

Disability Register Summer Events in Libraries

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Disability Register Newsletter



Welcome to a special SEND edition to the Summer Reading Challenge!



The Library SEND team is super excited for the launch of **Story Garden**, the [Summer Reading Challenge](#) this weekend!

To ensure no one misses out on the fun we're hosting a brilliant line-up of free activities in libraries this summer, designed especially for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and disabilities, and their families.

Not sure what the Summer Reading Challenge is? Check out this animation to discover what **Story Garden** is all about! 📖

[Watch our animation](#)

The **Summer Reading Challenge** is more than reading traditional books and we'd love all children and young people to take part whatever their ability. This could be through exploring comics or graphic novels, reading e-books (there are some great audiobooks

ready to be downloaded on [BorrowBox](#) with no waiting lists!), or by completing 'Extra Mile Book Quests' to reach their reading target.

Challenges include listening to an audiobook, enjoying wordless picture books with a family member or friend, or attending a SEND-friendly activity at the library - and we have lots on offer!

Sensory stories, creative crafts and hours of fun!

If you are not sure whether the Challenge is for your child, why not join us at one of our **relaxed sign-up sessions**?



You can learn more about Story Garden and get ideas from the Library SEND team on reading challenges. We'll have Construction Club materials out to play with, crafts for those children who love to doodle, and our sensory den with toys will be available throughout the morning.

Children and young people who join the Challenge at these sessions will receive their collector's sticker booklet and their first sticker for attending the event. The more books or challenges they complete, the more stickers they receive. There is even an extra special reward once they reach the half-way point of the challenge! 🍕

There is no need to pre-book, just drop-in to the following libraries to take part:

🌸 [Crawley Library](#) Wednesday 30 July 10.00am – 1.00pm

🌸 [Worthing Library](#) Tuesday 5 August 10.00am - 1.00pm

These are free events and suitable for all ages - we hope to see you there!

[Relaxed sign-up sessions](#)

Are you sitting comfortably? Then we'll begin...

The Library SEND team believe strongly in the power of story telling and want every child to have the opportunity to experience the joy sharing a story can bring.

We are running several **multi-sensory Storytime sessions** throughout the holidays. During these sessions we bring the story to life through props and objects that engage the senses, and children and young people are encouraged to participate in the story as much as they like.

These are such fun events!



Following on from the Storytime there will be a sensory craft activity linked to the theme of Story Garden.

Please note, items that are taste safe will be used to build the sensory craft. All ingredients will be listed and available to view prior to the start of the activity.

This is suitable for all ages but families must pre-book as spaces are limited.

Find us at the following locations:

🌸 [East Grinstead Library](#) Thursday 24 July 10.30am - 12.00pm

🌸 [Midhurst Library](#) Friday 15 August 10.30am - 12.00pm

Contact the library to book your place today!

[Multi-sensory Storytime and craft activities](#)

Ready... set... build!



No holiday programme is complete without creative play. We're hosting some **SEND-friendly Construction Clubs** and we'll have our range of Lego sets, Magnetic tiles, Sticklebricks and Duplo available.

Children and young people can be creative as they like - perhaps they'll build a towering sunflower? Or a buzzing bee? Or they might like to build one of pre-organised packs following step-by-step instructions?

However they like to play, you'll find us at the following libraries this summer:

🌱 [Selsey Library](#) Wednesday 13 August 2.15 - 3.15pm

🌱 [Billingshurst Library](#) Tuesday 26 August 2.15 - 3.45pm

Suitable for ages 4+ families must pre-book as spaces are limited. Contact the library to book a place.

[SEND-friendly Construction Clubs](#)

The fun just keeps on growing! 🌹

Our lovely colleagues in the Library Service have some brilliant events coming up suitable for older children.

Join award winning author **Kathy Evans** for a brand new character workshop where you'll learn how to create believable characters and make them really come alive in your stories! Kathy has worked in BBC educational programming and is a popular speaker in schools and at festivals.



Suitable for children aged 7-12 years this is a free event but pre-booking is essential.



[Chichester Library](#) Tuesday 19 August 10.00 - 11.00am

[Kathy Evans workshop](#)



Calling all young people aged 11-17 years old
- **Crafternoons** are coming to a library near you!

Take part in some relaxed crafts and activities including collage, Lego, making friendship bracelets and more.



Sessions will be taking place [Haywards Heath](#), [Bognor Regis](#), [Lancing](#) and [Crawley](#) libraries!

These are free events but places must be pre-booked via Eventbrite.

[Book your Crafternoon session here](#)

For those days when you just don't know what to do, keep in mind drop-in **Junk Modelling** sessions at the library.

Taking place at multiple locations across the county, these sessions are a great way for children and young people to be creative (and recycle at the same time!).



Suitable for children aged 4+ these are free and there is no need to pre-book.

[Find a Junk Modelling session near you](#)

Want even more activities? There are over 80 Summer Reading Challenge events happening in libraries!

[View our schedule of activities here](#)

Don't forget about our regular activities... they don't stop for the Summer!



Our regular multi-sensory Storytime sessions, **Story Magic**, continue throughout the school holidays, as does **Construction Club**!

Did you know new Construction Clubs now happen at [East Preston](#), [Horsham](#), and [Lancing](#) libraries?

These sessions, for children aged 4 and over, are perfect for getting creative and building imaginations!

As well as Story Magic and Construction Clubs, libraries offer many free special activities during the summer holidays including:

🌻 [Family fun days](#) (the Library SEND team will be attending Bognor Regis's session with our dark den and sensory toys - come and say hi!)

🌻 [Library of Possibilities and Wonder VR headset sessions](#) and 3D sticker hunt

🌻 Plus, lots of regular activities including rhyme times, story times, board game sessions and more

🌻 You can even borrow [toys for free](#)

[Discover our regular Children's activities here](#)

The Local Offer

The **Local Offer** report that families have said it is difficult to know what is happening in the holidays for families and young people with SEND. So, they have developed a [Local Offer Summer Holiday SEND events and activities page](#).

SEND
Local Offer
WEST SUSSEX

Whenever they find out about inclusive events and activities in August, they will add them to the Local Offer page and let you know via [Local Offer Facebook](#).

Let them know about any events coming up in your area by emailing localoffer@westsussex.gov.uk and they will add them to the page.

However you spend your holidays, we hope you enjoy them and we look forward to seeing you at a library this Summer. ☀️



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