

Luton Libraries

Starting school can be an anxious time for both parents and children. To make the transition easier, drop in to your local library to see how we can help.

Our libraries are family friendly places that offer free internet use and wifi.

Children can have their own library card and borrow books for **free**.

Luton Libraries do not charge fines on children's books.

We have a **Helping Collection** including books about starting school, managing feelings and behaviour, and hygiene, which are all basic requirements when starting school.

We don't stock reading schemes. Instead, we buy as wide a range of other books as we can that will support your child's reading at school

Using the library to help your child's emotional development and school readiness

Children who read for pleasure do better at school. Before you even get to the educational stuff like increasing vocabulary and phonic awareness, you can also help nurture a child's emotional development, self-esteem and capacity to empathise with others.

Sharing stories about starting school with your child will help reassure them, giving them an idea about what they can expect and help alleviate their anxiety. Talk about school in a positive way, reassuring them that it is an exciting place with lots of things to do and friends to make. Reading everyday with your child is really important so keep reading lots of different books together, point out words they might recognise, encourage your child to join in with repetitive phrases and talk about the story and pictures. By sharing stories and books you are giving your child a starting point for creating their own imaginary world which contributes to a child's creativity, imagination and empathy.

For more information about becoming a library member visit:

www.lutonculture.com/libraries