



How to . . .

Choose Library Material for Your Children

Our library collections include books that appeal to a wide range of tastes, needs and values, but not every book is appropriate for every child. Children's interests and abilities vary widely, and maturity and comprehension increase at different rates in every child.

Librarians throughout our library system will share their knowledge of children's literature with you, but it is extremely important you be involved in your children's library use. Here are some ideas to help you select books that are right for your children.



Read the jacket of the book for information on its content. Some publishers of children's books even include reading levels on the flap or back cover.

Use published reviews to find out what others thought of the book. You can easily locate book reviews by searching the [Novelist K-8](#) database that is accessible on the [Find a Good Book](#) page of the library's [Databases & Websites](#) page at [hcplc.org](#).

Tell the librarian what books your children enjoyed, and ask for recommendations of similar titles.

Let your children know what subjects or parts of the library you consider to be off limits for them. Then let them explore in the areas you feel are appropriate.

Spend a few minutes reading several passages from different parts of a book to determine if the book is appropriate for your child.

Share your favorite childhood books with your children.

Encourage your children to discuss the books they are reading.

The [Just for Kids](#) section of the library's website provides many great links. Browse the [Just for Adults](#) and [Reading & Books](#) pages to learn more about selecting materials for children.

