

Ways of reading

Finding books for children and young people who are blind or partially sighted

Do you know a child who finds it hard to read ordinary print? This guide will help you find the right reading material for pleasure, information or school work.



Children's reading services

Books open up a world of imagination and adventure for children and young people. Reading for pleasure is an essential part of growing up.

Many of the organisations listed can provide help and advice about reading; there may also be a local society for blind and partially sighted people in your area to offer support. Some services are free, others may charge a modest fee.

Further information and links to other relevant organisations which offer help for children, parents, schools and libraries can be found on RNIB's website at rnib.org.uk/reading



Large print books

NBCS 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.

Tel: 01278 76 47 64 nbcs.org.uk

RNIB provides giant print leisure titles in 24 point type for loan and has large print dictionaries and electronic books for sale.

Tel: 0303 123 9999 rnib.org.uk

24 point
type looks
like this

The **Large Print Bookshop** sells over 20,000 fiction and non-fiction titles in 16 point type (like this leaflet).

Tel: 01763 25 26 87 largeprintbookshop.co.uk

The **Seeing Ear** offers books that can be downloaded by blind and partially sighted individuals or by their parents and teachers.

seeingear.org



Braille, Moon and tactile books

ClearVision lends dual format braille/print and Moon/print books and tactile books to enable adults and children to share reading. Titles are suitable for pre-schoolers, children learning to read and newly fluent readers.

Tel: 020 8789 9575 clearvisionproject.org

RNIB provides braille books and sheet music to borrow or buy, for learners and fluent readers. They also sell braille magazines, print/braille shared reading books and tactile books.

Tel: 0303 123 9999 rnib.org.uk

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

Tel: 020 7627 0444 bagbooks.org

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

Tel: 01635 29 97 71

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.

Tel: 01296 43 23 39

youngcalibre.org.uk



RNIB provides DAISY audio books and magazines on CD for loan and to buy, while their BookStream subscription service offers access to books online. Library membership includes access to online reference sources such as newspapers, magazines, dictionaries and reference books.

Tel: 0303 123 9999 **rnib.org.uk**

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.

Tel: 01435 86 61 02 **tnauk.org.uk**

Cue and Review provides national magazines including More and Kerrang on tape and CD and as audio downloads through their website.

Tel: 0141 563 0306 **cueandreview.org.uk**

Advice and guidance

RNIB and Action for Blind People offer advice and support to families, children and young people (aged 0 to 25 years) and the professionals who work with them. To find your local support team, telephone the Helpline.

Tel: 0303 123 9999 **rnib.org.uk**
actionforblindpeople.org.uk/children



NBCS offers advice and practical help through its family support and information service; educational advocacy; ICT and specialist sensory equipment; and recreational activities.

Tel: 01278 76 47 64 / 0800 781 1444 **nbc.org.uk**

LOOK The National Federation of Families with VI Children 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.

Tel: 0121 428 5038 **look-uk.org**

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

Tel: 01908 67 21 63 **victa.org.uk**

Visit your local library

By visiting your local library together you can introduce children 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, rhyme time sessions and storytelling
- reading groups and activities such as the National Summer Reading Challenge where blind and partially sighted children can join in the fun with sighted friends
- CCTVs and computers equipped with access technology such as speech and magnification software – great for school projects and homework or just surfing the net for fun.

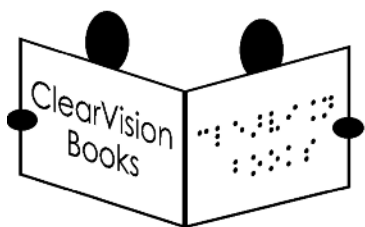


About this leaflet

This guide is a co-operative venture by **Calibre Audio Library, ClearVision Project, National Blind Children's Society (NBCS)** and **Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB)**.

Further copies in print, braille or on CD can be obtained from RNIB on **0303 123 9999** or online at **rnib.org.uk/shop**

This leaflet can also be downloaded from RNIB's website at **rnib.org.uk/waysofreading**



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