

What is the Summer Reading Challenge?

The Summer Reading Challenge is a national programme that runs during the school summer holiday. Children are challenged to read six books and talk to library staff or volunteers about them. Children collect rewards as they progress through the challenge. For the hundreds of children who complete the challenge, we hold a presentation ceremony where they are awarded a medal and a certificate.

What is the role about?

Volunteers - called Reading Activists - are needed between 4 July and 12 September. You will be working with children and their parents/carers, encouraging them to join the challenge and talking to them about the books they have been reading. You will be involved in preparing for and helping at activities and events.

What will it involve?

- Joining children to the Summer Reading Challenge
- Talking with children about the books they have been reading and encourage them to share their views and ideas
- Handing out reading rewards, such as stickers
- Helping children to have fun and enjoy the Summer Reading Challenge
- Assisting with administration, e.g. membership, filing
- Assisting with other library duties when time allows

What skills do I need?

- A good team worker, able to work with library staff and other volunteers
- Good communication skills – able to talk to customers of all ages including parents
- Enthusiastic about encouraging children to read
- Friendly and approachable

When will I be working?

You will need to commit to a minimum of 2 hours per week - don't worry if you are away on holiday for a week or two, you can still volunteer.

What training and support will you receive?

You will be invited to a training session where you'll be given a tour of the library and the opportunity to meet library staff. There will be ongoing support from library staff.

How do you apply?

Apply online <https://forms.office.com/e/4RChga9wzM>.

Physical application form is also available, please ask at Barbican Children's Library desk.

The closing date is 26 June 2026.