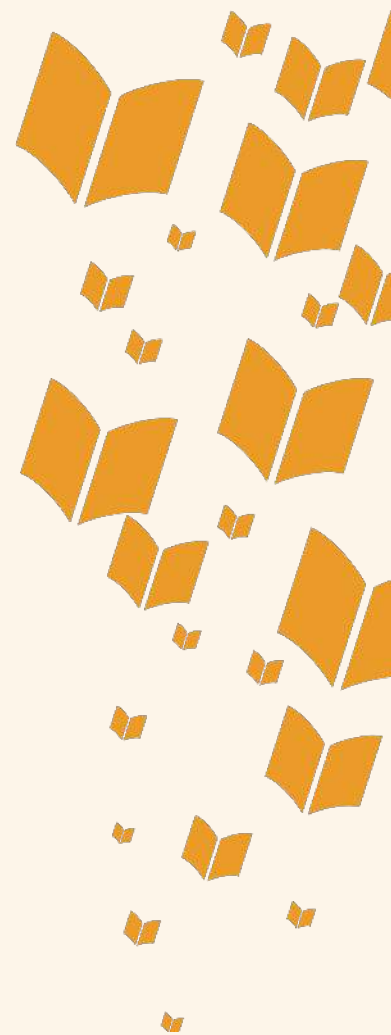


Suffolk Community Libraries and Family Hubs case study

From baby weighing to wordplay:
How Suffolk Community Libraries
are supporting Families



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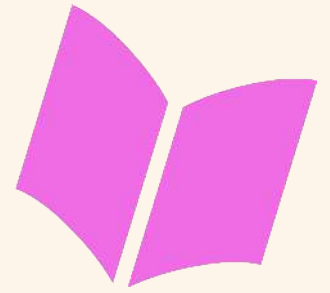
Overview



In Suffolk, the library service works closely with local Family Hubs, working at both strategic and operational levels to integrate early years services. Now council run, the service is actively exploring new ways of integrating library and Family Hub services to better support families with young children.



How Suffolk Community Libraries are supporting Family Hubs



- Providing baby weigh stations in 32 libraries, funded by Family Hubs. These are widely used and highly valued within each community, offering accessible health support in a trusted setting.
- Delivering Wordplay sessions that are naturally attracting grandparents caring for young children, not just parents.
- Co-developing delivery opportunities with Family Hub, including the Forest of Stories offer for 0-5s and the upcoming Year of Reading.
- Liaising to ensure dual language books are made available to families who would benefit most. This is delivered in conjunction with BookTrust, with libraries holding and managing the allocation.
- Sharing buildings in several locations, where libraries and Family Hubs operate from the same site, enabling stronger collaboration and more seamless support for families.
- Meeting regularly with Family Hub teams to strengthen partnerships and extend the reach of both services

The difference it makes



- Families can access early years health and wellbeing services in a friendly, familiar environment.
- Baby weigh stations and shared spaces remove barriers, making support easier to access.
- Grandparents and wider family members are actively involved in early learning, supporting children beyond the home.
- Dual language book provision helps families feel seen, included and supported in their home languages.
- Close collaboration between Suffolk Community Libraries and Family Hubs ensures that families receive a wider range of joined-up, early years support that makes a real difference in the lives of children and carers.

