

Wriggly Readers Festival



Leicestershire Libraries Early Years Celebration

October 2024



Create

Imagine

Learn

Play

Move



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



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Culture
Leicestershire
Heritage, Libraries, Collections,
Learning and Participation



libraries@leics.gov.uk



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WELCOME



Let's **Create Learn Play Move Imagine**
and together have a wriggly-jiggly fun October.

Wriggly Readers Festival will be Leicestershire Libraries' first ever, multi-library festival dedicated to babies and children under 5 years and their families. Libraries will showcase books, resources and fun activities especially for babies and toddlers. Events will take place at many Leicestershire Libraries throughout October.

This digital booklet gives details of the October celebration, along with tips and resources for families with children in their early years.

The festival is created in partnership with Culture Leicestershire, a National Portfolio Organisation supported by Arts Council England.



As you go through this booklet,
whenever you see this image,
you can click on it and it will
take you to another webpage
with further information.



TOP TIPS FOR SUPPORTING EARLY YEARS DEVELOPMENT

1

Join your local library

Explore new books – our libraries offer a range of events, activities, and resources to support you and your child.

2

Make time to read

Little and often works best – even just 10 minutes before bedtime helps boost little ones' learning and bedtime routine.

3

Let your child choose a book

They'll feel more interested in the story if they've picked it out themselves. Don't worry if they keep returning to the same story!

4

Get the whole family involved

There's no right or wrong way to play or share a story. Parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, grandparents can join in too – whether by reading together or acting out stories and playing together.

5

Have fun together

It's never too early to start sharing books with your little one. They might not understand the words, but they will love cuddling up, hearing your voice, and looking at the pictures.

LEICESTERSHIRE LIBRARIES OFFER

Wriggly Readers

Every week in larger Leicestershire libraries story and rhyme time sessions for under 5's take place led by our friendly and professional library staff.

Wriggly Readers encourage the whole family to join in with singing nursery rhymes and enjoying picture books together. It's a chance for families to get together locally and for children to meet others and get ready for school.



Booklists

We have a selection of booklists with recommended reads for children and families. These contain suggested book titles to support readers with a range of issues. We're always updating and adding new lists, so keep visiting our webpage to discover what's new.

School
readiness

Empathy



Help at
Hand



Boromi Pop-in Play Libraries

We are fortunate to be able to offer a range of Pop-in Play Libraries in 16 Leicestershire libraries.

With play bags suitable from birth to 5+, Pop-in Play Libraries can be used within our libraries and are a way for families to pop in and enjoy a moment of play together.



Imagine



Investigate



Invent



Share

And more...



From Construction Clubs to Tiny Toes baby groups, local libraries offer lots of fun activities and events for children and families. Follow us on social media to keep up to date with what's on.



WHAT'S ON

Special Events

EDIBLE NATURE

PRINTMAKING



Explore, learn and print with your senses!
Create fruit and vegetable prints with yogurt paint*

**ALLERGY NOTICE: this workshop includes food items. A full list of ingredients can be found on the Eventbrite page.*



*Booking required
(child ticket only)*

**For children aged 6
months to 5 years**

Hinckley Library

Monday 28 October

10.30am



Glenfield Library

Wednesday 30 October

10.30am



WHAT'S ON

Special Events

Mobile Play Village

Whistle - Tot Lane

Once Upon a Whistle-Tot



Enter the world of imagination
and stories with Whistle-Tot Lane!

Join us as children explore our stories-inspired
mobile play village. Let these special role play areas
immerse children in their own small world!



Booking required
(child ticket only)

For children aged 0-5

Wigston Library

Wednesday 2 October

2pm-3pm

or

3pm-4pm



Syston Library

Tuesday 8 October

10.30am-11.30am

or

11.30am-12.30pm



WHAT'S ON

Special Events



**AMC
School of Dance**

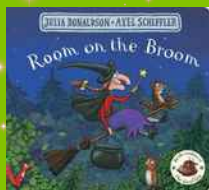
Room on the Broom

CREATIVE DANCE AND
MOVEMENT WORKSHOP



Join the witch and all of her friends for a dancing adventure based on the much loved story.

With props to create and explore with movement, children will have an 'Iggity Ziggity Zaggity' time.



Booking required
(child ticket only)

**For children walking
to 5 years old**

Ashby Library

Thursday 10 October, 2.30pm

Lutterworth Library

Thursday 17 October, 11am



STEP INSIDE A BEAR HUNT



Step inside the well-loved classic, *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*.



Join us for a special storytelling and craft workshop.

Children will not just hear the story but also join in with actions and get crafty with playdoh, nature, and more!

swishy **SAUVELCH** swashy!



Booking required (child ticket only)

For children aged 0-5

Earl Shilton Library

Friday 4 October, 10.30am

Loughborough Library

Tuesday 15 October, 10.30am



HELP AT HAND COLLECTION

The Help at Hand collection is a curated selection of books that help young children learn about new topics and experiences. The books should be explored with the guidance of a parent or carer, allowing them to broach topics that may be challenging. They are sometimes called Situation Books as they look at different situations young people experience.

