Harvard Public Library Children's Programs October 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

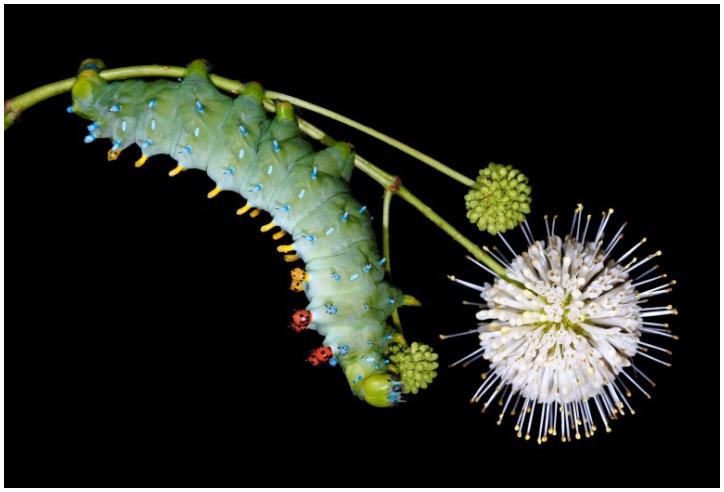
Registration Information

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 Caterpillar Lab



Wednesday, October 7
from 12:30 to 3:30 PM

All Ages

Come meet some little-known native critters!
The Caterpillar Lab will feature a huge variety of New England caterpillar species munching on their food plants right in front of you. There will be plenty to see and touch. Educators from The Caterpillar Lab will teach you all about metamorphosis and tell incredible but true stories about the creatures' strange and surprising adaptations. Some caterpillars may be camouflaged to look like twigs or snakes. Some may have stinging spines or brightly colored baubles. Some may be as big as hot dogs! You're sure to see something new!

This drop-in program is well suited for the curious family and seasoned naturalist alike.
Learn more about The Caterpillar Lab at www.thecaterpillarlab.org

This is a drop-in browsing-style program: arrive any time between 12:30 and 3:15 PM to attend.

Register to receive an email reminder!
Register here: https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/17346473

Paws and Read

Wednesday, October 21

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

Circle of Songs with Hugh Hanley

Saturday, October 24
at 11:00 AM

Ages 0 – 6+

Hugh Hanley has been singing with young children for over twenty years in his work as an early childhood educator, music specialist, and entertainer.

His work has helped him gain an understanding of young children as developing music makers and a familiarity with the environments in which they play and learn.

He draws from a wide and varied repertoire of songs, fingerplays, and music activities that are appropriate, accessible, and highly engaging. Hugh has learned all of the material he uses in his work from folk traditions, children, and their teachers and parents.

This program will be outdoors in the pavilion unless weather prohibits. In case of inclement weather, the program will move indoors to Volunteers Hall; indoor seats are limited.

Register here:
https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/16656317

Children's Literature Book Discussion Group for Grownups

Thursday, October 22
at 7:00 PM

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

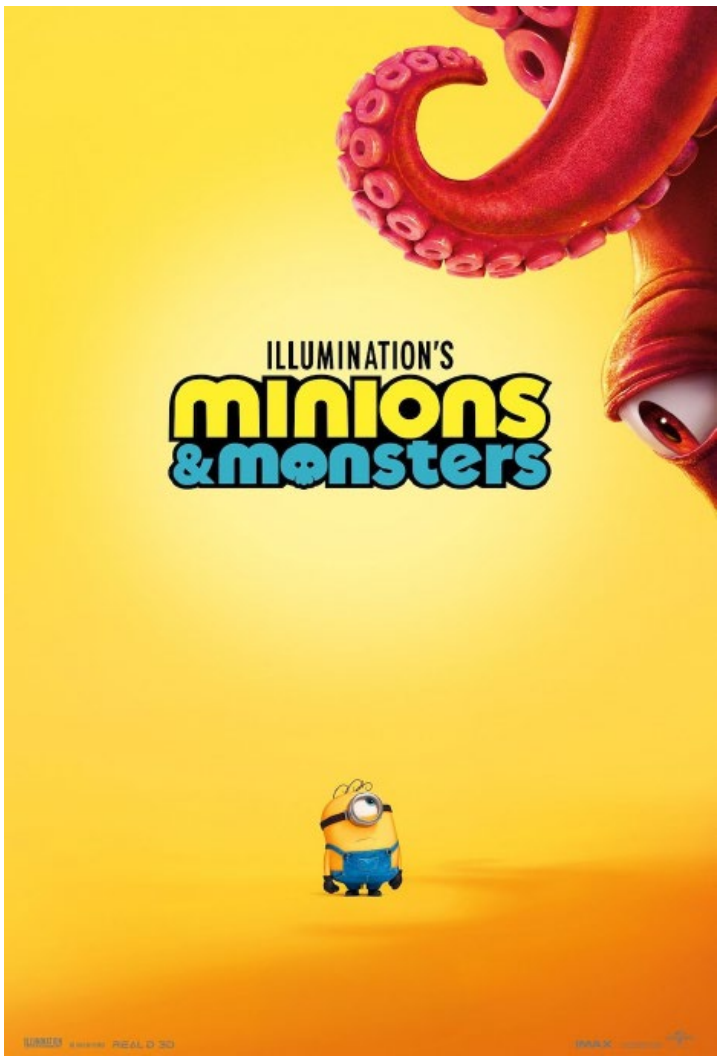
Join this monthly book group for grownups and discuss children's literature with an awesome group of like-minded readers.

