

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.



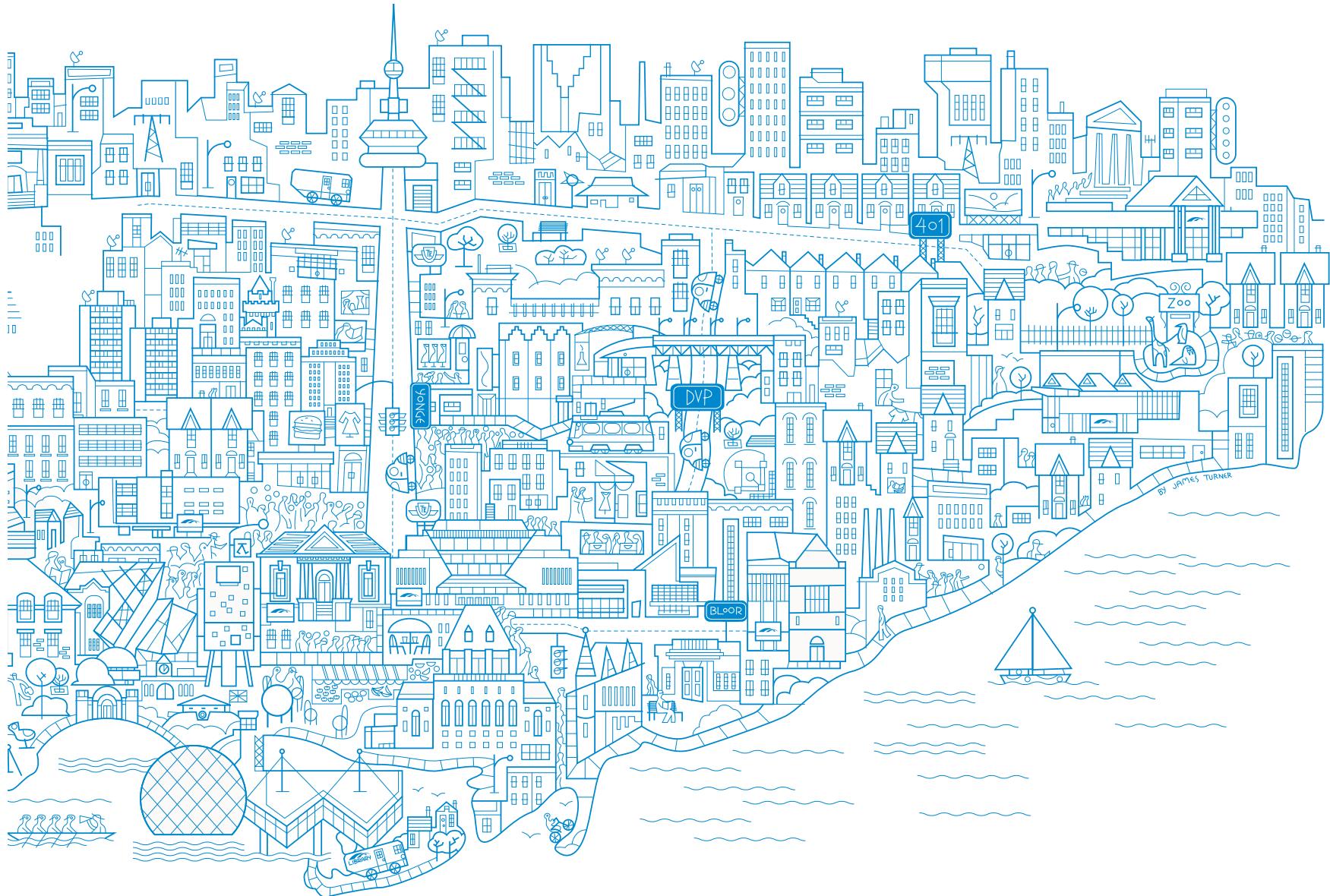
Things are a little
different now
because of the
pandemic, but you
can still use the
library safely in
person and online
at home.



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.



