather from around the home and use to enhance the story. They are available to view on our [Story Magic Youtube playlist](#).

[Understand Me](#) is a collection of [resources](#), available to anyone who needs help with communication to request and borrow for free, from any West Sussex library. These include devices for recording personal messages, and specially adapted toys to help young children learn through play. For more information contact toni.oliver@westsussex.gov.uk

Our [booklists](#) page has an additional needs section with resources to support hearing-impaired children, giant print and Braille picture books, and books on ASD. [Barrington Stoke](#) publish books specifically designed for dyslexic and reluctant readers. They have advice and support for parents and carers on their website, including a [home help pack](#). The majority of their titles are available to request from our libraries.



Wellbeing

The link above will take you to a range of information on services and library resources to support physical and mental wellbeing, as well as signposting to organisations who work with children and young people.



We have put together some [booklists](#) recommending titles for specific interests or to support children with difficult situations or new experiences. Topics include behaviour and manners, fears and anxieties, celebrating diversity and many more.

We have all of the books on The Reading Agency's [Reading Well](#) schemes, which can be reserved on our [catalogue](#). Many are also available as eBooks to download from our [eLibrary](#). The scheme includes specific lists for children and teens, to support their mental health.

[The Reading Agency](#) have also curated a [collection of books](#) to help children understand and cope with anxieties surrounding lockdown and coronavirus; they are organised under the themes 'Staying Safe', 'Staying Calm', 'Staying Connected', 'Staying Home' and 'Staying Hopeful'

