

Enjoying Reading

Primary school booklet



New solutions to help
every child love reading
www.enjoyingreading.org.uk

Imagine the difference it would make if every child loved to read

As a partner in Enjoying Reading, the National Literacy Trust developed this advocacy booklet by bringing together practitioners for a conference in November 2007.

Experts were there from primary and secondary schools, public libraries, school library services, local authorities and voluntary organisations. They all share a belief in the power of reading to transform lives and the important role that an effective partnership between the school, school library, school library service and public library has in supporting children's reader development.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to a great day and to this toolkit.

Enjoying Reading is led by The Reading Agency and funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Other partners are the National Literacy Trust, the School Library Association, the Society of Chief Librarians, the Association of Senior Children's and Education Librarians and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council.

Wider contributors include the National Primary and Secondary Strategies, Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), Arts Council England, Creative Partnerships, and the United Kingdom Literacy Association.

**LIBRARIES
AND
SCHOOLS**

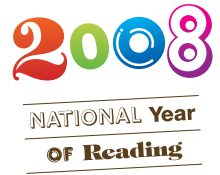


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Working together to help children love reading



“Finding ways to engage pupils in reading may be one of the most effective ways to leverage social change.”

Reading for Change, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, 2002

This research shows how important reading for pleasure is for children to fulfill their life chances. Yet children in England read relatively little compared to many of their international counterparts, according to the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study published in 2007.

This booklet suggests new approaches for schools to help every child love reading. It is part of Enjoying Reading, a DCSF-funded initiative, which aims to promote more effective partnership working between schools, school libraries, public libraries and school library services.

“Children’s enjoyment of reading is critical to their life chances, but schools alone can’t crack this. DCSF believes more joined up working between schools and libraries can make a big difference and is funding the Enjoying Reading initiative to provide inspiration, ideas and practical support. The National Year of Reading is the perfect time to start to strengthen this alliance.”

Jim Knight, Minister of State for Schools and Learners



The time is right. The 2008 National Year of Reading (NYR) is an important opportunity. Libraries and schools working together can be a powerful force for change. This new resource shows how the partnership can work in practice and will be a major resource for teachers to use during the NYR.

Moreover, this emphasis on partnership working supports initiatives that aim to give children and young people the chance to take part in cultural activities and develop their creative skills, such as the 'Find Your Talent' programme, announced in February 2008 by the DCSF and the DCMS.

Over the next three years the 'Find Your Talent' programme will pilot five hours a week of quality arts and cultural activities for children and young people, in and out of school. This will include opportunities to engage with library and archive services, produce creative writing, take part in reading groups, and listen to authors talk about their work.

To access a wider range of Enjoying Reading support materials, resources and case studies, visit www.enjoyingreading.org.uk

Motivating children to spread their reading wings

“I can’t believe he now wants to read instead of sitting playing on his computer all weekend. I used to drag him to the library, now he drags me.”

Father of boy in Chatterbooks group

As you are aware, by Year 6 children are expected to be able to:

“Read extensively and discuss personal reading with others, including in reading groups.”

Primary framework for literacy

Public libraries, school library services and school libraries are in a position to help schools by providing:

- Free, safe reading spaces in and out of school
- Creative activities with and in school – linking reading to children’s personal interests in exciting ways

- A wide range of reading materials to support children’s individual learning needs and interests
- Staff expertise and book knowledge to support teachers and to motivate children to read more frequently and more widely

The public library is unique as it offers a reading space that is free, different from home or school and open out of school hours. Libraries are now offering children exciting and creative reading activities, such as those described on the next three pages.

Chatterbooks

“It has been a delight to be involved in the Chatterbooks project because it has brought so much excitement and pleasure to a large number of children.

The partnership between the library and the school has added a unique dimension which supports the Every Child Matters agenda and means we have truly worked together for children in Sefton. Parents have valued it highly and a significant proportion of the children who took part have shown improvement either in terms of their reading skills or simply their love of reading for pleasure.”

Headteacher, St. Luke’s Halsall C.E. Primary School, Sefton

Reading groups are a great way to support literacy in the primary curriculum, and encourage reading for pleasure. They can also build pupils’ social skills, linking in with citizenship units at school.

