



Welcome to the Carer's Toolkit

(Please contact Lisa D'Onofrio if you would like an illustrated, full colour printed copy of this toolkit)

Dear Carers

Thank you for all you are already achieving in helping the children in your care to read, improve their reading and enjoy reading. This pack was developed after consultation with Carers, and aims to offer you support with encouraging the children in your care to read, and to promote reading as an enjoyable and fun activity.

¹“Reading is so important for fostered children because it is the gateway for learning...Reading is something the foster carer and child can do together. It encourages shared experience and challenges isolation.”

According to Susan Blishen of the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, encouraging fostered children to read is crucially important in improving their life chances.

Two of the most important things you can do to improve the literacy of the child in your care are:

- Read aloud to them. Whatever their age, whatever you read, reading aloud has been proven to engage children with reading.
- Be a reading role model. Don't just tell a child to read – let them see you read. It doesn't have to be fiction either; you can read a magazine or the newspaper. Just let your child know you enjoy doing it!

Please note that where ages are given in this pack, these are guidelines only. You need to decide what is appropriate for the child in your care.

Most books mentioned in this guide are available at your library.

¹ Patrick McCurry

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The kit also contains:

Carers Collection booklist

About Your Library leaflet

What Libraries can offer

Access to a suitable and appropriate range of reading and support materials may be difficult for many looked after children and this is where the Library comes in.

- It's easy and free to join; just bring proof of your name and address and something with your signature on it to any Norfolk Library, and complete a simple application form. You will be given your Norlink membership card, which you can use straight away. Alternatively, you can join online at www.library.norfolk.gov.uk – just fill in a form on screen, and your membership card will be sent to you in the post. A child in your care may have received a book pack recently (these book packs are sent to all newly accommodated children after their second review). If you have received one of these, please bring the new library card in the pack to your local library to register it there. Usually any previous fines the child may have incurred have been deleted, so each child receiving a pack can start afresh.
- No one is too young to join!
- Libraries have changed! They aim to be welcoming to all comers

If the child in your care has fines from previous placements etc, please contact our Stock Recovery Officer on 01603 22 3498 who will endeavour to sort it out for you.

Libraries can offer a whole range of experiences to encourage reading and to make reading enjoyable:

Pre-school, young children babies and carers

- Books to suit everyone; board books, picture books, flap books, noisy books, touchy feely books
- Story sacks are large cloth bags containing a storybook and resources, such as soft toys, games and musical instruments, which help to develop and extend the story in different ways. In most cases you will need to order your storysack through your local library from our central collection.
- Relaxing areas with toys and cushions
- Story and Rhyme times
- Regular special events and activities
- Books on many aspects of childcare, including starting school, sleep problems, nutrition, behavioural issues, special needs...
- Stories on tape and CD
- Large selection of children's videos and DVDs (which you could pair with an appropriate book) (There is a small charge for these)

Young People

- Huge range of story and information books including sports books to help develop and improve skills
- Homework books and study support both online and from staff
- PCs with free internet, email and access to learning sites. PCs have MSOffice software to enable the preparation and illustration of work, with staff on hand to help.
- Magazines
- Graphic novels including The Simpsons, Discworld, Manga and many more
- PlayStation games and DVDs - selected libraries (there is a small charge for these)

- Short Reads – to encourage children just beginning to read and enable them to develop as readers
- Many libraries offer book groups for children and young people
- Participation in great promotions like the Summer Reading Challenge, the Norfolk Libraries Children's Book Award and competitions.

Diversity/Multicultural

- Dual language picture books
- Foreign language books, tapes and CDs

Childcare Collections (Carers Collections)

- As part of the Opening Doors Project jointly developed by Norfolk County Council Children's Services and Library and Information Service six collections of books specifically covering issues relating to the care of Looked after Children have been purchased, after consultation with carers. These books have been placed as part of the Childcare Collections at the Earlham, Gorleston, King's Lynn, Long Statton, Attleborough and North Walsham Libraries.
- This collection is constantly being updated, and we are aiming to place more collections around the County. If you'd like to borrow a book, but cannot get to the relevant libraries, simply place a request, and for a small charge the book will be sent to a library of your choice.
- If you would like to know what is currently in the collections, please see the list in this pack

