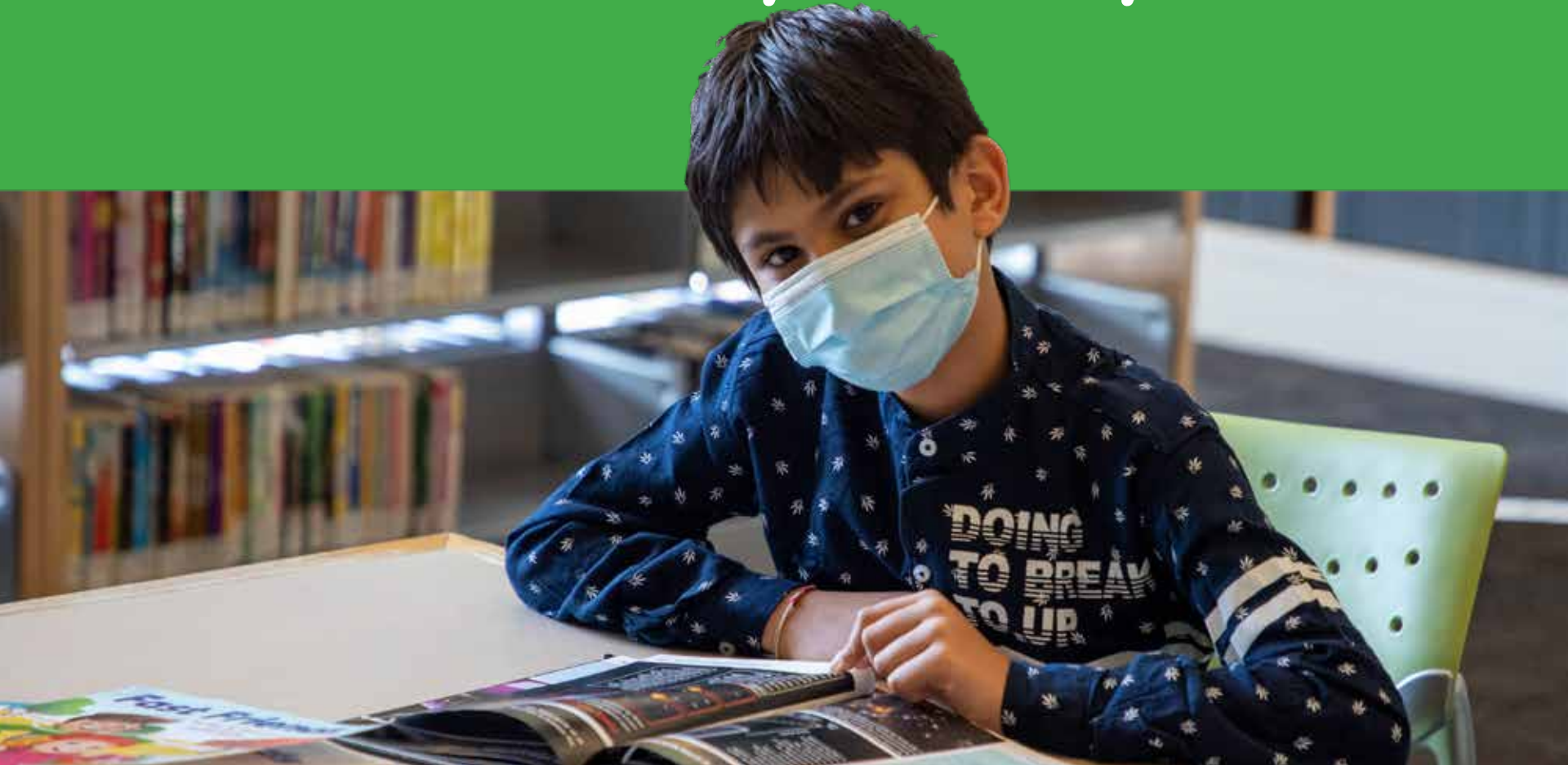


# My Visit to Toronto Public Library: A Social Story for Everyone



# Land Acknowledgement Statement

Haudenosaunee (ho-den-o-show-nee), Mississauga and Anishinaabe (a-nish-nah-beh) Nations,

Came together with all their relations.

