

Join us in Z-arts Children's Library

We've got lots of family-friendly events throughout the year!



A place where children and families can read, imagine, connect, create and have fun. Our library is home to lots of books that celebrate diversity! Keep an eye out on our website for more library events and activities. See our regular sessions below:



Rhyme Time	age 0+	Thursdays	10.30 - 11.30am
Little Reads with MLF	for all the family	Every 1st Tuesday of the month	10.30 - 11.15am (Inclusive/Pre-school/Family session)
Wriggle & Rhyme	age 2+	Every 2nd Tuesday of the month	10.30 - 11.15am
Mini Move & Groove	age 2+	Every 3rd Wednesday of the month	10.30 - 11.15am
Baby Book Club	age 0+	Every 4th Wednesday of the month	10.30 - 11.15am

Our regular library programme will be from 16th January - 20th July 2024.



How to get your Library card?

Simply, pop into Z-arts and chat to our friendly team or scan this QR code for all the info!

it's FREE!

Z-escape

A brand-new family escape room at Z-arts!

Ever wanted to step inside a story? The Library of Enchantment is a fun-filled, thrilling, family-friendly escape room. It's full of seafaring adventures, time travelling tricks and a pesky old bookworm who's always up to meddlesome mischief!

Join us for an enchanting experience that requires your puzzling skills, logic, persistence and, most of all, teamwork. **Ideal for birthdays, special occasions, or just for fun!**



"AMAZING! Still can't get over how good it was - definitely surpassed our expectations! The kids and adults loved it!"

Scan the QR code to book now!



Family Jams are back!

Come and join our Friday night Family Jam! Our monthly music events are back, with different artists performing a special early evening set especially for children and families. You can unwind after a hectic week with music and free arts activities for the whole family to get involved in. Join us **from 4:30pm in Z-café**, where we have hot and cold drinks and a brand-new sandwich menu!



🎵 Fri 19 Jan	🎵 Fri 22 Mar	🎵 Fri 24 May	🎵 Fri 26 Jul
🎵 Fri 23 Feb	🎵 Fri 26 Apr	🎵 Fri 21 Jun	

dates for your diary!

Holiday Activities

Free - Check out our website for more details!

20 - 23 Feb	Draw with Z-arts for ages 5-11
2 - 5 Apr	Wellbeing Wonders for ages 6-11
28 - 31 May	Pirate School for ages 5-11
6 - 9 Aug	Summer Stars for ages 5-7
13 - 18 Aug	Summer Stars for ages 8-11



Summer of Stories

Every Tuesday to Saturday, from 11am - 2.30pm - throughout the Summer Holidays!

Join us for creative family-friendly fun celebrating previous authors and illustrators who inspired our immersive experiences, like Oliver Jeffers, Julia Donaldson, Axel Scheffler along with our current favourite Rob Biddulph. Local artists will lead drop-in visual arts activities, from crafting characters with Jeffers' charm to Donaldson's tales brought to life through the wonderful illustration of Axel Scheffler. Each week will celebrate different authors and illustrators. Z-arts will be a creative haven during the summer holidays, welcoming families to explore, play, and celebrate the magic of storytelling through the vibrant world of visual arts.



30 Jul - 3 Aug	Oliver Jeffers
6 - 10 Aug	Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler
13 - 17 Aug	Michael Rosen
20 - 24 Aug	Rob Biddulph



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z-arts.org

0161 226 1912

Z-arts registered charity 1093556



Pick me - fun for all the family in here!

January - August 2024

What's On



Box office:
0161 226 1912

z-arts.org

335 Stretford Road,
Manchester M15 5ZA

#zartsmcr



Registered charity 1093556

Scan here to discover more!



Shows for the whole family

Sat 27 Jan | 11am & 2pm

Laika The Space Dog

By Lori Hopkins

Laika The Space Dog is a lively family show retelling the story of the first dog in space (with a twist)! Featuring a beautifully crafted puppet, riveting soundtrack and a few surprises, Laika the Space Dog delights ages 3+ and adults too.



ages 3-7

Sat 10 Feb | 11am & 2pm

Dogs Don't Do Ballet

By Little Angel Theatre

Biff is not like ordinary dogs. He likes moonlight. And music. And walking on his tiptoes. You see, Biff doesn't think he's a dog, Biff thinks he's a ballerina... The sublime and the ridiculous combine in this hilarious story of a small dog with a big personality and even bigger dreams, brought to life using beautiful puppets, well-loved ballet music and dazzling comedy.



