

Children's Promise – self-assessment

Instructions

This self-assessment tool will enable library services to measure their children's provision against the statements in ASCEL's [Children's Promise](#).

This assessment can either be used service-wide or for specific libraries.

Version 1 (Blue heading) is intended for Service-wide assessment. Version 2 (Yellow heading) is for specific libraries.

You will need to decide how frequently it should be carried out. We suggest annually.

You need to complete the following columns

- “Self-assessment” –list your evidence. In appendix 1, we have suggested some ideas for evidence that you may have, but you need to use your own local evidence.
- In the “Quality of evidence” column you will need to consider how good your evidence is, it is not enough just to have evidence but does it deliver the outcomes you need? If not do you need to work on the quality of the practice?
- The “Actions” column is for you to create a local development plan depending on your evidence and local priorities

VERSION 1

Library Service:

Date:

- **Vision:**

Children and young people visiting our libraries should be inspired by a welcoming, inclusive, exciting and accessible library, with a range of fiction and non-fiction books that mirrors the diversity of our world and make reading irresistible.

Children's Promise	Self-assessment –List your evidence	Quality of evidence What works particularly well? What could be improved?	Actions
That the library service has policies/ standards/ principles in place to ensure that libraries have spaces for children which capture their imaginations, meet their changing needs as they grow and those of their parents and carers.			

Children's Promise	Self-assessment –List your evidence	Quality of evidence What works particularly well? What could be improved?	Actions
<p>That the service provides high quality, regularly refreshed book collections for all ages and abilities and reading interests, stimulating children's desire to read and reflecting the diverse communities in which children grow up</p> <p>There are opportunities for children to access e-books and e-audio</p> <p>There are stock monitoring systems in place</p> <p>Staff have a good general knowledge of children's books and can signpost children and their parents to</p>			

Children's Promise	Self-assessment –List your evidence	Quality of evidence What works particularly well? What could be improved?	Actions
<p>appropriate titles, series, categories and genres</p> <p>Staff are confident dealing with children's enquiries and training is in place to support them</p>			

- **Vision:**

Children and Young People are enabled to engage with imaginative digital opportunities, building their skills, literacy, knowledge and creativity.

Children's Promise	Self-assessment –List your evidence	Quality of evidence What works particularly well? What could be improved?	Actions
<p>That the service provides digital opportunities for children that capture their imaginations and meet their changing needs (This may include offering Code clubs Raspberry Pi, Robotics; digital arts and media etc.)</p> <p>The service has a staff training programme which includes digital skills, enabling staff to develop their own skills and support digital</p>			

Children's Promise	Self-assessment –List your evidence	Quality of evidence What works particularly well? What could be improved?	Actions
creativity in children and young people			

- **Vision:**

Children and Young People are able to take part in a wide range of creative cultural experiences including reading, learning and book-based activities.

Children's Promise	Self-assessment –List your evidence	Quality of evidence What works particularly well? What could be improved?	Actions
<p>The service has a strategy for book and reading focused promotional activities for under- fives and older children throughout the year</p> <p>The service can evidence interactions at key points of the Children's Library Journey (see Children's</p>			

Children's Promise	Self-assessment –List your evidence	Quality of evidence What works particularly well? What could be improved?	Actions
<p>Promise for more information)</p> <p>There are training systems/programmes in place for staff to deliver reader development, learning initiatives and reading events for children and families</p> <p>The service is working in partnership with local and national cultural institutions to develop cultural, creative and arts activities, promote reading for pleasure and support literacy</p>			

- **Vision:**

Children & young People should be actively involved in decisions about library service developments and are offered opportunities to volunteer.

Children's Promise	Self-assessment –List your evidence	Quality of evidence What works particularly well? What could be improved?	Actions	Links to Universal Offers
<p>There are opportunities for children and young people for participation and engagement with library services, for example volunteer placements</p> <p>There is a year round volunteering offer for young people</p>				<p>URO UHO</p>

Children's Promise	Self-assessment –List your evidence	Quality of evidence What works particularly well? What could be improved?	Actions	Links to Universal Offers
Children of all ages are involved in service development Spaces are available for groups of young people and partners to develop their own activities				

- **Vision**

Children and Young People should benefit from targeted library service activities that address disadvantage and improve their health and wellbeing.

Children's Promise	Self-assessment –List your evidence	Quality of evidence What works particularly well? What could be improved?	Actions
There is information to support parenting and caring for children and young people			

Children's Promise	Self-assessment –List your evidence	Quality of evidence What works particularly well? What could be improved?	Actions
<p>Libraries provide information for children on health and healthy lifestyles</p> <p>There are partnerships with Health and other agencies who support children and young people's health and well being</p> <p>Libraries are actively targeting services to address disadvantage</p> <p>The service is actively supporting the CYP Reading Well collections developed by TRA and developing partnerships to maximise the impact of this</p>			

Children's Promise	Self-assessment –List your evidence	Quality of evidence What works particularly well? What could be improved?	Actions
<p>The service has a clear safeguarding/child protection policy and procedures in place to ensure all staff are aware of their responsibilities</p> <p>There is free and safeguarded access to the internet and IT applications</p>			

VERSION 2

Library

Library Service:

Date:

- **Vision:**

Children and young people visiting our libraries should be inspired by a welcoming, inclusive, exciting and accessible library, with a range of fiction and non-fiction books that mirrors the diversity of our world and make reading irresistible.