The Chatterbooks programme is a nationally-coordinated reading group network for four to 12-year-olds, established by The Reading Agency, with support from Orange, and run by public libraries.

Chatterbooks is an adaptable model which offers training opportunities for schools and is an ideal way for schools and libraries to work together. The reading groups can be especially helpful for target groups such as reluctant readers or under-achieving children.

“It’s an attractive alternative to the more sports-orientated after-school clubs and a way in which the children can take what they’re doing in school out of school. Our school’s group mixes Years 4 to 6 so they are learning to mix with a wider range of children and they become more confident.”

Teacher, All Saints Primary School, Bootle

Summer Reading Challenge



The Summer Reading Challenge runs right across the public library network, and 650,000 children take part every year. Children are challenged to read six books over the summer holidays, with lots of collectable incentives. Libraries also run creative events as part of the challenge.

The challenge is a perfect example of how public libraries, school library services and primary schools can all work together to increase the number of children participating, celebrate the children's success and share information about levels of pupil participation and completion to support schools in their reader development work.

“I was not interested in reading but the Summer Reading Challenge has made it more fun, and now I read a lot.”

Rona, 7

“The summer holiday is traditionally a period when pupils’ reading ability and enthusiasm dips. Therefore bridging this gap, with an activity such as the Summer Reading Challenge, is essential for us to sustain all the learning that takes place during term time.

Working in partnership with our local library services is key in encouraging take-up prior to the challenge and rewarding success after the holidays.

Our schools library service and public library offer us support in raising awareness of the challenge by coming into school directly and creating a buzz around the activities that will be on offer; providing useful data about take-up and completion following the challenge; and providing certificates and rewards for our celebration assembly.”

Headteacher, Bridport Primary School, Dorset



Contact your local library services for more information about the Summer Reading Challenge and Chatterbooks.

Supporting teachers in delivering the curriculum

“This way of working in partnership with the library staff on a project with common objectives had a huge impact on the children’s learning. It was a revelation to see how children as young as six or seven could be assisted to use some quite sophisticated materials.”

Headteacher, Seaview Primary School, South Tyneside Council

School libraries, school library services and public libraries can support the primary curriculum in imaginative ways and with tailored resources. They can be particularly useful partners for supporting local studies projects and for developing pupils’ information literacy skills.

School libraries, school library services and public libraries support schools through offering:

- Class sessions, including specialist information literacy sessions
- A wide range of resources, tailored to reading/learning needs
- Specialist support for teachers and children
- Reading spaces during and outside of school hours

Many libraries also offer study support or homework clubs, including access to ICT facilities.

Continuing Professional Development opportunities



UKLA's 'Teachers as Readers in the 21st Century' report concluded that:

“There is room for development in finding ways to extend the scope and range of teachers’ knowledge of children’s literature.”

Public library, school library service staff and school librarians have extensive knowledge of children’s literature and love to enthuse about it.

Teachers are time-poor and libraries can help with booklists, ready-made ideas and resources for the classroom. They can give teachers more confidence in using a wider variety of texts in the classroom. Schools might like to include a CPD slot for the librarian during their INSET days or staff briefings.

“During our annual whole-staff twilight INSET, the schools library service takes 100 new resources and promotes them to staff via a book display and a great book talk. Often we will then keep the boxes of books for the remainder of the term which gives us a really good opportunity to try out the resources ourselves in class.”

**Literacy and library coordinator,
Bourneville Junior School,
Birmingham**

School offer

1 Libraries help teachers boost young people's love of reading: each bit of the library system helps in different ways

Reader motivation and development

Public library:

- Free, safe reading space – not home, not school
- Under-five's preparation for school
- Inspiring, wide range of reading materials
- Creative activities with and in school eg Chatterbooks reading groups
- Positive creative activities in the library eg Summer Reading Challenge
- Staff expertise to support stimulating reading activities
- Visits from a public librarian

Schools library service:

- Specialist support for teachers and students
- Reading resources tailored to reading and learning needs

School library:

- Structured creative reading activities
- Stimulating reading space in the school

Continuing professional development for teachers

Public library:

