

Harvard Public Library Children's Programs December 2024

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

Programs Sponsored by the Friends of the Harvard Public Library*

** Unless otherwise noted*

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 **fabulous new**
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>



Magic Show!

with
Ed Popielarczyk



**Wednesday, December 11
at 12:30 PM**

Ages 3 and up

Ed Popielarczyk is a professional magician, balloon sculptor, flea circus ringmaster, and storyteller who has been entertaining children and family audiences for over thirty years.

His magic show is a comedy show that uses lots of audience participation.

YOU are the stars of the show because you help to make the magic happen.

Ed usually has lots of trouble!

He doesn't just "do a trick," he tells a story that revolves around each trick.

It may be a short story or a longer one, but each story helps to bring the trick together.

Register here: <https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/13517952>

Paws and Read



Wednesdays, December 4 & 18

**Appointments at 3:45, 4:00,
4:15, & 4:30 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 15 minute appointment to read to one of these wonderful therapy dogs; on each date, eight children total will get a chance to have either Rhia or Chase's undivided canine attention.

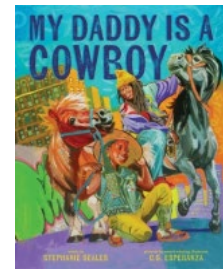
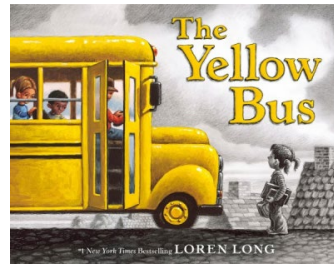
Registration for an appointment will guarantee your reservation to read to one of the dogs.

Drop-ins are also welcome on a first-come, first-served basis for unreserved appointments.

Register here:

<https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/calendar?cid=21089>

Children's Literature Book Discussion Group for Grownups



**Thursday, December 12
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!

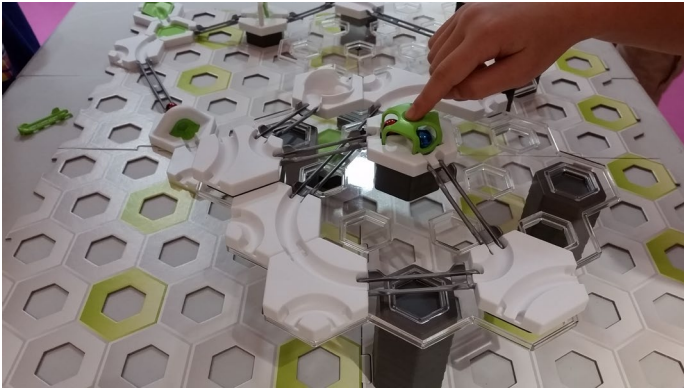
In December we will be discussing an assortment of picturebooks that might be contenders for the Caldecott Award.

Register here:

<https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/13541480>

This book group meets in a hybrid model: attend in person in the story room, or attend virtually via Google Meet.

GraviTrax Challenge



**Thursday, December 5
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/13541969>



Family Movie Night!



Despicable Me 4 (PG)

**Friday, January 10
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.

*Note that the library will not be providing snacks, but you are welcome to bring your own snacks.
(But please limit snacks to things like popcorn, chips, etc. - i.e., no pizza...☺)*

Register here:

<https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/13622010>

Toe Jam Puppet Band Winter Show!



**Saturday, December 28
at 10:30 AM**

All Ages

Toe Jam Puppet Band is the fun family band for kids and their parents too!

Toe Jam Puppet Band's unique musical performances are very interactive and theatrical.

Audience members of all ages are encouraged to sing and dance along with Toe Jam as they entertain with a unique combination of original songs and interactive storytelling.

Get ready for a Car Wash, watch out for the Flying Laundry and be prepared to laugh with glee, Toe Jam style!

Come have a great time laughing together with your family and friends!

This program is sponsored by a grant.

Register here: <https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/13542038>

Sensory Playtime



**Saturday, December 28
from 2:00 to 3:00 PM**

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;
drop-in, no registration.***



LEGO Club



**Saturday, December 21
from 1:30 to 3:00 PM**

Grades K – 6

Come have fun building LEGO creations with other Harvard LEGO fans!

Participants can use the library-owned LEGO bricks to build creative models. Creative building is encouraged, and the library will have various LEGO books available for inspiration.

LEGO Club is supervised by the children's librarian – parents are also encouraged to stay and help supervise.

Registration is required – enrollment is limited to 12 children in grades K through 6.

Register here:

<https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/1354200>

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 on CD, Playaway, or in 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.

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

Book Gobblers Book Group for 1st & 2nd Graders

Monday, December 16 from 4:00 to 4:45 PM

In this read-aloud book discussion group, Lindsay reads a story aloud to the group, then we discuss the book together.

<https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/13541406>

3rd Grade Book Group

Monday, December 2 from 4:00 to 4:45 PM

The 3rd Grade Book is:

Toys Go Out by Emily Jenkins

<https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/13541962>

4th Grade Book Group

Monday, December 9 from 4:00 to 4:45 PM

The 4th Grade Book is:

The Creature of the Pines by Adam Gidwitz

<https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/13541316>

Bagels & Books Group for 5th Graders

Tuesday, December 10 from 4:00 to 4:45 PM

The 5th Grade Book is:

Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper

<https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/13541382>

Bagels & Books Group for 6th Graders

Tuesday, December 10 from 3:00 to 3:45 PM

The 6th Grade Book is:

Two Tribes by Emily Bowen Cohen

<https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/13541428>

Write Stuff



**Tuesday, December 3
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/13541332>

Puzzles

[Borrow a jigsaw puzzle from the library!](#)

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 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).

Saturday Toddler Storytime



**Saturday, December 7
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/13541281>

STORYTIMES

Mother Goose on the Loose Storytime

Ages 0 – 2+

Mondays & Thursdays at 10:30 AM

Fall/winter session ends December 12

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 12/12.*

[Register here.](#)

Storytime for 2's & 3's ~ Ages 2 & 3

Wednesdays at 10:30 AM

Fall/winter session ends December 11

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/winter 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

Fall/winter session ends December 9

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/winter session.

Enrollment is limited to 12 children.

[Register here.](#)

Tiny Art Show!

Saturday, January 25
from 10:00 to 4:00
Reception at 2:00 PM

All Ages

Create a work of art no larger than 3 inches x 3 inches in all directions and submit it to the library beginning January 13.

All mediums are strongly encouraged!

You could create a tiny crocheted or knitted piece,
or make a small sculpture,
or submit a tiny photograph –
as long as your art is no bigger than 3 inches in all directions!

For those who wish to create painted/drawn art,
the library will have tiny canvases available
on a first come, first served basis starting on December 9.

Tiny Art will be on display in Volunteers Hall
from 10:00 to 4:00 on January 25, with a reception at 2:00.

(Snow date is Saturday, February 8.)

For more details, including submission guidelines and registration form,
please see the event post on the library's online calendar:

<https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/13565747>



Saturday Storytime: Winter Stories



**Saturday, December 21
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.

December's theme is Winter Stories!

Drop-in – no registration required.



Kids Afterschool Movie in the Story Room



IF (PG)

**Thursday, December 12
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/13541452>