Special Needs

- There is also a minimum of 1 "assistive" computer in each library that has additional software for editing photos, scanning and for screen magnification and for text to speech services.
- Multi sensory stories (Bag Books.) These are stories, told interactively, through actions and emotions rather than words and pictures, so they are perfect for anyone with a low developmental age, SLD, PMLD, those on the autistic spectrum, and those with language delay. They also work well with younger mainstream children with sensory impairment. They can be requested by contacting the Young People's Services Librarian on 01603 222270 and they can be sent to any library (including mobiles) to be collected.
- Audio Books. Besides the usual spoken word tapes/CD's we also have some tapes and large print books 'Read-Along' packaged together to enable children to use a range of senses to access books.
- Makaton. We stock some Makaton items and some 'baby signing' titles.
- Braille. We buy into the 'Clear Vision' scheme which enables us to access a small number of picture books which have a Braille overlay to each page allowing blind/partially sighted family members to enjoy sharing stories with the rest of the family

Resources and activities for children and young people

There are huge amounts of resources out there all aimed at children to get them to read, and to enjoy it. You'll find relevant information on the internet and in books. Or ask the child's teacher, nursery nurse or your local librarian for advice. They should be willing to help.

Preschoolers

BBC Story Circle: Lots of fun for pre-schoolers. You can read stories, try out different games and puzzles, colour-in, join the story circle book group and enter competitions.

www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/storycircle

5-12 year olds

<http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/> as recommended by community librarian Eileen Brock. This site is great –create your own customised word searches, mazes and puzzles.

Guaranteed to get the most reluctant child involved in words!

Try the Big Toe Radio Show (BBC 7): Listen to the latest novels and find out more about your favourite authors. You can of course listen live on BBC7 each morning.

www.bbc.co.uk/bbc7/bigtoe/books

<http://www.y2.norfolk.gov.uk/> is for 5 to 11 year olds and contains information about What's On at libraries, the latest books they libraries have bought, the Norfolk Children's Book Award and competitions.

Teenage

<http://www.teenage.norfolk.gov.uk/> is for teenagers and contains information about new books, films and games. You also get the chance to say what books should be consigned to the bin!

<http://www.readingrants.org/> Out of the ordinary teen book lists!

<http://www.teenreads.com/index.asp> bring teens info and features about their favorite authors, books, series and characters. It has a 'cool and new' section as well as a 'books into movies' section.

<http://www.bookheads.org.uk/> Fiction for teenagers and information about the Booktrust Teenage Prize.

<http://www.encompassculture.com/> At enCompass you can chat with leading authors, read the blog and Author interviews, join discussion boards and take part in a Readers' Quiz. You can also receive recommendations from the reviews on the site or from their Online Reader in Residence.

All ages

www.storiesfromtheweb.org This website covers ages 0-7, 8-10 and 11-14, each age group has a dedicated homepage tailored to their abilities and interests. The 11-14 page has sections on writing tips; a gallery where you can have your own written work displayed; a virtual bookshop; a section where you can share your views on books you've read; there is an author zone where you can read interviews and biographies on various authors; and an interactive section with games, competitions, discussions and more.

<http://www.rif.org/readingplanet/> Reading is fundamental site.

A cool site with activities for 3 to 14 year olds. Try your hand at the Supermarket Spree game, or write a poem using Poetry Splatter!

<http://www.candlelightstories.com/Stories.php> Original children's stories, movies, games, comics, music, animation and links to recommendations for children's stories and illustrated entertainment on the Web

Additional activities to encourage reading and creativity

- Is the child in your care partial to one particular author or illustrator? Look them up on the web and check out their websites. Email them or write to them – you never know, they might get a reply!
- Does the child in your care have a favourite TV show? Most shows have associated websites, and some of these websites have good literacy activities on them. For example, the Comic maker on the Dr Who website.
- Using magnetic letters and have a Word of the Week on the refrigerator. Maybe give a reading related reward to those who can give the definition or use it in a sentence.
- Encourage older children to read to younger children.
- Have children draw maps of fantasy worlds such as Prydain, Droon, Narnia, Mount Olympus, Hogwarts or Middle Earth.
- Encourage younger children to participate in The Summer Reading Game at your library or older children to join a book group.
- Celebrate World Book Day, National Poetry Day, National Storytelling Week, Bedtime Reading Week etc by having a themed tea and reading to each other. For a list of these days go to: www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/customs/questions/specialdays.htm
- Ask children to write and illustrate the weekly shopping list.