- Visits to school from a librarian
- Staff expertise, particularly book knowledge

Schools library service:

- Specialist advice and resources for teachers, school librarians and students

School library:

- Library staff support for teachers, including books and curriculum support

Curriculum support

Public library:

- Class visits to the public library, which may include information literacy sessions or creative activities
- Free choice of a wide range of resources
- Study support and homework clubs

Schools library service:

- Specialist curriculum support for teachers, school librarians and students
- Resources tailored to reading and learning needs

School library:

- Specialist information literacy work
- Resources geared to reading and learning needs
- Learning space and study support during, and sometimes beyond, school hours

Community partnerships and extended services

Public library:

- Free, inspiring reading space
- Wide range of books and other materials
- Reading as a way into citizenship and positive activities
- Creative activities in the library

School library:

- Activities to support extended services

Family involvement

Public library:

- Parenting and adult learning support
- Family friendly activities in the public library
- Reading resources on parenting
- Modelling reading behaviours

School library:

- Learning support for families

School offer

2 When schools and libraries join up their support for young people's reading effectively

Young people will:

- Enjoy reading:
 - more widely and deeply
 - with motivation and more positive attitudes
 - and sharing social experiences
- Be able to access inspiring reading opportunities at any time during the year
- Exercise more self direction and choice in their reading progress, with support from adults
- Take part in family reading activities
- Engage with other readers in the community

Schools will:

- Create an environment leading to:
 - more confident and independent readers
 - more independent reading
 - readers more receptive to learning
- Improve what the extended school can offer
- Encourage more family involvement and support

- Develop a wider evidence bank of students' reading progress – helping to support new assessment requirements
- Increase teachers' knowledge of reading materials and access more practical tools to use with students
- Access inspiring opportunities to work with authors and illustrators
- Improve writing and self expression

Local authorities will:

- Be helped to meet relevant national indicators
- Provide safe space, resources, expertise and positive activities through libraries, which help young people to enjoy and achieve
- Benefit from positive activities provided for young people in libraries; things to do and places to go within and outside school hours
- Support reading as a life skill, which underpins literacy targets

3 The unique benefits of using public libraries

Public libraries help young people to:

- Develop their confidence and motivation, seeing themselves as readers outside school
- Read more widely and independently
- Have a place to continue reading in school holidays
- Access study support out of school hours
- Develop softer skills through positive reading based activities and community engagement
- Have a safe space to go in local communities
- Enjoy reading through shared family access and support for books and reading

Building effective community partnerships

“I would recommend it to any Year 5s or Year 6s. It’s a fun thing to do because then we know what other people like to read.”

Member of Chatterbooks group, North Shields

The personalised learning agenda emphasises the importance of developing community partnerships to give pupils extra study support and learning opportunities.

Furthermore, the Extended Services Agenda sets out a core offer of services that all children should be able to access through schools by 2010. This includes providing access to a range of community activities.

There are a variety of ways in which schools could develop a community partnership with its schools library service and public library. These are particularly effective when they give older pupils the opportunity to become closely involved with a project and contribute to it, enabling them to make a positive contribution to their wider community. Proven partnership projects include:

Pupil-led local book awards – involving a group of schools and the library service.

“The introduction of the Coventry Inspiration Awards, run by the schools library service, has given the children an opportunity to be involved with a city-wide initiative and has stimulated their interest in reading for their own enjoyment. This local book award has motivated children of all abilities to read a wider range of books and has successfully provoked group and class discussion on a variety of subjects.”

Teacher, Stivichall Primary School, Coventry

Young Cultural Creators –

an innovative and exciting approach to reader and writer development for young people, led by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. The project enables children to explore creativity with writers and illustrators of children's books, stimulated by working in a museum, archive, or gallery, and their local library. For more information visit www.youngculturalcreators.com



Creative Partnerships –

the Government's flagship creative learning programme run by Arts Council England. Visit www.creative-partnerships.com

Opportunities for pupils –

in Chatterbooks groups to get involved in focus groups to influence the development of projects and library stock.

“The involvement of the library service in the Creative Partnerships Garden of Imagination project enabled classroom teachers to make better use of the resources available by tapping into expertise in handling a wide range of resources and bringing in other experts and services to add value to the children's experience of using the library.”

