Harvard Public Library
Children's Programs
November & December 2026

Children's Room direct line: (978) 456 - 2381
childrensroom@harvardpubliclibrary.org

All Programs Sponsored by the Friends of the Harvard Public Library

95% of children's programs
at the HPL are supported by the
Friends of the Harvard Public Library!
Consider joining the Friends with a tax deductible membership! Membership information is on the library's website:
https://www.harvardpubliclibrary.org/about/friends-library

Children's Room Contact Information

Email:
childrensroom@harvardpubliclibrary.org

Website:
https://www.harvardpubliclibrary.org/children

Phone:
(978) 456 - 2381

Registration Information

Register for children's programs by using the QR code or link below to access our online event calendar!

Individual program descriptions also have registration information and direct links for each event.

Link to online event calendar:
https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/calendar?cid=21089

The Whalemobile

Thursday, November 12

4 half hour sessions at
12:30, 1:00, 1:30 and 2:00 PM

Ages 5 and up

Meet Nile, a humpback whale, in this educational program for children ages 5 and up (best for elementary to middle school aged kids!).
Please note, per the presenter's request, this is not a program for children under 5.

Just like humans, whales are individual, and you will find there are more similarities between us that you think!

Step 1: Sign up for a half hour time slot. ***Registration is required!*** Limit of 20 attendees per time slot. Children do not need to be accompanied by an adult when they go inside the inflatable whale, but adults should be close by in the program room.

Step 2: Before you attend the program on 11/12, make sure to follow the link in your confirmation email to access an introductory video and other resources.

Step 3: Attend the program at your selected time slot! When you come to the library for your 30-minute selected time slot, you will go inside Nile, the life-sized inflatable humpback whale, and learn about how whales and humans are similar and different, and have a chance to touch baleen, teeth, and bones. There will also be another station set up that you can interact with, play games, or color pictures!

Registration is required!

Register here: https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/calendar?cid=21089

Paws and Read

Wednesday, November 4

Appointments at 3:45, 4:05 & 4:25 PM

Grades K through 6

Reading to Rhia or Chase, the library's Therapy Dogs, is a fantastic way to bolster a child's reading confidence!

Children who are independent readers can make a 20 minute appointment to read to one of these wonderful therapy dogs; on each date, six children total will get a chance to have either Rhia or Chase's undivided canine attention.

Registration for an appointment will guarantee your reservation to read to one of the dogs. Drop-ins are also welcome on a first-come, first-served basis for unreserved appointments.

Register here:
https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/calendar?cid=21089

Family Movie Night!