Living together, they had a united wish,

To share the land and waters in peace, like One Spoon with a Dish.

Now many Indigenous families, Métis and Inuit too

Live here in treaty agreement, with me and you;

In the spirit of Peace, Friendship and mutual Respect,

We protect each other and the land, which we should never forget.

Thank you to our agency partners, library staff, and most importantly, the children and families for their help with this project.

# Note to Parents, Caregivers, and Educators

## Background

The purpose of this story is to help you and your child navigate and use Toronto Public Library (TPL). If your child feels anxious about visiting the library or is not sure what to expect, we hope this story will help. TPL libraries, including in-person and virtual programs, are safe and welcoming spaces for people of all abilities. If anyone in your family has a disability or is Deaf, we want you to feel comfortable in our branches and online. Please let library staff know how we can help!

## How to Use the Story

Read this story one or more times with your child or students before your library visit. Encourage them to ask questions and try to answer the best you can. If you need to, call the library you are visiting and ask.

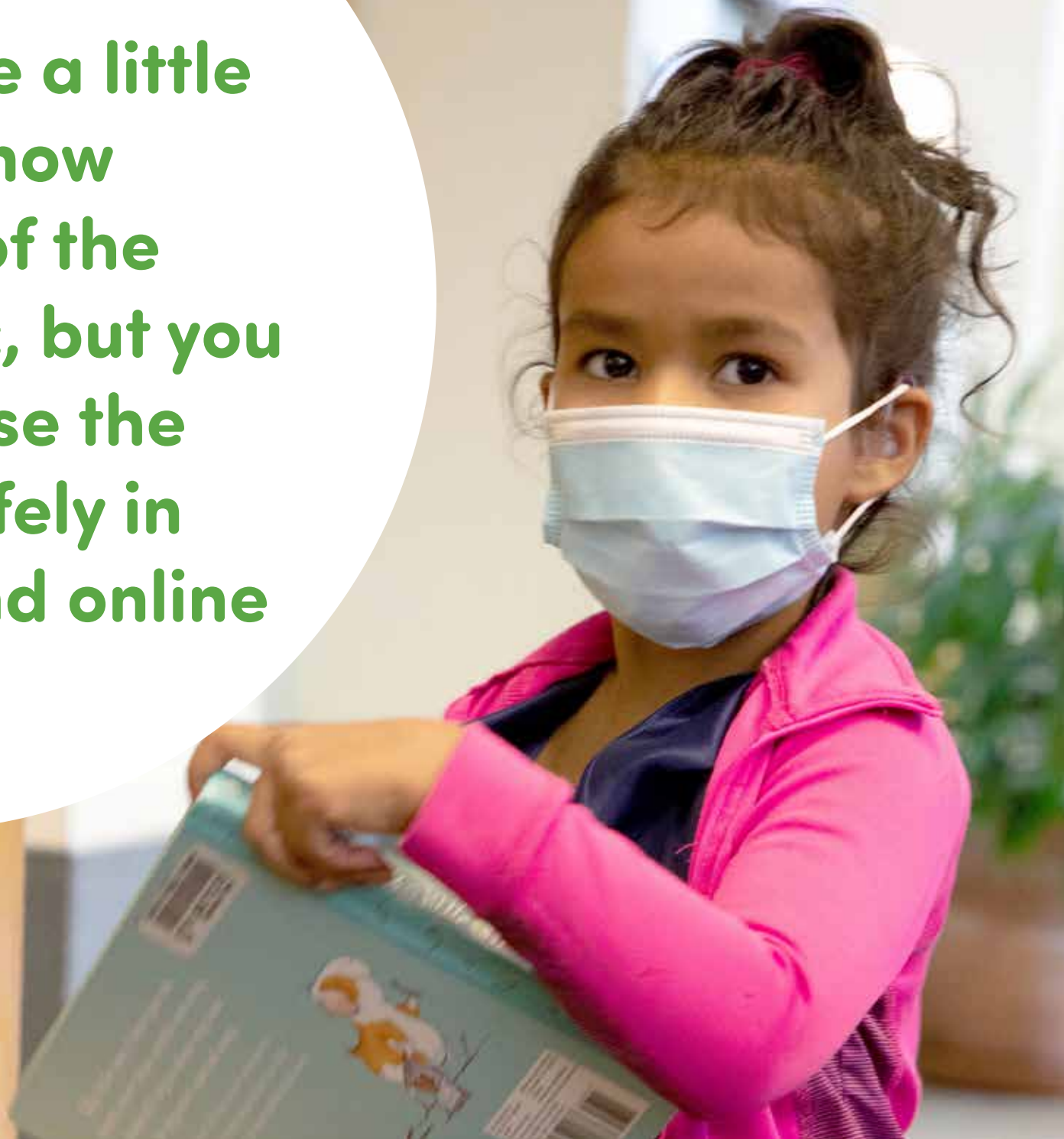
There is a picture glossary at the back to explain library terms that children may be unfamiliar with. The glossary terms are indicated with different coloured text for easier identification.