Reluctant Readers

There are different types of reluctant readers – for example those who can read but don't enjoy it and those who find reading so difficult that they avoid it whenever they can. It may be helpful to identify which group the child in your care belongs to, so you can deal with it appropriately. In order to encourage a child to read you'll need:

- * A subject that interests the child
- * Something that they CAN read (remember that so called 'easy' books can be wonderful.)

Below are a number of tips that may help to encourage reluctant readers:

- **Try a book without words**

Wordless picture books can be used to build up the self-esteem of a struggling reader and can teach visual literacy, sequencing and prediction. They also can help children associate books with pleasure, not pain. A wordless book stretches the imagination, allowing children to explore language through design and illustration. And they are not just for little ones – try Raymond Briggs's *The Snowman* and *The Arrival* by Shaun Tan.

- **Talk about words**

Talking about reading is one of the most effective ways of developing readers. Children begin to see the processes of understanding at work, and they will realise that all kinds of interpretation can exist for one text, that readings are different. They will also begin to learn that a book often does not reveal its full meaning on the first reading.

- **Reading does not have to mean fiction**

There are all sorts of alternatives that you can use to encourage children and teenagers to get interested in reading - comics, instructions for computer games, packaging, TV guides - anything you like.

You can read and discuss newspapers, information books or catalogues. The trick is to pick something that will help them pursue something they are interested in. For example, if they are interested in a particular footballer or singer, space or fashion, there are many fascinating and well-illustrated factual books around.

Buy them a magazine about their hobby - even though the text may be pitched at an adult reader, you can encourage them to read it with you. Or if you find an interesting newspaper article, ask them to read it and then ask their opinion on it.

Find a joke or riddle book and have it handy in the car. When driving to errands, pull the book out and ask the child to ask you some riddles or tell you some jokes.

- **Use different strategies**

Schools use different reading strategies, from individual silent reading to shared and guided activities. You can do the same. You can read out loud to each other (having fun doing silly voices) or even do a performance.

- **If a child in your care sees a movie that he really likes, go to the library, bookshop or online and find a book about it**

Movie tie-ins are books that are written based on a children's movie. Usually the movie is just released or an old favourite. Every Disney movie for example has a book tie-in. You can also try to entice a child to read a book by encouraging them to listen to the audio version – many popular movies (*High School Musical* for example) have audio CDs and simplified book packages available.

- **Listen to music together**

Read the lyric sheets together (found with the CD or online) – and make up new lyrics. This works for younger children too, e.g. in the car you can have lots of fun by re-writing nursery rhymes for example.

- **Get poetical!**

Poems are often short with lots of white space on the page. This makes them manageable for new readers and helps to build their confidence. There's a huge range of poetry books out there – some good one to start with are:

- * 100 Best Poems for Children (Puffin Poetry) by Roger McGough
- * Rhymes, riddles and nonsense by Dr. Seuss
- * Essential poems for children: first aid for frantic parents ed Daisy Goodwin
- * Nonsense Verse by Lewis Carroll
- * Michael Rosen's Book of Nonsense by Michael Rosen

Some helpful poetry sites are <http://www.poetrylibrary.org.uk/?flash=yes> - write your own poem then send it to a friend! www.bbc.co.uk/education/listenandwrite is good for younger children.

- **Try creative writing**

Writing gives the opportunity to articulate experience, and goes hand in hand with reading. Some children take to writing before they take to reading. And when they write, of course they read.

- * Ask children to copy out their favourite recipe, then follow it together when making it. They can also write a menu to describe dinner!
- * Write a fantasy shopping list with the children. Encourage them to be as silly as they like!
- * Remember emails and text messaging. They are here to stay, and are a valid form of communication.
- * Ask the children to design and write a card – make up an occasion
- * Encourage children to email their favourite footballer or pop star – they might not get a reply but they will learn about research.