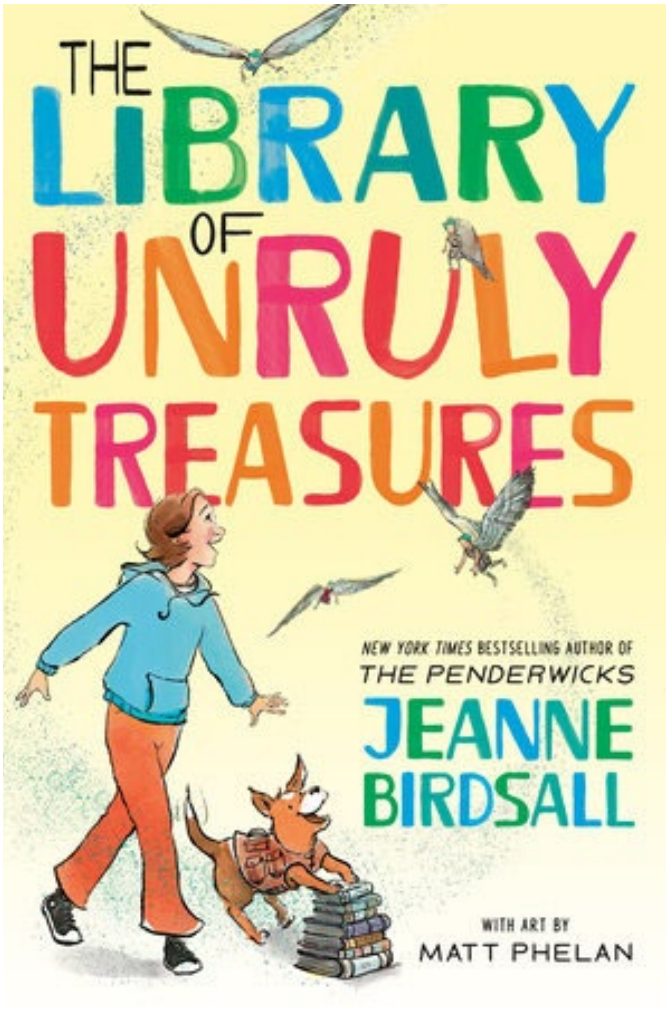
***Toy Story 5* (PG)**

Friday, November 6
at 6:30 PM

Come watch a movie on the big screen at the library! **Please register** so that we can inform you of weather cancellations or other last minute schedule changes.

Register here:
https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/16747674

Children's Literature Book Discussion Group for Grownups



Thursday, November 19
at 7:00 PM

Are you a grownup who loves to read children's books? You're not alone!

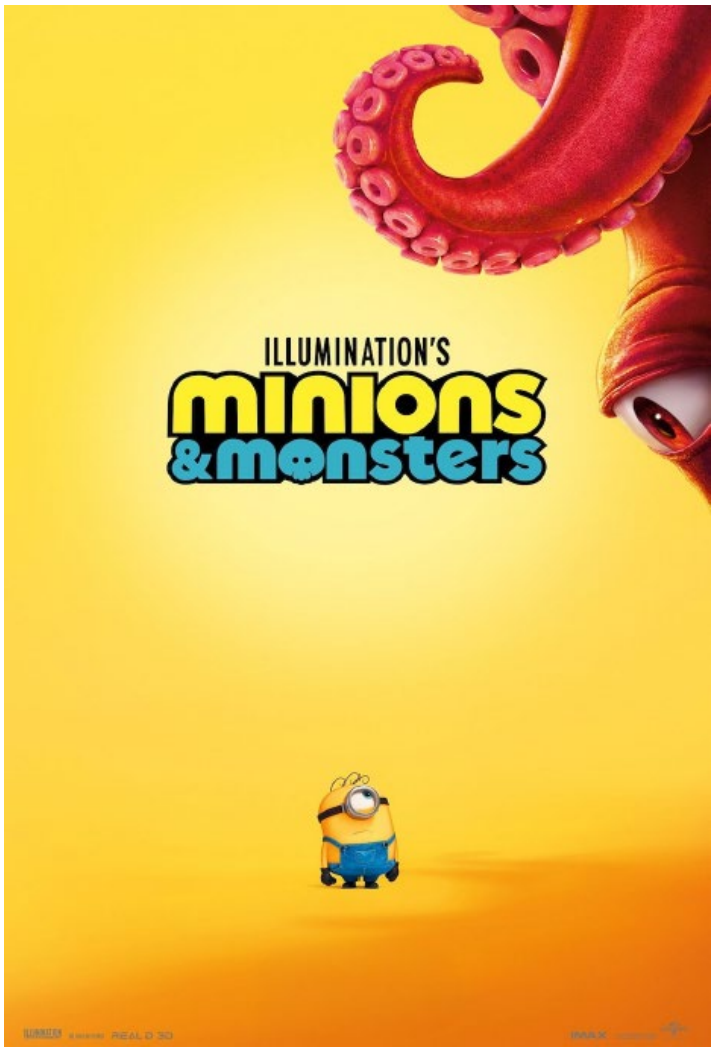
Join this monthly book group for grownups and discuss children's literature with an awesome group of like-minded readers.

We usually read and discuss recently published novels for elementary and middle school aged readers, and we always have terrific, broad-ranging discussions. We'd love to have you join us!

In November we will be discussing *The Library of Unruly Treasures* by Jeanne Birdsall.

Register here:
https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/17359067

Kids Afterschool Movie in the Story Room



***Minions and Monsters* (PG)**

Thursday, November 19
at 12:30 PM

Join us for an afterschool movie for elementary age kids in the Story Room! No refreshments are served (but it is ok to bring your own snack).