Today, I am  
visiting my  
library.





Things are a little different now because of the pandemic, but you can still use the library safely in person and online at home.

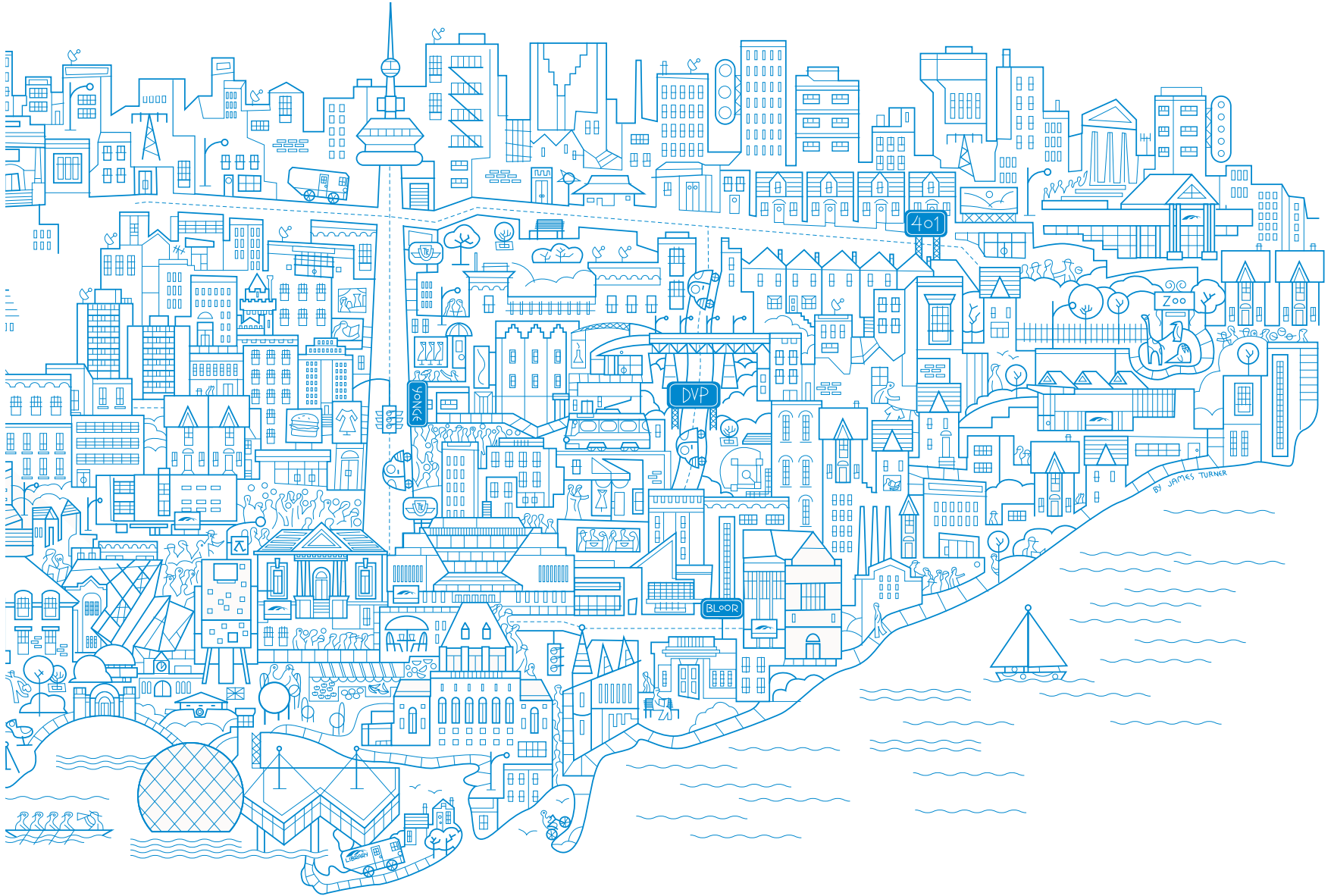


**The library is free  
to use and I am  
always welcome  
at the library!**





There are many libraries to choose from in my city, Toronto.



All libraries are different.  
Some libraries are big...





...while some libraries are small.



***At my library...***



I can go  
to the  
children's  
area.

