

Creating a virtual resource library

A staggering 380,000 children and young people in the UK don't have a book of their own according to The Literacy Trust in 2019.

Your early years setting can really make a difference by engaging families in reading at home with their children.

Creating a virtual library of resources that families can access at home is a good way of encouraging parents to spend time reading with their children without the need for physical resources to lend out.

Here are some top tips on creating a virtual resource library to get you started:

1. **Inform parents** about virtual library facilities available through your local council. Most - if not all - councils now offer digital libraries where families can access eBooks and audiobooks to share with their children. Consider sending out information to your families about how they can access this service
2. **Put together a list of fun and educational apps** to share with families, that are age-appropriate and can support early reading
3. **Recommend a book title** each week to families, you could also ask families to put forward their favourite stories as a recommendation for others
4. Booktrust.org and Libraries connected have brilliant online libraries of books available for free, along with videos and activities suitable for young children
5. **Virtual story-times** have become increasingly popular; record a member of your team reading a story and use online platforms to share this with parents and children
6. **Virtual story sacks** can help parents to bring stories to life. By putting together, a list of resources that parents may have available at home, you can support parents to extend their story-time
7. **Staying safe online is important**, ensure parents are aware of how to keep their children safe online when using websites and other online platforms.

