

# Harvard Public Library Children's Programs January 2025

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



# Hula Hooping with Wild Kat Hoops



**Thursday, January 16  
at 3:45 PM**

**Ages 6 and up**

Hooping promotes exercise, exploration, expression, movement, and dance while having fun!  
We'll learn basic hooping moves while increasing hand-eye coordination, strength, balance, and agility in an hour packed with silly fun.

Kat Suwalski is a yoga teacher, massage therapist, personal trainer, and sound bath instructor. Her infectious passion for health and fun gives this 1960's pastime a thrilling face lift!

**This program is best for children ages 6+, but younger children may attend with their older siblings. All children under the age of 6 must be directly supervised by an adult.**

*Enrollment is limited to 50 children & adults.*

**Register here:** <https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/13566079>

# Paws and Read



**Wednesdays, January 15 & 29**

**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>

# Children's Literature Book Discussion Group for Grownups



**Thursday, January 23  
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!

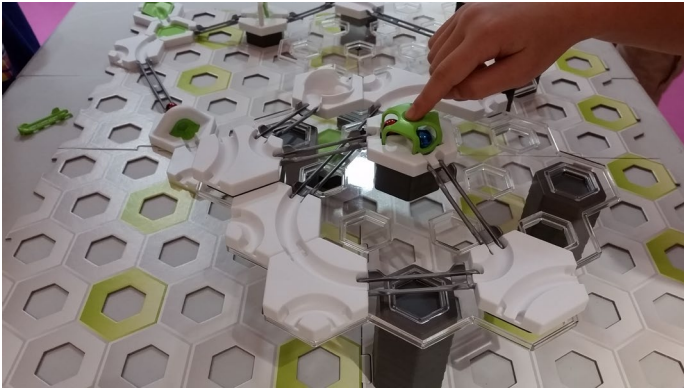
In January we will be discussing *The Tenth Mistake of Hank Hooperman* by Gennifer Choldenko.

**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, January 23  
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/13689665>



# 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>

# Pumpnickel Puppets presents Sir George and the Dragon



**Saturday, January 18  
at 10:30 AM**

**Ages 3 and up**

For over forty years the Pumpnickel Puppets have captivated audiences of all ages with humorous and colorful adaptations of classic folk and fairy tales.

Pumpnickel Puppet shows are presented with a cast of colorful puppet characters, audience participation, live voices and sound effects and fast paced scripts that not only entertain, but stimulate children's imagination and creativity.

*This program is sponsored by a grant.*

**Register here:** <https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/13566018>

# Sensory Playtime



**Saturday, January 18  
from 2:00 to 3:00 PM**

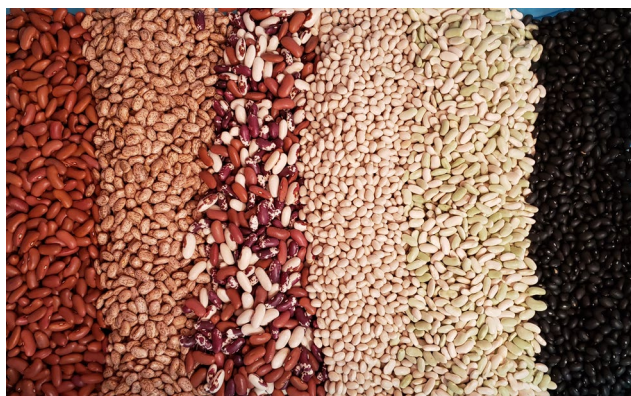
**All Ages**

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, January 11  
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/13689188>

# 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 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade book groups.

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

## **Book Gobblers Book Group for 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders**

**Monday, January 27 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>

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Book Group**

**Monday, January 6 from 4:00 to 4:45 PM**

The 3rd Grade Book is:

*Guinea Dog* by Patrick Jennings

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

## **4<sup>th</sup> Grade Book Group**

**Monday, January 13 from 4:00 to 4:45 PM**

The 4th Grade Book is:

*Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* by Grace Lin

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

## **Bagels & Books Group for 5<sup>th</sup> Graders**

**Tuesday, January 21 from 4:00 to 4:45 PM**

The 5th Grade Book is:

*The Eyes & The Impossible* by Dave Eggers

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

## **Bagels & Books Group for 6<sup>th</sup> Graders**

**Tuesday, January 28 from 3:00 to 3:45 PM**

The 6th Grade Book is:

*The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise* by Dan Geimenhart

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

# Write Stuff



**Tuesday, January 7  
from 3:35 to 4:20 PM**

**4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> 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, January 4  
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/13689121>

# STORYTIMES

**Mother Goose on the Loose Storytime**

**Ages 0 – 2+**

**Mondays & Thursdays at 10:30 AM**

**Winter/spring session begins January 23**

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 May 22.*

**[Register here.](#)**

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

**Wednesdays at 10:30 AM**

**Winter/spring session begins January 22**

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 winter/spring 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**

**Winter/spring session begins January 27**

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 winter/spring session.

**Limit of 12 (minimum of 6) 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 has tiny canvases available on a first come, first served basis;  
these are available at the circulation desk and the children's desk.

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>



# Edible Books Contest



**Tuesday, February 18  
from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM**

**All Ages**

Get creative with food and literature!

Create something with food to represent a book: you could create a broccoli forest for *Where the Wild Things Are*, or bake an Elephant and Piggie cake for the Elephant and Piggie books. Or perhaps you're a fan of *Moby Dick* and decorate a whale-shaped cookie.

The only two guidelines are that your entry be made of food and related somehow to books.

Entries will be displayed in the story room for the day of February 18; drop off your entry when the library opens at 10:00, and pick your entry up when the contest ends at 6:00 (or by 8:00 at the latest, which is when the library closes).

There will be in-person paper ballots for voting in the library, and there will be polls (with photos of the entries) for off-site voting via Google Forms.

Online voting will stay open for a week! Voting will decide the winner for each age category – winners get bragging rights and an awesome 1<sup>st</sup> place ribbon!

**Register here:**

<https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/13566000>

# LEGO Expo



**Saturday, March 15  
from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM**  
(Snow date is Saturday, March 29)

**All Ages**

**Don't miss the library's 15th annual LEGO Expo!**

Participants bring a LEGO construction of their own design to the Expo to be displayed in Volunteers Hall.

Models can be dropped off a few days prior to the event or displayed on the day of the Expo.

We want to see how creative you are, so build a LEGO model from your own imagination.

In other words, create your own cool design – don't build a LEGO model exactly as it appears in the picture on the box. The more creative, the better!!!

The first part of the Expo will be judged age categories (kids, teen, and adult) for those who wish to have judges look at their work.

The second part of the Expo will feature a display of all LEGO models, including those who just want to display their models and not be judged.

**Adult and teen judges needed!**

Contact Abby if interested: [akingsbu@cwmars.org](mailto:akingsbu@cwmars.org)

**Please pre-register so that we can create a guest book and attendance certificate for you!**

**Register here:**

<https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/13551937>

# Saturday Storytime: Silly Stories



**Saturday, January 11  
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.

January's theme is Silly Stories!

*Drop-in – no registration required.*

# Kids Afterschool Movie in the Story Room



**IF (PG)**

**Thursday, January 30  
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/13689751>