Headteacher, Seaview Primary School, South Tyneside Council

Family involvement

Evidence shows that when family members talk and sing to children, share books, and take them to the library, they help children to develop important early literacy skills.

A strong partnership between the school, school library, school library service and public library can help schools fulfill the core offer of the Extended Services Agenda relating to 'parenting and family support' and 'community access to facilities including adult and family learning'.

All public libraries offer storytime or rhyme time sessions to model storytelling and book sharing to pre-school children. Libraries have a great range of free resources for families, including board books and parenting books. They also offer creative activities and opportunities for adult learners to improve their own skills.



To raise awareness of the range of activities on offer, schools could invite the school librarian, school library service and public librarian to parents' evenings or open days at the school. They could also consider inviting librarians to family learning meetings to plan collaborative approaches to promoting family reading.

When family members talk and sing to children, share books, and take them to the library, they help children to develop important early literacy skills.

Here are some tried-and-tested ideas to encourage family reading:

- Arrange a special induction trip for families who have never been to the local library.
- Make sure that school staff are aware of the range of events that the library offers so that they are in a position to offer suggestions to parents. Activities could include Got Kids? Get Reading! sessions. For more information visit www.vitallink.org.uk
- Promote rhyme time sessions and getting involved in the Summer Reading Challenge.
- Talk to your library or school library service about borrowing boxes of books suitable for families as well as children.
- Link up with a local football/ rugby/cricket club and the library to run a dads and lads storytelling workshop linked to families' sporting interests.
- If you do not have a library near to your school, investigate mobile library services – the school library service or the public mobile library may be able to help.

Barriers and solutions

Teachers and library staff have helped us to identify some common questions and barriers and suggested answers and solutions:

How can our school benefit from the local library service without over burdening our teachers with paperwork?

School library services and many public libraries have outreach workers so that the librarian can come to the school and support/run events. Contact your local children's librarian or school library service to see if they are able to deliver this kind of service.

Our nearest library is too far away to access.

If the static library is several miles away, the library service may well have mobile library services in place. Contact your local library service to make enquiries. Alternatively, enquire as to whether your local children's librarian can come to the school instead.

Can the public library/school library service really help us raise standards?

Research and anecdotal evidence tells us that children who enjoy reading, do it more often, and the more they read, the better they become at doing it. Developing a whole-school reading culture, and encouraging children to develop a love of reading is one of the most significant things we can do to raise achievement and standards in schools. Visit www.readingconnects.org.uk for a wealth of practical ideas and resources. Libraries and schools both have a common aim of promoting reading and reading enjoyment. By working together, resources can be combined and results can be so much better.

We don't have the budget to buy into any more projects at the moment.

Public libraries tap into different funding streams from schools and don't always need large amounts of funding to get exciting things going. Often a small amount of money can go a very long way and have significant benefits. Alternatively, there are also funding grants which encourage community partnerships that you may be eligible to bid for. These are detailed on the Reading Connects website www.literacytrust.org.uk/readingconnects/fundingindex.html

For children to develop a love of reading they need to see adults modelling positive reading behaviour. Peer and community role models have lots of potential to motivate children.



Our pupils aren't interested in going to the public library.

For children to develop a love of reading they need to see adults modelling positive reading behaviour. Peer and community role models have lots of potential to motivate children. If you're concerned about getting the boys on board, the National Literacy Trust initiative Reading Champions works to involve men and boys in promoting reading. Consider setting up a community Reading Champions scheme in collaboration with the library services to draw upon the power of local reading role models. For more information visit www.readingchampions.org.uk

What next?

We hope that this booklet has inspired you to develop or strengthen a partnership with your local library services.

The time is right. Your next steps may be to:

- contact the children's librarian at your local library or your school library service to explore possible opportunities
- build a whole-school reading community, using the school library area as a whole-school resource
- visit www.enjoyingreading.org.uk for more information and case studies

And, since 2008 is the National Year of Reading (NYR), each local authority has an NYR coordinator. Why not make links with your local coordinator? Visit www.yearofreading.org.uk



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National
Literacy
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