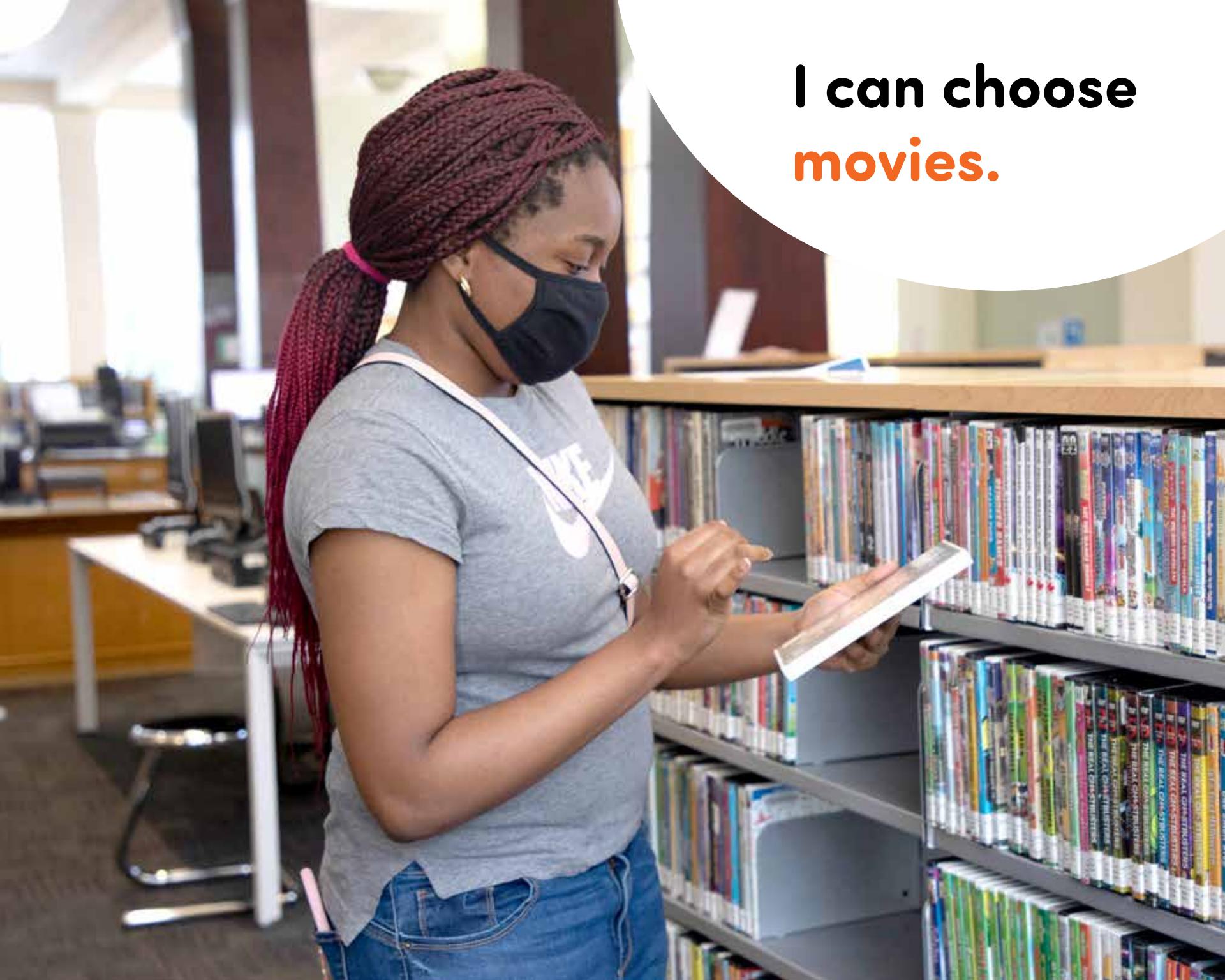
At my library...

I can go
to the
children's
area.





I can
choose
books.

A young woman with long, dark red braided hair is standing in a library. She is wearing a black face mask and a light gray t-shirt. She is holding a white book in her hands, looking at it. Behind her are wooden bookshelves filled with books. In the foreground, there are metal bookshelves filled with books. The lighting is bright and natural, coming from large windows in the background.

I can choose
movies.

A young girl with blonde hair tied back in a bun is seen from the side and back. She is wearing a blue and white polka-dot dress, a green and white patterned mask, and blue headphones. She is looking at a wooden display of children's books. The display is organized into yellow compartments labeled with red text: "SONGS E-F", "SONGS G-H", "SONGS I-J", "SONGS K-L", "SONGS M-O", "SONGS P-Q", "SONGS R-S", "SONGS T-U", and "SONGS V-W". Each compartment contains several books with colorful covers. A white circular graphic in the upper right corner contains the text.

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.