Look at this site for some great tips:

www.bbc.co.uk/wales/schoolgate/helpfromhome/content/better-writing.shtml

Read writing by children from all over the world; visit the Monster Motel and the Kids Castle on this site <http://kotn.ntu.ac.uk>

- **Explore the world of graphic novels.**
- **Don't force a child to finish a book when reading for leisure. They might go back to it at some stage, but life's too short to read a book for pleasure that you don't like!**

Resources for Carers - Supporting the children in your care

Websites

The National Literacy Trust – www.literacytrust.org.uk

The National Literacy Trust links home, school and the wider community to inspire learners and create opportunities for everyone. Their website is a one stop shop for any issues regarding literacy including good solid advice for families.

Booktrust – www.booktrusted.com

This web site is managed by 'Booktrust' to help teachers, librarians and parents find out about books for young people. It includes guide to the best books for under fives to teenagers and a searchable database of more than 2,500 children's books, all of which are reviewed and categorised by reading age and interest level

Bookstart – www.bookstart.co.uk

Bookstart is a national scheme offering free books to every child and advice to every parent. "It encourages parents and carers to share books with children from a very early age and is based on the belief that it's never too soon to share books with babies and that children introduced to books at an early age start school with an advantage that can last throughout their life"

Achuka – www.achuka.co.uk

"Keep in touch with the latest children's books...Find out more about how your favourite authors and illustrators work...Get the latest lowdown on award winners and publisher scoops...The Chock-Full, Eyes-Peeled, Independent Children's Books Site that has something for everyone..."

BBC - http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/parents/work/primary/literacy/reading_help.shtm

Practical advice from the BBC to help with children's reading. You can also access worksheets and literacy activities.

Reading Aloud – <http://www.memfox.com/reading-magic-and-do-it-like-this/#>

Get inspired to read aloud. Listen or read here...

Family Reading – <http://www.familyreading.org/docs/WordPlay.pdf>

Interesting ideas on how to incorporate literacy enhancing play activities

Reading Rockets – <http://www.readingrockets.org/articles/385>

Ideas and activities to enrich reading time including reading children's magazines together and acting out poems.

Helping your child to learn –

<http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Parents/Schoolslearninganddevelopment/HelpingYourChildToLearn/index.htm> Hints and tips on helping the child in your care improve their literacy.

Books to look out for:

The reading bug: and how you can help the child in your care child to catch it by Paul Jennings

Jennings explains in a clear and humorous style how you can open the world through a love of books. He has cut through the jargon and the controversies to reveal the simple truths, which will enable every parent to infect their child with the reading bug.

Great Books to Read Aloud is a guide for all parents to brilliant books they can share with their children, with selections made by children's books experts and booksellers.

Support for Carers

If you yourself aren't comfortable with reading, there are plenty of places where support is at hand:

RaW is the BBC's biggest ever campaign that aims to help adults across the UK read and write better. If you have kids and you'd like to help them read better, or you'd like to read them better stories, RaW can help. Phone their free and confidential helpline on 0800 0150 950 or visit their website www.bbc.co.uk/raw for further information or if you'd like a copy of their free storytelling pack, full of things to do with primary age children.

If you want to improve your own literacy, you could also contact learndirect at <http://catalogue.learndirect.co.uk> or call 0800 100 900. They offer a wide range of free courses too, and can give advice about funding and childcare.

Develop your own reading

Research shows that children who see significant adults read are more likely to read themselves.

whichbook.net is a fun new resource for readers. Instead of starting with book titles or authors, readers start with themselves. "I want a book that is short, very romantic and a bit sad" or "I'd like a challenging book, that's easy to read that's also funny", the site enables 20 million different combinations of factors and then suggests titles that most closely match reader's needs. www.whichbook.net

www.crimetime.co.uk is an online magazine that includes interviews, features and reviews.

'reader2reader' is a new website from the 'People's Network' which allows readers to share their opinions about the books that they love and hate. Visit it at <http://www.reader2reader.net/>

Rate a book that you've just read, and the site will recommend others to you at www.storycode.com

www.fantasticfiction.co.uk is a quick and easy to use checklist of titles published by popular authors. It is very good for checking sequels lists, and for seeing a chronological listing of books published.

Reading With Special Needs Children

"It is our own negative attitudes and the negatives attitudes of those around us that hold us back. This is true of all children from all backgrounds and with all kinds of impairments. Read to children no matter how unresponsive or negative they may appear to be. If you can take the time to find the stories and pictures to inspire you both it will never be a waste of time."