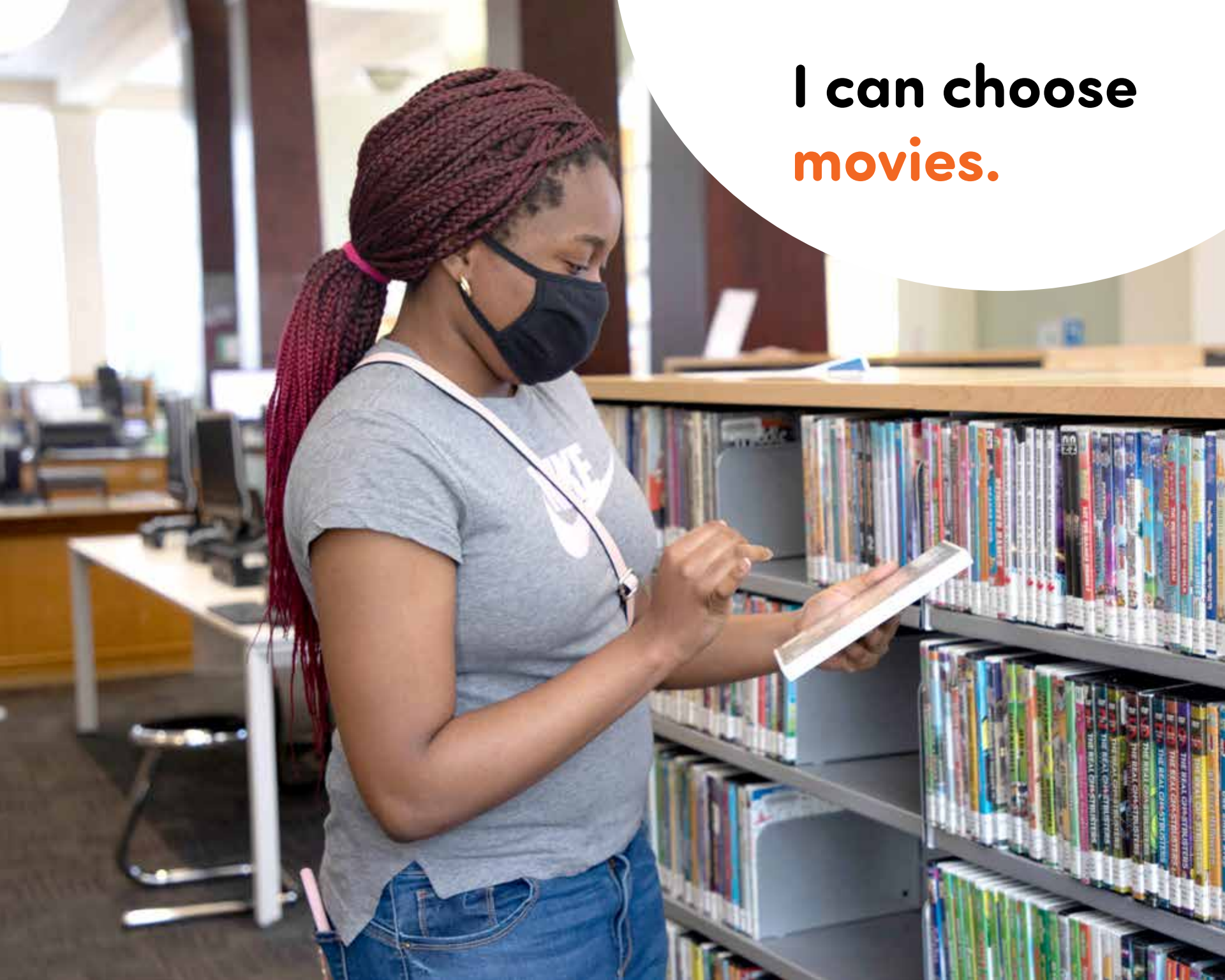






**I can  
choose  
books.**

**I can choose  
movies.**





**I can  
choose  
music.**





I can use a  
computer.



**I can use  
the library's  
website to  
read books  
and watch  
movies.**





I can meet a friend or make  
a new one while keeping a  
safe distance.





**I can go to a  
free library  
program—  
sometimes in  
person and  
sometimes  
online.**





Sometimes  
the library  
is very busy  
and loud.



**Sometimes  
the library is  
very quiet.**





**I can ask  
someone if I  
need to find a  
quiet place.**




I can use stairs, a ramp, or an elevator to get to where I need to go.







**I can use the washroom if I need it during my visit.**

A photograph of a library staff member, a woman with short blonde hair, glasses, and a light blue surgical mask, wearing a white short-sleeved shirt and a blue lanyard with a library ID badge. She is leaning over a computer desk, pointing at the keyboard. A young boy with dark hair, wearing a blue surgical mask and a dark blue long-sleeved shirt with white polka dots, is standing next to her, looking at the computer. The desk has a black computer monitor, a keyboard, and a mouse. In the background, there are shelves and other library equipment. A large white circular graphic is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing blue text.

**Library staff  
can answer my  
questions and  
help me find  
what I need.**



I can find library staff at the help desk or around the library.