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 October we will be discussing *Such Great Heights* by Rajani LaRocca.

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

Family Movie Night!



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

Friday, October 2
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/16747671

Baby & Toddler Disco Party!

Once a month
from 10:30 to 11:30 AM
Next party is Monday, October 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

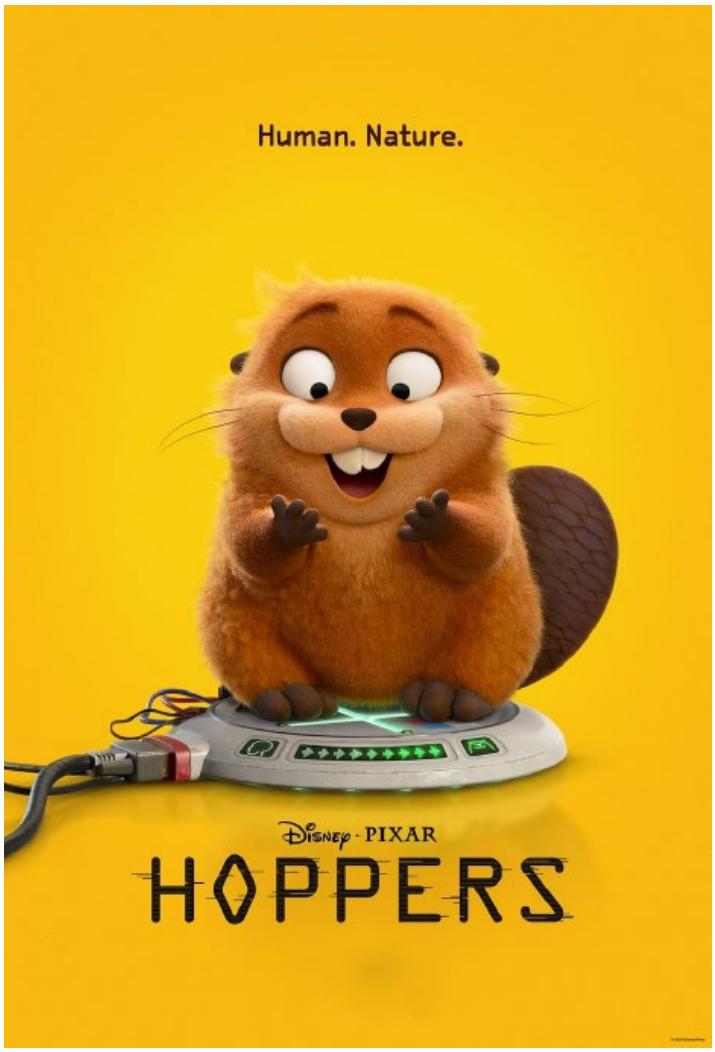
Saturday, October 3
at 10:30 AM

Ages 3 to 7

Teen volunteers lead these fun drop-in, half-hour Saturday Storytimes for children ages 3 to 7 and their caregivers in the story room.

Drop-in – no registration required.

Kids Afterschool Movie in the Story Room



***Hoppers* (PG)**

Thursday, October 8
at 3:45 PM

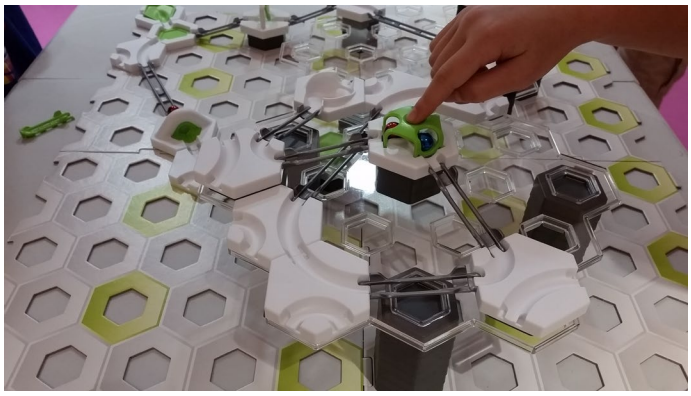
Join us for an afterschool movie for elementary age kids in the Story Room! Afterschool movies are supervised by teen volunteers; no refreshments are served (but it is ok to bring your own snack).

Parents are also welcome (and encouraged) to attend.

Registration is appreciated!

Register here:
https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/17359899

GraviTrax Challenge



Thursday, October 29
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 10 children **ages 8 and up**.

Register here:
https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/17360001

STORYTIMES

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

No storytime on October 19

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 October 19

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, October 17
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/17360004

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, October 26 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, October 5 from 4:00 to 4:45 PM
https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/17359612

4th Grade Book Group
Monday, October 19 from 4:00 to 4:45 PM
https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/17359664

Bagels & Books Group for 5th Graders
Tuesday, October 13 from 4:00 to 4:45 PM
https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/17359673

Bagels & Books Group for 6th Graders
Tuesday, October 27 from 3:00 to 3:45 PM
https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/17359684

Write Stuff

Tuesday, October 6
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).