

Choosing/Creating books for young children with vision impairment

Introduction

This booklet is to support families and school staff who are involved with children who have a vision impairment (VI).

The booklet contains this information:

- ✓ A guide to choosing books for children with vision impairment
- ✓ A list of websites and contacts for books and storytelling for children with vision impairment
- ✓ A font size comparison chart for use when selecting books

How can you ensure that you make reading and sharing books easier for children with VI?

Some children with VI may need larger print books in order for them to enjoy reading and sharing books.

It is not, however, only the size of the font that may make reading easier. Please also consider the following information when selecting books for children with VI.

- ✓ Choose high contrast

Books featuring high contrasting colours are more accessible to children with low vision and the reader can more easily distinguish between the shapes, letters, numbers and the illustrations.

- ✓ Clear contrast

The font should be clear and bold. Dark text on a light background is best, although light text on a dark background, such as yellow on black may also be suitable.

Be bold not faint. Increasing the size of font does not make it any easier to see shades of grey or light colours.

- ✓ Avoid clutter

Visually busy images and text can be more difficult to see and to understand. Letters and words should be spaced evenly and well spaced, with not too much text on each page. This will improve the readability of the

text, and will help the child track more easily. Look for books that use the same font throughout the story.

Consider size

Some children need a large font. Your child's EA Sensory Service Specialist Teacher (QTVI) can assess and advise you about the appropriate font sizes for your child for various tasks.

✓ Texture Tip

Children with vision impairment may need to rely on their other senses to experience their world. Books with added textural elements are more accessible and effective for them to read and enjoy. Look for books that have flaps, feathers, buttons, raised objects, or textured shapes or add your own.

✓ Keep to the left

Left aligned texts are easier to read and it is best not to justify text. Text positioned in the same place on each page is helpful for some children.

✓ Plain and simple

The style of font should be plain and simple, for example ... Arial, Tahoma, Verdana or Comic Sans. A good font for any children's book should be clean and clear. Avoid scripts, joined-up letters, and unnecessary fanciness.

Like this



The boy is running very fast

Not like this ...



The girl wants to run faster than all her friends do.
She needs to find some magic trainers.

- ✓ Keep text clear and contrasted

Do NOT print text over illustrations or patterns. Keep text on a plain background.



- ✓ Paper quality

The quality of the paper needs to be good. If it is too thin and see-through, print may be visible from the next page that can make it difficult to see and to read.

- ✓ Use matt paper

Paper surface should be matt finish to avoid glare.

Avoid Glare!

Comparison of font sizes - using comic sans font.

Use this chart to measure the font size in books. Reading books given to all primary one-aged children are in approximately font size 36.

This is font size - 16 point

This is font size - 18 point

This is font size - 20 point

This is font size - 22 point

This is font size - 24 point

This is font size - 26 point

This is font size - 28 point

This is font size - 30 point

This is font size - 36 point

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[Bag Books](#) provides multi-sensory books and storytelling for people with severe or profound and multiple learning disabilities

[Calibre Audio](#) is a national charity lending free audiobooks to anyone who is print disabled

[Oxford Owl Have a free eBook collection](#), developed for children aged 3 –11 years old

[Booktouch: This is a guide](#) to enjoying books and reading with blind or partially sighted children

The advice sheet on 'High contrast books and early years' in the Early Years section of [our Sensory Service Website](#) has more information about suitable books for babies and young children

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