



# Access to reading

**A guide to finding books for children and young people with vision impairment**

If you know a child or young person with vision impairment, this guide can help you find the right reading material for pleasure, information or school work.

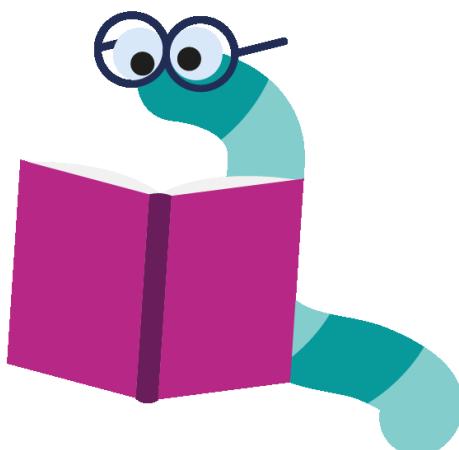


Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

# Children's reading services

BookTrust is the UK's largest children's reading charity. We get millions of children reading, especially those from low-income families or vulnerable backgrounds. Children who choose to read and who read regularly are happier and healthier. This is why we work with families, supporting them to start sharing stories and books together from the earliest possible age.

In this guide you will find help and advice about reading; there may also be local services for blind and partially sighted people in your area which offer support. Please note, some services are free, others may charge a small fee.



# Large print books

**Guide Dogs** produces customised large print fiction, revision guides and children's classics for home and school. You can order from a catalogue of over 1,500 titles.

**0345 143 1000 [guidedogs.org.uk/customeyes](http://guidedogs.org.uk/customeyes)**

**RNIB** offers electronic books via their Bookshare platform. Find more information on acquiring hard copy large and giant print books through their personal transcription service here – [www.rnib.org.uk/living-with-sight-loss/independent-living/reading-and-books/giant-print-library](http://www.rnib.org.uk/living-with-sight-loss/independent-living/reading-and-books/giant-print-library)

**0303 123 9999 [rnib.org.uk](http://rnib.org.uk)**



# Braille, Moon and tactile books

**ClearVision** lends dual format braille/print and Moon/print books and tactile books suitable for pre-schoolers, children learning to read and newly fluent readers. ClearVision services are free.

**020 8789 9575** [clearvisionproject.org](http://clearvisionproject.org)

**RNIB** RNIB provides braille books for both learners and fluent braille readers who are signed up to the RNIB Library. RNIB Newsagent provides braille magazines, and RNIB Bookshare is available for educational organisations to sign up to and has over one million books that are available in electronic braille. To learn more or sign up, please call **0303 123 9999** or go to [rnib.org.uk/readingservices](http://rnib.org.uk/readingservices)

**Bag Books** sells tactile/multi-sensory story packs designed for children and young people with severe and multiple disabilities. Any young child with a vision impairment can also enjoy these story packs.

**020 7627 0444** [bagbooks.org](http://bagbooks.org)

**Living Paintings** lends fiction and non-fiction touch and sound packs for children of all ages.

**01635 299 771** [livingpaintings.org](http://livingpaintings.org)

# Audio and electronic books

**Calibre Audio Library** has a wide choice of audio books in MP3 format on CD or memory stick that can be borrowed free of charge.

**01296 432 339 [youngcalibre.org.uk](http://youngcalibre.org.uk)**

**RNIB Newsagent** (previously National Talking Newspapers and Magazines) provides all national, daily and Sunday newspapers and a wide range of popular magazines suitable for older teenagers in a number of accessible formats, including audio tape and CD, DAISY CD as well as digital full text formats which can be delivered by email, web download or CD-ROM.

**0303 123 9999 [rnib.org.uk](http://rnib.org.uk)**



# Advice and guidance

**RNIB** works in partnership with other organisations to support thousands of children and young people with vision impairment each year. To find out more visit: [rnib.org.uk](http://rnib.org.uk)

**Guide Dogs** offers advice and practical help through its family support and information service, educational advocacy, ICT and specialist sensory equipment, and recreational activities.

**0800 781 1444** [guidedogs.org.uk](http://guidedogs.org.uk)

**LOOK** connects and supports families. They run events, have a helpline and a parents' magazine as well as providing social opportunities for children and young people.

**07464 351 958** [look-uk.org](http://look-uk.org)

**VICTA** offers practical advice and support, grants for equipment and vacation schemes and helps to set up and fund local support groups.

**01908 240 831** [victa.org.uk](http://victa.org.uk)

# Visit your local library

By visiting your local library together, you can introduce your child to the joy of a good book – and it's never too early to start.

Your local public library may provide one or more of the following:

- picture books, large print books and story CDs
- rhymetime sessions for babies and toddlers and reading groups for older children and young people
- activities such as the Summer Reading Challenge
- computers equipped with accessible technology such as speech and magnification software – great for school projects and homework or just surfing the internet for fun.



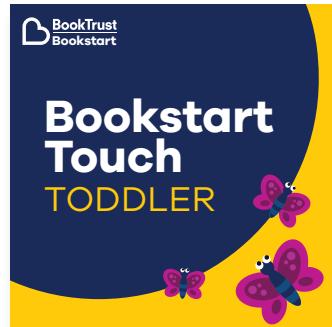
# About this leaflet

This leaflet has been developed by **BookTrust**

With thanks to RNIB

To find out more about BookTrust, visit  
**booktrust.org.uk**

It's likely you received this leaflet in one of the packs below. To find out which additional free Bookstart packs you are eligible for, contact your local health visitor, library or children's centre.



**Bookstart Touch Baby Pack**

**Bookstart Touch Toddler Pack**



[booktrust.org.uk](http://booktrust.org.uk)

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