Ann Young, Disability Equality Consultant

Here is a brief guide to some resources available:

Websites

In The Picture aims to promote the inclusion of disabled children in early years' picture books
<http://childreninthepicture.org.uk/>

If you are looking for advice or information on special educational needs try
<http://inclusion.ngfl.gov.uk/index.php?i=1>

Carefully selected books, including the 'Like Me, Like You' titles, to help teaching reading to children with autistic spectrum disorder and other special needs:
<http://www.sensetoys.com/OEEMLDRRAG>

Booktouch is a Bookstart pack for blind and partially sighted babies and children aged birth to four years. The pack was designed by Booktrust with advice from RNIB and ClearVision. For more details call 0870 0002288, email info@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk or write to them at: Early Years Extended Schools and Special Needs Group, Department for Children, Schools and Families Level 2, Caxton House, Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NA

Bookstart has also produced a new pack called Bookshine, which offers free books and information specifically designed to suit deaf children's needs. The pack is aimed at parents/carers of deaf children aged 0-5 years. It includes a touch and feel book and a book featuring simple British Sign Language (BSL) signs and an image of a child with a hearing aid, as it is important that deaf children see themselves in books. As for Booktouch, ask your health visitor or your library for a pack.

There is an article about Deaf children and reading at www.literacytrust.org.uk/Pubs/stern.htm

At <http://clerccenter.gallaudet.edu/Literacy/srp/15princ.html> you can find the principles for reading with Deaf children from American researchers.

Books

Helping Children with Reading and Spelling: A Special Needs Manual by Rea Reason

Teaching Reading to Children with Downs Syndrome: A Guide for Parents and Teachers by Patricia Logan Oelwein

Booklet about understanding learning disabilities available online at <http://www.mind.org.uk/Information/Booklets/Understanding/Understanding+learning+disabilities.htm> or from Mind on 08457 660 163

If you suspect a child in your care has Dyslexia, you can contact the British Dyslexia Association on helpline@bdadyslexia.org.uk or 0118 966 8271.

For a list of resources go to www.channel4.com/life/microsites/D/dyslexia/finding

Positive portrayals of disability in books

Susan Laughs by Jeanne Willis and Tony Ross

An endearing picture book, which expresses a message of equality.

Friends at School by Rochelle Bunnet with photographs by Matt Brown

Letang's New Friend / Letang and Julie Save the Day / Trouble for Letang and Julie by Beverley Naidoo, illustrated by Petra Rohr-Rouendaal

Last reviewed: October 2008

Reviewed by: Lisa D'Onofrio

Entertaining and realistic stories about everyday life.

Rainbow Joe and Me by Maria Diaz Strom

In this colourful book a child learns about the power of imagination from her blind neighbour.

Seal Surfer By Michael Foreman

This book touches on themes such as the passing away of a grandparent. The main character happens to be disabled but this isn't mentioned in the book.

We'll Paint the Octopus Red by Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen

When her father breaks the news to her that her new baby brother Isaac has Down's syndrome, Emma worries that the new baby won't be able to do all those exciting things they had planned on. Through the eyes of a child, Emma's father quickly comes to terms with the fact that their lives, as a family and for Isaac, can still be rich and memories can still be made. The sequel, The Best Worst Brother looks at how Emma and Isaac's relationship evolves.

Happy Ever Afters by Kathy Saunders

A storybook guide to teaching children about disability – see <http://web.ukonline.co.uk/happyeverafters/>

Brian Has Dyslexia by Jenny Leigh and Woody Fox

One of the Doctor Spot titles, this book contains an advice section at the back.

All Kinds of Bodies by Emma Brownjohn

Illustrates the fact that underneath our external differences we are really all the same.

The Okay Book by Todd Parr

This fun little book encourages children that everything from wearing glasses to having freckles is okay.

A Bookstart booklet **Finding Inclusive Books** offers a list that aims to help you to find early years books showing positive images of disability, as well as titles that may prove useful in discussing disability and diversity. You can view the booklet online at www.bookstart.co.uk or to order copies please contact your local Bookstart scheme coordinator.