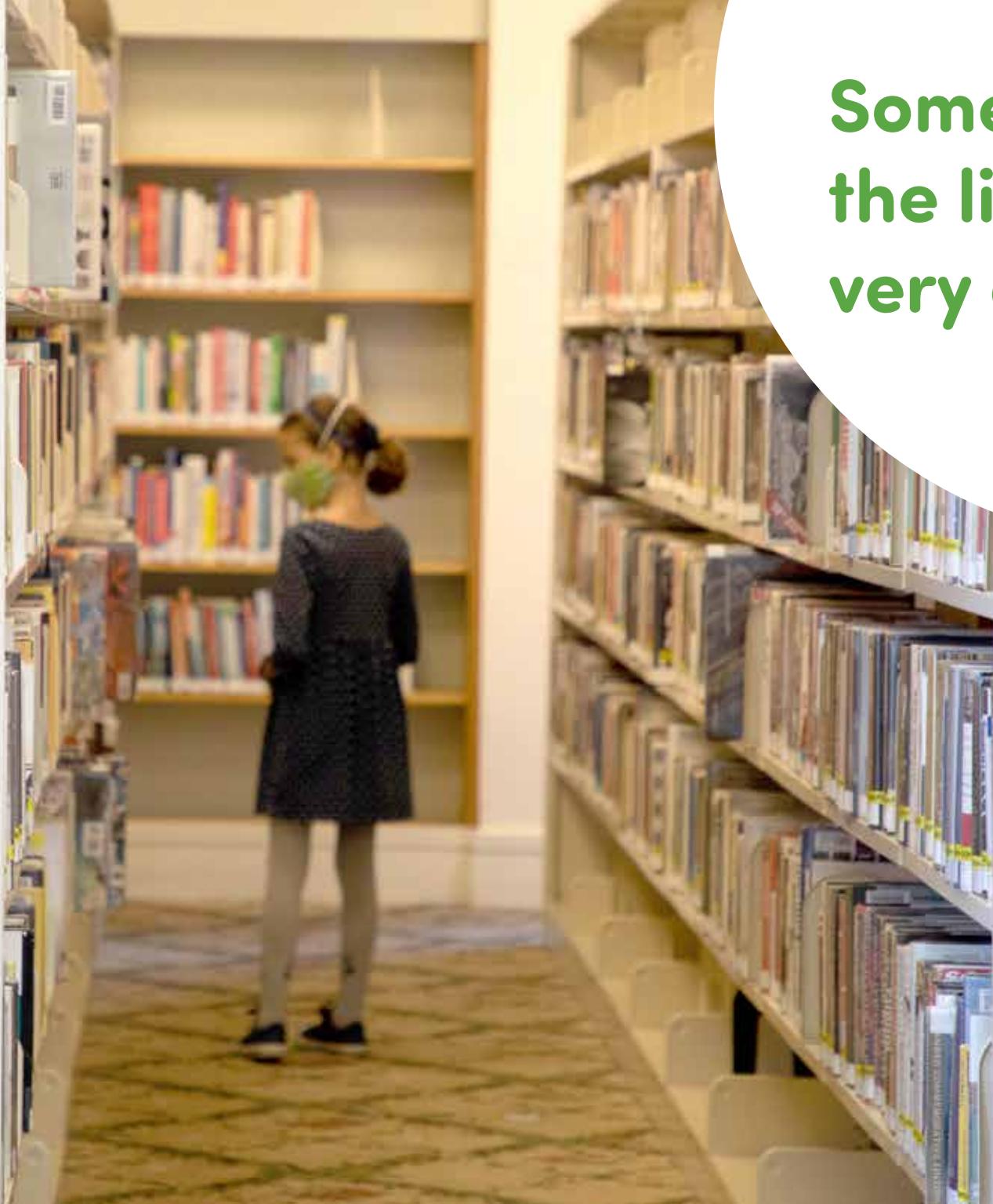


I can go to a
free library
program—
sometimes in
person and
sometimes
online.



Sometimes
the library
is very busy
and loud.



A photograph of a woman in a library. She is seen from the back, wearing a dark dress and a green mask. She is walking down an aisle between tall bookshelves filled with books. The floor is carpeted in a light beige color.

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.

**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.



A photograph of a young boy and girl standing on a paved walkway in front of a library. The boy, on the left, is wearing a black and white plaid jacket over a black t-shirt, black pants, and a black baseball cap with a yellow logo. The girl, on the right, is wearing a pink jacket over a blue top with a star pattern, a pink and purple ombre tutu, and white sneakers with colorful laces. She is holding a large, blank white sign. In the background, there are glass doors with a wheelchair accessibility sign, a "CAUTION Automatic Glass Closing" sign, and a "No Smoking" sign. The library building has a modern design with a glass facade.

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 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 \(CELA\)](http://Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA)).
- Visit tpl.ca/programs-and-classes to explore in-person or virtual library programs.
- Visit kids.tpl.ca/ready-for-reading for preschool-aged children and 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.



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• public library

tpl.ca/kids