Children's Promise	Self-assessment –List your evidence	Quality of evidence What works particularly well? What could be improved?	Actions
<p>That there is a physical space for children which captures their imaginations, meets children's changing needs as they grow and those of their parents and carers</p> <p>That the library offers high quality, regularly refreshed book collections for all ages and abilities and reading interests, stimulating children's desire to read and reflecting the diverse communities in which children grow up</p> <p>That the library promotes and can help children access E:books and e:audio books</p>	.		

Children's Promise	Self-assessment –List your evidence	Quality of evidence What works particularly well? What could be improved?	Actions
<p>There are stock monitoring systems in place and staff are aware of these</p> <p>Staff have a good general knowledge of children's books and can signpost children and their parents to appropriate titles, series, categories and genres</p> <p>Staff are confident dealing with children's enquiries and know where to go if they need more help</p> <p>Children have access to age and ability appropriate on-line</p>			

Children's Promise	Self-assessment –List your evidence	Quality of evidence What works particularly well? What could be improved?	Actions
<p>information and learning opportunities</p> <p>There is an offer to schools and other children's and youth groups to visit the library</p> <p>Staff are trained to deliver high quality reading, learning and information skills sessions</p> <p>There are learning spaces in the children's area where they can learn individually and or in formal/ informal groups</p>			

- **Vision:**

Children & young People are enabled to engage with imaginative digital opportunities, building their skills, literacy, knowledge and creativity.

Children's Promise	Self-assessment –List your evidence	Quality of evidence What works particularly well? What could be improved?	Actions	Links to Universal Offers
<p>That there are digital spaces for children that capture their imaginations and meet their changing needs</p> <p>This may include offering Code clubs Raspberry Pi, Robotics; digital arts and media etc. in selected libraries</p> <p>Staff are suitably trained to support digital creativity</p>				<p>URO UDO ULO</p>

- **Vision:**

Children and Young People are able to take part in a wide range of creative cultural experiences including reading, learning and book-based activities.

Children's Promise	Self-assessment –List your evidence	Quality of evidence What works particularly well? What could be improved?	Actions
<p>The library offers book and reading focused promotion activity for under- fives and older children including regular rhyme times and events</p> <p>Library staff understand the Children's Library Journey (see Children's Promise for more information) and know what interactions their library delivers</p> <p>There are opportunities for children and young people to take part in high quality cultural, learning, creative and arts activities with authors and other artists – including active partnerships with cultural organisations</p>			

Children's Promise	Self-assessment –List your evidence	Quality of evidence What works particularly well? What could be improved?	Actions
<p>There is an offer of library visits for schools, groups</p> <p>Some staff are trained to deliver quality interactions with groups of all ages.</p>			

Vision:

Children and young people are actively involved in decisions about library service developments and are offered opportunities to volunteer

Children's Promise	Self-assessment –List your evidence	Quality of evidence What works particularly well? What could be improved?	Actions	Links to Universal Offers
<p>There are opportunities for children and young people for participation and engagement with the library such as SRC volunteering; work experience; DoE; etc.</p> <p>Children of all ages are involved in service development</p> <p>Spaces are available in the library for groups of young people and partners to develop their own activities</p>				<p>URO UDO UHO</p>

- **Vision**

Children and Young People benefit from targeted library service activities that address disadvantage and improve their health and wellbeing.

Children's Promise	Self-assessment –List your evidence	Quality of evidence What works particularly well? What could be improved?	Actions
<p>There is information to support parenting and caring for children and young people</p> <p>Libraries provide fiction and non-fiction for children and young people which help to explain difficult or new situations</p> <p>Libraries provide information for children on health and healthy lifestyles</p> <p>There are partnerships with Health and other agencies who support children and young people's health and well being</p> <p>The library is promoting the Children and Young</p>			

Children's Promise	Self-assessment –List your evidence	Quality of evidence What works particularly well? What could be improved?	Actions
<p>People's Reading Well collection</p> <p>There is a clear safeguarding/child protection policy and procedures in place and staff are aware of their responsibilities</p> <p>There is free and safeguarded access to the internet and IT applications</p>			

Appendix: Suggestions for evidence

- Consultation activity which engages with children and parents - outcomes
- Children's Stock selection policy
- Reader Development & display policies

- Evidence of how children 's books are promoted and recommended within the service e.g. through displays and book lists; quality of displays; digital promotion – responses to these from customers
- Libraries as Arts Award supporters or Centres
- Training programme for staff delivering children's activities e.g. group and class visits; rhymetimes and promotions, SRC; assemblies
- Number of classes and groups who visit during the year
- How many schools out of the total catchment have contact with the library in a year
- Evidence of targeted activity
- Year round volunteering strategy for young people
- SRC volunteering
- World Book night gifting
- Young people selecting library resources
- Safeguarding policy and training for staff
- Access to accredited schemes like Arts Award
- Support for other accreditation such as DoE
- Evidence that library layout is appropriate for children, designed in a logical and accessible sequence – photos/ feedback
- Assessment of the library space - is it appropriate for the number of child users and the size of the library
- Evidence that children and parents find it easy to find what they are looking for.
- Evidence of Interesting displays and child / age appropriate furniture
- Provision of spaces that allow for calm and enable a focus on communication and book sharing
- Evidence of how children 's books are promoted and recommended within the service e.g. through displays and book lists; quality of displays; digital promotion – responses to these from customers
- Delivering the annual Summer Reading Challenge including setting and achieving participation and completion targets and the involvement of young volunteers