Please note that children should have a responsible adult or teen in attendance with them.

Registration is appreciated!

Register here:
https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/17360034

Kids Afterschool Movie in the Story Room

***Frozen* (PG)**

Monday, November 23
at 3:45 PM

Join us for an afterschool movie for elementary age kids in the Story Room! No refreshments are served (but it is ok to bring your own snack).

Please note that children should have a responsible adult or teen in attendance with them.

Registration is appreciated!

Register here:
https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/17774562

Clay Creations

Tuesday, November 24
at 3:45 PM

Ages 8+

Using DAS air-hardening clay, we will have low-key fun making our own unique clay creations. Bring your sculptural artwork home at the end of the event and let it air dry for 24 hours. Once dry, you can paint your creation with markers or paint if you wish!

Registration is required –
enrollment is limited to 8 children ages 8 and up.

Register here:
https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/17774556

Write Stuff

Tuesday, December 1
from 3:35 to 4:20 PM

4th through 6th Grade

This low-key, supportive, once-monthly writing group is for kids in grades 4 through 6 who love to write.

We talk books and writing, do some fun writing exercises, and share as much (or as little!) of our writing with each other as time allows. Writing group membership is limited to 12 children who are Harvard/Devens residents/HES students to keep the group size small.

Register here:
https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/17359649

Puzzles

Borrow a jigsaw puzzle from the library! Children's Puzzles are on display in the children's room, and can be checked out at the circulation desk.

Loan period is three weeks plus one renewal. Puzzles are available on a walk-in basis (not holdable).

Board Games

Thanks to the generous support of the ***Friends of the Harvard Public Library***, we have a fantastic collection of **over 100 children's board games** that can be borrowed. We have games that are good for families, competitive games, strategy games, cooperative games, math games, and games focused on reading and storytelling. Loan period is two weeks, no renewals. Games are available on a walk-in basis (not holdable).

BOOK GROUPS!

Want to join a book group? We'd love to have you – new members are always welcome!

Book group membership is limited to children who are Harvard/Devens residents/HES students, in order to keep the book groups small.

Maximum group size per grade is 12 children.

We will request for you a copy of the book we will be discussing. We can get you a copy of the book in print format and/or in audiobook format (either in Playaway or e-audio format)!

Packaged snacks will be served at the younger book groups, and bagels and cream cheese will be served at the 5th and 6th grade book groups.

Book Gobblers: Children do not need to read a book ahead of time for this group.
Book titles for grades 3rd through 6th are TBA!

Registration links for each book group are listed below that book group's description.

Book Gobblers Book Group for 1st & 2nd Graders
Monday, November 30 from 4:00 to 4:45
In this read-aloud book discussion group, Abby reads a story to the group, then we discuss the book and do an activity together.
https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/17359692

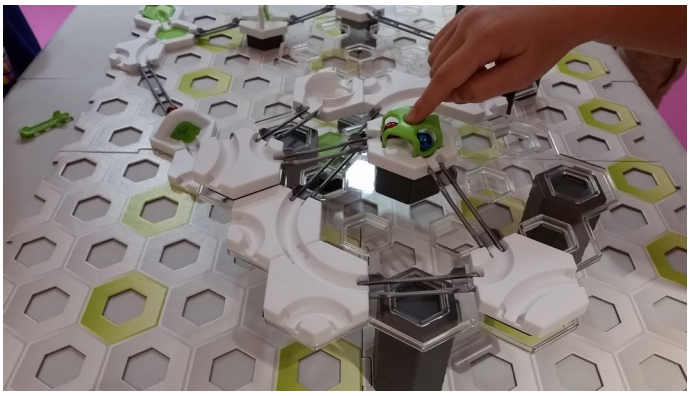
3rd Grade Book Group
Monday, November 9 from 4:00 to 4:45 PM
https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/17359612

4th Grade Book Group
Monday, November 16 from 4:00 to 4:45 PM
https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/17359664

Bagels & Books Group for 5th Graders
Tuesday, November 10 from 4:00 to 4:45 PM
https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/17359673

Bagels & Books Group for 6th Graders
Tuesday, November 17 from 3:00 to 3:45 PM
https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/17359684

GraviTrax Challenge



Thursday, December 17
at 3:45 PM

Ages 8 and up

The challenge is to work as a team to build a marble raceway using the awesome Ravensburger GraviTrax interactive track building set.