In Leicestershire Libraries, these books have a handprint on the spine to help make it easier to find them.

Our collection is divided into 5 sections.



HELP AT HAND COLLECTION

A small sample of the books available to borrow from Leicestershire Libraries.

New Experiences

Books featuring themes including visiting the doctor, learning to do something new.



Emotions

Books featuring themes including worry, grief, kindness, mental health and more.



Life and Learning

Books that teach young children early life skills as well as about different cultures.



Family Situations

Books featuring a range of family setups and situations, including divorce and adoption.



Starting School

Books that focus on supporting children who are starting school, including dealing with any worries.



BEAR HUNT CHALLENGE

These teddy bears wanted to explore our libraries.

Visit your local library and see if you can find the bears and discover their names!



These bears are all part of Charnwood Museum's Well-Loved Bears exhibition - why not visit today!



charnwood museum

Charnwood

Leicestershire County Council

Well-Loved Bears

A celebration of bears, teddies and Ladybird Books

25th May to 2nd November



charnwoodmuseum.co.uk

[/CharnwoodMuseum](#) [X@LCharnwoodMuseum](#)



PRIZE GIVEAWAY

Throughout October enter our special prize draw to be in with a chance of winning some fantastic goodies from books to theatre tickets.

There will be multiple draws over the month.



GIVEAWAY

How to enter

Borrow 4 books from the library for 1 entry.

You can take up to 24 books out at a time, which would be 6 entries!

Talk to staff for more details.



Final closing date is Thursday 31 October



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Click on the logos to visit our partners' websites

Family Hubs

Leicestershire Libraries are part of the council's Family Hubs network, and are just one of the spaces you can find support.



At the heart of our communities, our Family Hubs have been established to support families, children and young people across Leicestershire. Working with partner organisations our Hubs provide a one-stop shop and offer advice, information and resources to help families navigate every stage of life; from pregnancy, through your child's early years, later childhood and into young adulthood.

Visit the Family Hubs website to find your local hub, see what's on, and for resources for parents, young people, professionals, and volunteers.

Healthy Tots



Healthy Tots is a health promotion programme offered to early years settings in Leicestershire.

It is important to teach your little one about healthy eating at an early stage as it can help them maintain good physical and mental well-being as they grow up. Alongside our work with early years settings we have resources for parents including recipe cards, information on weaning, portion guides and more.

In partnership with Leicestershire Libraries, Healthy Tots have created a leaflet full of extra tips and resources. Visit our website for more details.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Click on the logos to visit our partners' websites

Family Learning

Family Learning classes are taught at libraries, Children's Family and Wellbeing Centres, schools, online and in the community.



Courses are designed to help you support your child's education journey, by learning how your child is taught in school while you also develop your own knowledge.

Sessions include: Storytime Fun, Toddler Talk, Baby sign, and 2 to 4 - Move Some More.

For full information on these courses, click [HERE](#).

Early Years Inclusion and Childcare Service



The Early Years Inclusion and Childcare Service provides support to families and children 0-5 years old

on how to access high quality childcare and free entitlements, as well as information about different activities that you can enjoy with your child at home to support their learning.

The service also provides educational advice to children with additional needs.

They also offer resources and support for parents helping their children learn at home. Click [HERE](#) to find out more.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

BookTrust

BookTrust is the UK's largest children's reading charity. Their aim is to support children with their reading.

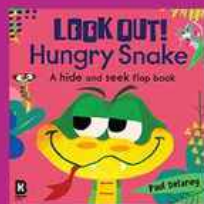


As well as having a range of programmes designed to help families enjoy reading together, BookTrust have lots of different resources, tips and activities which children and families can use to develop a love of reading.



BookTrust Storytime celebrates and promotes the best books for sharing with young children and families.

Running from September to May, BookTrust Storytime is a free and fun way for families and young children to explore books together. There are 5 shortlisted books this year – visit your local library to borrow, read, and vote for your favourite. Plus keep an eye eye for fun activities too!



CULTURE LEICESTERSHIRE

Culture Leicestershire is the County Council's Heritage, Libraries, Collections, Learning and Participation Services. Together we create space to spark imagination, celebrate communities and enhance wellbeing.



Heritage, Libraries, Collections,
Learning and Participation

Creative Expressions in Libraries

As part of our funding from Arts Councils England we're excited to be developing community projects aimed at children and families, across our Leicestershire Libraries. Examples include:

Birstall's Puppet Theatre

Puppeteer Lori ran several workshops with local children to create puppets and explore puppetry.

The lasting output is a very special puppet theatre which library users can have fun exploring storytelling and developing their imagination.

Oadby's Sensory Project

Through a series of workshop and consultations, Creative Practitioners worked with local children and families to explore sensory elements.

This has led to a special sensory tunnel being created which will be available to enjoy and explore from October.



The Record Office
Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland

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For more information, visit

www.cultureleicestershire.co.uk



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WITH THANKS TO

Leicestershire libraries' staff
AMC Dance
Insecta Collective
Ruth Boodhoo
Whistle-Tot Lane



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