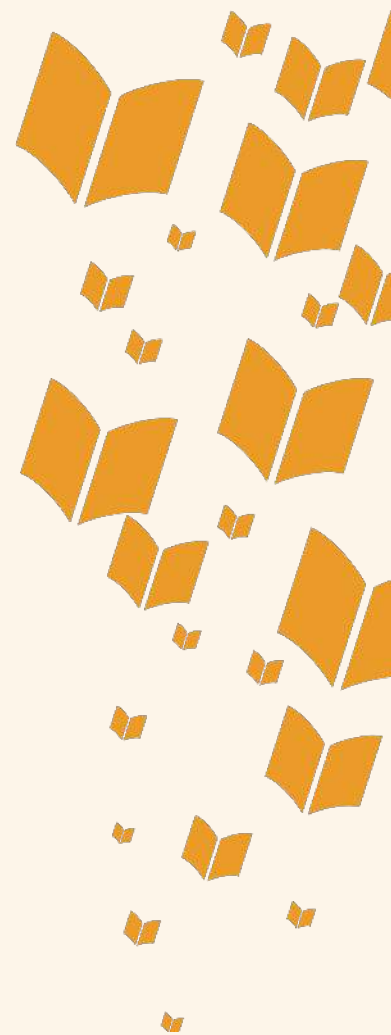


Harrow SLS and Family Hubs case study

Building a love of books: Harrow Family
Hubs in action



Written and published by
Libraries Rising/
Harrow SLS



Overview



In Harrow, the School Library Service (SLS) is at the heart of supporting children, families and early literacy across the borough.

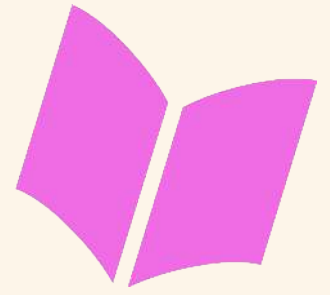
As a professional library service, the SLS brings specialist knowledge in children's literature, ensuring that the collections at each Family Hub and delivery centre are carefully curated, inclusive, and responsive to local needs.

By integrating the SLS into the Family Hub network, Harrow is creating new opportunities for reading promotion and library membership, family support, and early years learning, particularly for the most vulnerable children.

The SLS provides professional librarian expertise, helping Family Hubs develop a rich early years offer and strengthen the impact of their services for families.



How Harrow SLS is supporting Family Hubs



Harrow's Service Level Agreement with the Family Hubs centres on providing the expertise of a professional librarian and children's literature specialist. This includes:

- Advising and supporting special sessions for parents, including displays, book talks, and themed activities to engage families with reading.
- Visiting Hubs regularly to deliver story and rhymetime sessions that promote reading, language development, and library membership.
- Maintaining collections of books at each Family Hub and delivery centre to ensure children and families have access to high-quality resources.
- Providing a central collection of books to support a wide range of activities and any specific local needs, such as initiatives on child dental health.
- Offering professional advice on collection development, book promotion, early years literacy, and effective use of library resources.
- Supporting early years programme development by helping plan collections and activities that align with early learning goals and encourage reading at home.
- Operating a purchasing service that provides discounted, fully processed books delivered to Hubs, with guidance on suitability, durability options, and core collections for new sites.
- Giving access to the Exhibition Collection of over 12,000 new and in-print books, including dual-language and developmentally appropriate titles, for selection and loan.

The difference it makes



For children

Access to engaging, high-quality books that build early literacy, curiosity, and a lifelong love of reading.



For families

Resources and guidance to share stories and reading experiences at home, strengthening early learning.



For practitioners

Specialist support for delivering early years sessions, selecting books, and managing collections effectively.



For Family Hubs

Enhanced early years offer, integrated learning support, and a richer programme that engages children and families across the borough.