More books (including books for children of all ages) can also be found on Booktrust's "Bookmark" website at www.bookmark.org.uk

Boys and Reading

In 2005, Government figures showed that 51% of 11-year-old boys reached the expected level 4 in reading, writing and maths, compared with 63% of 11-year-old girls. Whatever the reason for the discrepancy between boys and girls levels of reading there are ways to encourage boys (and girls!) to read:

- Leave books and magazines lying around the house.
- For those boys who fear being teased, reading may be essentially private. Respect that he may not want to talk about everything he reads or be praised for reading (depending, of course, on the child).
- Subscribe to a magazine that might interest him.
- Encourage significant adults to give books as presents. When giving presents you might combine a book with another interest, such as a basketball and a basketball book.
- Let the child make choices at the library or bookshop, and don't criticise his interests. Let him pick books that are too easy but may be comforting, or books that are too hard but have interesting pictures or photographs. It's also important to let him explore various topics, even if they don't fit stereotypical male interests, without being teased.
- Recognise that reading about information is as legitimate as reading novels. Acknowledge this fact when he follows written instructions for a hobby or reads the sports pages.
- Some children love acquiring facts or trivia, and especially enjoy the Guinness Book of World Records, the World Almanac, or sports almanacs, just for the fun of browsing through them.
- Add props to your reading of a picture-story book. Get a squirt gun or set of Groucho Marx glasses for reading Chester's Way, or an eye patch for Tough Boris.
- Read a novel together that has been made into a video such as Bridge to Terabithia or James and the Giant Peach. Watch the video and compare the two.
- Explore the world of graphic novels. Graphic novels are classified into genres, such as superhero, fantasy, science fiction, historical, action/adventure, realistic fiction, Manga (Japanese comics), and humour. You'll find familiar favourites such as Batman and The Simpsons, and traditional tales like Treasure Island as well as contemporary stories.

Some items modified from an article by Kathleen Bodean

Tried and Tested Books for Boys

"A good book for a boy is one he wants to read."

5-7 year olds

The Story of the Little Mole who knew it was none of his business by Werner Holzworth / Wolf Erlbruch

One of my all time favourites.

The Giggler Treatment by Roddy Doyle

Irreverent book with a plot based around dog poo....

The Twits by Roald Dahl

In fact just about anything by this great man is inspirational.

Robin of Sherwood by Michael Morpugo

An intelligent re-telling of this classic story

Last reviewed: October 2008

Reviewed by: Lisa D'Onofrio

Horrid Henry by Francesca Simon

Any one of the series about the downright horrid Henry appeals –and they are also available on tape and CD.

Where's Wally by Martin Handford

Another classic, that doesn't make a child feel like they are 'reading.'

Puzzle Pyramid by Suzanna Leigh

One of a series that includes Puzzle Palace, Puzzle School and Puzzle Car Race.

The Bugalugs Bum Thief by Tim Winton

The Bugalugs Bum Thief tells the hysterical story of the country town of Bugalugs where, one morning, the inhabitants wake up to discover their bottoms are missing!

Goosebumps by R I Stine

A selection of spine tingling horror stories, look at the great website to be inspired

Hairy Tales and Nursery Crimes by Michael Rosen

A mixture of rhyme and prose. What does Jack find at the top of the Tinstalk? Why does Hansel and Gretel's father go out nutting wood? And will the Silly Ghost Gruff ever get across the fridge?

Horrible Histories by Terry Deary

Boys seem to love these, which are great to dip in and out of.

8-12 year olds

The Stinky Cheese Man and other Fairly Stupid Tales by Jon Scieszka & Lane Smith is a collection of twisted, humorous parodies of famous children's stories and fairy tales.

Bobby the Bad by Dick King-Smith

Hardly a day goes by when Miss Fox doesn't have to punish Bobby for something. But Bobby doesn't seem to care...

A Book of Very Short Stories by Kevin Crossley-Holland

No story is longer than two pages long and there are stories about ghosts, supermarkets, animals, adventures, and all kinds of things.

Anything by the authors Paul Jennings and Morris Gleitzman

Also look out for Graphic Novels and familiar stories such as The Hobbit or Treasure Island in comic book form. Tin Tin and Asterix are still popular choices.

Captain Hawk and the Stone of Destiny by Jim Eldridge

One from the excellent Graffix series.

Ripley's Believe it or Not

Take a look at the world's weirdest facts! You could ask the child to pick out a different one every day..