Can you design a system that gets the marble from the start all the way to the finish?

Registration is required –
Enrollment is limited to 8 children **ages 8 and up**.

Register here:
https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/17360068

3-D Paper Snowflakes

Tuesday, December 22
at 3:45 PM

Ages 8+

Learn how to make colorful and beautiful three dimensional paper snowflakes!

Registration is required –
enrollment is limited to 8 children ages 8 and up.

Register here:
https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/17360072

Baby & Toddler Disco Party!

Once a month
from 10:30 to 11:30 AM
Next party is Thursday, November 5

Ages 0 – 3+
and their grownups

Babies and toddlers are ready to groove with this kid-friendly disco party!

Bring your tiny dancer and we'll supply the groovin' music, awesome lights, and disco balls.

Drop in anytime during the 1 hour party to dance and have fun with your child.

Bonus points for dressing disco style!

Please note that there will be flashing lights and noise.

Registration is not required – but if you register you will be added to the email list for last minute schedule changes. This email list will cover the once-monthly Disco Parties through May 20.

Register here:
https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/17359023

Sensory Playtime

Saturday, November 28
from 10:30 to 11:30 AM

All Ages

We will have several sensory stations with things to smell, touch, see, and hear in this interactive program that is designed to encourage sensory exploration for young children and their caregivers.

Caregivers visit each sensory station with their children; we will have caregiver prompts at each station to help guide exploration and conversation between child and adult.

Sensory play sometimes gets a bit messy – it's a good idea to wear old clothes to this playtime!

Adult accompaniment required.

Registration is not required, but if you register you will be added to the email list for last minute changes.

Register here:
https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/17360054

STORYTIMES

Mother Goose on the Loose Storytime
Ages 0 – 2+
Mondays & Thursdays at 10:30 AM

No storytime on November 23

Mother Goose on the Loose is an early literacy program that uses rhymes and songs to help pre-reading children get ready for reading. It incorporates music, movement, ritual, repetition, positive reinforcement, developmental tips, nursery rhymes, puppets, musical instruments, colored scarves, and book reading into a fun-filled 30 minute session for infants to 2-year-olds and caregivers.

Registration is not required –
but if you register you will be added to the email list for last minute schedule changes through December 10.
Register here.

Storytime for 2's & 3's ~ Ages 2 & 3
Wednesdays at 10:30 AM

This 20 to 30 minute storytime includes songs and fingerplays, simple stories, feltboard stories, and phonemic awareness activities appropriate for children aged 2 & 3 years old and their caregivers (older siblings are also welcome). Our phonemic awareness activities will focus on learning and practicing the short vowel sounds and then some consonant sounds, and learning to put sounds together to make simple words.

Registration is required for the fall session.
Enrollment is limited to 10 children and their caregivers.
Register here.

Art & Stories for 4's & 5's
Ages 4 & 5 and up
Mondays at 1:30 PM

No storytime on November 23

This 30 to 45 minute program, appropriate for children ages 4 to 7, begins with a few longer picturebook stories and phonemic awareness activities, then ends with a process art project that encourages preschoolers to explore art materials in an open-ended, creative manner. Make sure to wear clothes that can get messy! Our phonemic awareness activities will focus on learning and practicing the short vowel sounds and then some consonant sounds, and learning to put sounds together to make simple words.

Registration is required for the fall session.
Limit of 12 (minimum of 6) children.
Register here.

Saturday Toddler Storytime

Saturday, November 14
at 10:30 AM

Ages 1 to 3

Drop-in for fun stories and songs that promote early literacy.

Parents, caregivers, and children ages 12 months to 3 years are invited to this special story time with Miss Kathleen.

To encourage the development of early literacy skills through singing, rhyming, reading, and movement, children will enjoy musical instruments, puppets, and fingerplays.

This interactive program is perfect for wiggly toddlers and their caregivers.

Registration is not required –
but if you register you will be added to the email list for last minute schedule changes.

Register here:
https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/17360029