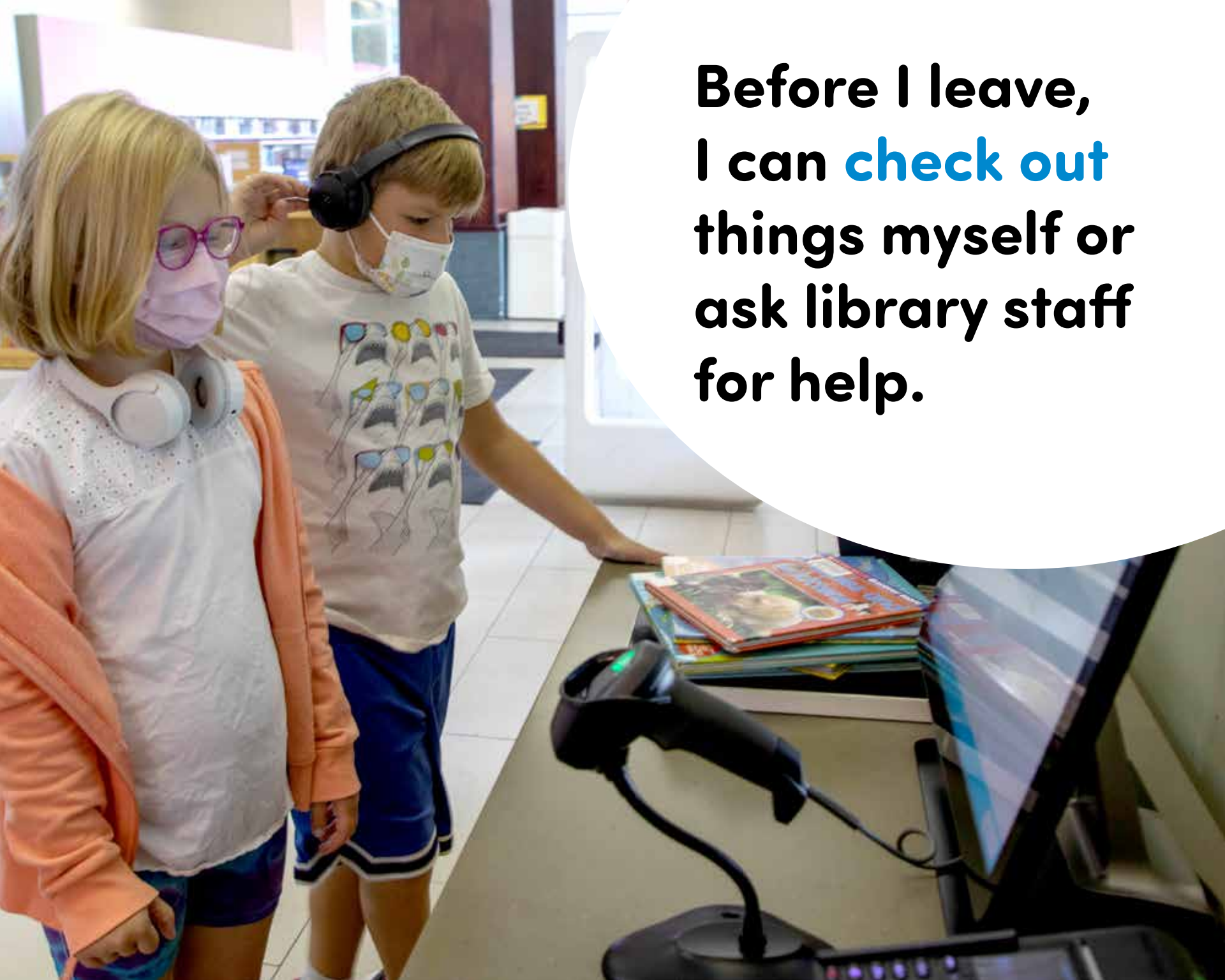


I can use my  
free **library  
card** to **borrow**  
things from  
the library, like  
books, music,  
and movies.





**Before I leave,  
I can **check out**  
things myself or  
ask library staff  
for help.**



When I am finished with the things I have borrowed, I return them for others to use.





It's time to go  
now, but I can  
come back  
to the library  
another day.



**What would you like to do  
at the library?**



# Picture glossary of library words



## Books

Books hold all kinds of stories in their words and pictures. You can borrow books from the library.



## Borrowing or checking out

Taking the things that belong to the library home for a short time.



## Children's area

Where kids of all ages can find books, movies, music, toys, and computers.



## Computer

A machine where you can use the library website, search the Internet, play games, and do school work.



## Library card

A special card that you use at the library and on the library website to borrow books, music, and movies.



## Movies

A story you can watch on a screen. You can borrow movies from the library.





## Music

Sounds you can listen to on different machines. You can borrow music CDs from the library or listen to music on the library website.



## Programs

A special time when you can play, learn, and have fun at the library. Programs are offered in-person and online.



