



Chatterbooks – talking about the books you want to read...

Chatterbooks supports children's reading through reading groups in public libraries. Sponsored by Orange, it is a national network of children's reading groups run in public libraries, often in conjunction with schools. TRA co-ordinates the network, and Jacqueline Wilson is the Chatterbooks patron.

Children gain

- Peer group support and discussion about books and reading
- A wide range of creative reading activities
- An attractive pack of fun materials - reading diaries; 'post it' review notes, fortune-teller book choice games, pencil, bookmark and stickers - all in a special Chatterbooks bag
- Regular support and stimulus for new reading adventures
- Special events to tie in with national campaigns and links with authors and illustrators
- IT based activities to enliven and enrich reading
- Self confidence and self esteem

Parents gain

- Advice and support in helping to encourage their children's reading
- Volunteering opportunities (in some groups)
- A way to support their children to take part in a community based activity that will improve their confidence and reading skills

Groups are for 4-12 year olds and aim to inspire young people to read adventurously, develop confidence in expressing their opinions – and have a terrific time talking about books!

Each Chatterbooks group works out its own modus operandi. Activities focus on reading and talking about books, but can also feature a range of special events: groups sometimes meet authors and illustrators, have storytelling sessions and use the internet. Parents and carers are encouraged to offer ideas for stimulating and developing their children's reading confidence. The local school is often a key partner in agreeing the target and focus of the club. And this partnership approach shows how successfully libraries, schools and other local organisations can work together.



Chatterbooks

<p>Chatterbooks helps deliver on school priorities through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Developing children's love and enjoyment of reading ▪ Providing new reading ideas for young people to widen and deepen their reading ▪ Developing young people's confidence about themselves as readers ▪ Developing peer to peer reading support ▪ Offering children the chance to interact positively with adults about reading (e.g. library staff and parents/carers) ▪ Increasing the time children spend reading and sharing books ▪ Increasing the sense of belonging to a community ▪ Children having a really good time reading and talking about books
<p>You can also use it to deliver specific local aims, such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Targeting particular groups of children ▪ Encouraging children to use their local library ▪ Promoting 'joined-up' working with the local cultural community
<p>And Chatterbooks also meets key government aims and priorities:</p>
<p>Creativity and cultural agenda Chatterbooks connects children to reading, writers, publishers, community artists and storytellers, and the many different ways of telling and experiencing a story or narrative. It gives them a chance to develop as critical readers and culturally aware citizens comfortable sharing their creative ideas and thoughts.</p>
<p>Social Inclusion Chatterbooks can reach children whose families may not have had contact with libraries before. It's a powerful – and fun – way of empowering and involving young people in decision-making. Group activities validate all types of reading from classics to comics, acknowledging all tastes, viewpoints and abilities.</p>
<p>Citizenship and Community Cohesion Chatterbooks helps children formulate, express and discuss opinions about the world around them. You can connect the groups with young people's forums to help children link in further with their community and strengthen community cohesion.</p>
<p>Lifelong Learning Chatterbooks reading groups promote access to all kinds of learning in the community for the young people who join, and for their parents and carers. And that's in addition to their increased enjoyment and use of library facilities.</p>
<p>National Curriculum & National Literacy Strategy These reading groups encourage children to develop the key skills fundamental to attainment across the National Curriculum, especially reading, writing, listening, ICT and social skills. Chatterbooks offers access to a wide range of reading activities, including 'wider reading', choosing and appreciating different texts and developing listening and speaking skills and confidence.</p>