12 and over

The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole aged 13 and 3/4 by Sue Townsend
The classic teenage angst diary

Truckers, Johnny and the Dead, The Disc World series by Terry Pratchett
Pratchett was the UK's best selling author in the 90s

Boffin Boy and the Invaders from Space (Boffin Boy) by David Orme
The Boffin Boy series of 12 books is designed for young, independent readers, as well as struggling readers aged 8 to 14. The use of speech bubbles and a simplified Manga style ensure that the books have simple language and low word counts that are ideal for lower reading ages. The first six books in the series have a reading age of 6-7 and the second six have a higher reading age of 7-8.

Keeper by Mal Peet
Sparse but powerful prose for the football mad.

Disgusting Dictionary by Tracey Turner
The Disgusting Dictionary is a collection of all the rude, horrible and fascinatingly foul words you can imagine, and a few more besides.

How to Spot a Hadrosaur in a Bus Queue by Andy Seed
A book made up of silly and sensible lists.

Notes From a Small Island by Bill Bryson
Funny and thoughtful travel guide for those who like non-fiction.

The Journal of Danny Chaucer (Poet) by Roger Stevens
Teenage diary (in verse!), which is easy to read and tells a good story.

For more articles, booklists and information on this topic see:
<http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/Database/boys/Boysres.html#booklists>

Go to www.guysread.com for a fun way to discover new books for boys.

Books featuring young people who are in care

Returnable Girl by Pamela Lowell

Beast by Ally Keenan

Ruby Holler by Sharon Creech

Georgie by Malachy Doyle

The Tracy Beaker series by Jacqueline Wilson

The Golly in the Cupboard by Phil Frampton

The Looked-After Kid: Memoirs from a Children's Home by Paolo Hewitt

A Forever Family: A Story of Adoption by John Houghton

You Don't Know Me by David Klass

Bloodletting by Victoria Leatham

Stuart: A Life Backwards by Alexander Masters

A Child Called "It" by Dave Pelzer

A Man Called Dave by Dave Pelzer

Star by John Singleton

Love Child by Sue Elliott

Foster Kid: A Liverpoolian Childhood by Paul Barber

Poetry by Lemm Sissay, for example Emperor's Watchmaker

Beautiful Child by Torey Hayden

Just Another Kid by Torey Hayden

Books about Tupac Shakur and Goldie

Please also see the attached Carer's Collection lists, which contain relevant titles for carers, young people and children in care.

"Books for Caring" is a booklet that contains lists of books relevant to children in care. Topics include adoption and fostering and bereavement. This is available in the Carers' Collection or please contact me if you'd like a copy.

"A Helping Hand" is a booklet that contains lists of books that deal with specific issues. Topics include adoption and fostering and family break up and step families. Please contact me if you'd like a copy.

Some of the information above came from a list compiled by Paul Robinson

Homework Support Websites

General

www.bbc.co.uk/ Search across broad range of subject areas

www.bbc.co.uk/education/home/ Lots of subjects, easy to find

www.bbc.co.uk/learning/ Online learning support and advice

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ Lots of resources for all ages and subjects including revision guide and games

www.channel4.com/learning For topical issues and subject revision

www.homeworkelephant.co.uk/ Over 5000 carefully selected resources to assist with homework problems

www.homeworkhelper.co.uk Search by keyword for any topic

www.homeworkhigh.co.uk Channel 4's learning website for primary and secondary students

www.kevinsplayroom.co.uk/ Homework site for children

www.livinglibrary.co.uk/ Features exciting multimedia content on all subjects; select primary or secondary section.

www.schoolzone.co.uk/resources/webguide/search/index.asp Search by key word, age range and subject for web links to educational sites

www.s-cool.co.uk Site dedicated to school students

www.topmarks.co.uk/ Good homework site, indicating age range for which information is suitable.

www.yahooligans.com Search engine for children and young people, with links to homework sites, including subject index and recent headlines.

<http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/KidsClick!/> A database of over 6400 sites compiled by Librarians providing access to a huge area of subjects

English

www.channel4.com/learning/microsites/B/bookbox/home.htm

Compiled by Derby County Council

This toolkit was written and compiled by Lisa D'Onofrio for Norfolk County Council Library and Children's Services. Please contact her with any queries on 01603 222603 or lisa.d'onofrio@norfolk.gov.uk