## Staff

People who work at the library. They can answer your questions and help you find what you need. You can find staff at the help desk or around the library.

# How to get a library card

To be eligible for a free library card, a child or their parent need to:

- live in the City of Toronto
- work in the City of Toronto
- go to school in the City of Toronto, or
- own property in the City of Toronto

Visit [Your Library Card](#) for more information on getting a library card



# Useful links

- Visit [tpl.ca/accessibility](https://www.tpl.ca/accessibility) to learn more about accessible services, equipment and collections available in library branches and/or online.
- Library users with print disabilities are also eligible to access the collection at the [Centre for Equitable Library Access \(CELA\)](#).
- Visit [tpl.ca/programs-and-classes](https://www.tpl.ca/programs-and-classes) to explore in-person or virtual library programs.
- Visit [kids.tpl.ca/ready-for-reading](https://kids.tpl.ca/ready-for-reading) for preschool-aged children and [kids.tpl.ca](https://kids.tpl.ca) for school-aged children to find reading suggestions, programs, and fun activities.
- Visit TPL's [Disability: Read Up on It!](#) booklist for great stories with positive portrayals of people with a variety of different abilities. The titles are divided by format, from picture books to novels to information books for all young readers to enjoy.

**Thank you for reading “My Visit to Toronto Public Library!” We hope you enjoyed reading about the library, and we can’t wait for you to visit us soon.**