ages 2-6

Sat 24 Feb | 2pm

Gameshow For Awful Children

By Les Enfants Terrible

Marcel Lucont, the UK's favourite French comedian, presents a wild family gameshow, in which kids get to be pests, politicians and pétomanes to be crowned the most awful child. See what happens when international insouciance meets infantile exuberance. Every bit as entertaining for adults as it is for children. Winner of the Best Kids Show 2022 – UK Kids Comedy Festival.




ages 6-12

Sunday 10 Mar | 11am & 2pm

Boxed In

A Daryl & Co. and Half Moon co-production

Who says a line should always be straight? What's wrong with zig zags? How about curves? Boxed In explores the unspoken barriers of attitudes, social etiquette and behaviour that surround us. How do you know a barrier is there if you can't see it? And if you can't see it, how can you remove it? This heartfelt story is about being made to feel naughty, just because the rules don't make sense.



ages 3-6

Fri 29 & Sat 30 Mar | Various times available

There's a Monster in Your Show

By MEI Theatrical

Tom Fletcher's interactive adventures for big imaginations are leaping from page to stage, as the beloved 'Who's in Your Book?' series makes its debut as a brand-new musical show. Expect plenty of fun for your littlest ones as their favourite characters, including Monster, Dragon, Alien and Unicorn, come to life in a show that is packed with playful moments to enjoy together. There's a Monster in Your Show ... and he can't wait to meet you!



age 3+

Sat 13 Apr | 11am & 2pm

Grooving With Pirates

By Groove Baby

Join a bunch of merry buccaneers on a funk and jazz adventure across the seas! A swashbuckling tale of friendship and treasure awaits. Specially designed for ages 3-7 and their grown-up crew. A fun mixture of animation, interactive music making and solid groove from the Groove Baby Organ Trio.



ages 3-7

Sat 27 Apr | 10.30am, 11.30am & 1pm

Kaleidoscope

By Filskit Theatre

Blink. Blink again. What do you see? Day by day your world is filling up with colour, little one. Reds and blues, yellows and greens. Twinkling lights that glisten and gleam. Your reflection is staring back at you. Wide eyed and full of hope. Mirrors, lights, colours and sounds. The world is your Kaleidoscope. Inspired by research into how a baby's sense of sight develops and how they instinctively begin to categorise colour, watch as a multi-coloured Kaleidoscope is brought to life for you and your baby.



6-18 mths

Fri 10 – Sun 12 May | Various times available

Handa's Surprise

By Little Angel Theatre

Travel to Kenya and follow in Handa's footsteps as she journeys to see her best friend Akeyo, in the next village. Handa is taking seven delicious fruits as a surprise – but seven different animals have seven very different ideas... could you resist the sweet-smelling guava? How about a ripe red mango or a tangy purple passion fruit?



ages 2-5

Seasonal Storytelling & Special Events



Tues 9 – Fri 12 Apr | 11am

Easter Storytelling Happy Hatchday

by Rob Biddulph



Sat 20 Apr & Sat 18 May | 1pm

Library Lab



Sat 15 June | 11am - 2pm

Festival of Libraries – Fun Day

Sat 1 June | 11am & 2pm

Ten in the Bed

By Half Moon

Is it a bed? Or a boat? Or a giant slice of toast? For Naz and Iggy and their eight friends, their bed is a place where imagination can fill their tummies with tasty treats and take them to familiar warm places. Well, sometimes. This humorous and inventive new show celebrates the power of imaginary play and proves there's always enough room to have fun, even when the world is at its most daunting.




ages 3-8

Sat 15 June | 2pm (Check out our library events for a Dommy B workshop!)


Make Some Noise

By Dommy B

Noise can be gentle, quiet, loud, lots of fun and full of feelings. Dommy B shares a surprising story about growing up, finding a brilliant (but naughty) imaginary friend, becoming 'Junk the Punk' and joining a great school band (Whizzkid and the Veggie Burgers)! In this new show, there'll be rhymes, jokes, and lots of opportunity to make some noise in a celebration of the power of sound and friendship.




age 5+




Sun 28 April | 12 - 4pm

International Dance Day




Sat 22 June | 12 - 4pm

Hulme Is Where The Art Is



Sat 6 July | 2pm

Bright Sparks Showcase



Wed 7 August | 10am - 2pm

National Play Day (over in Hulme Park)

The 100 Story Hotel



on sale now!

The 100 Story Hotel

An interactive world of play and storytelling.

ages 1-8

Created with bestselling, multi award-winning author and illustrator Rob Biddulph and Discover Children's Story Centre. This interactive world of play and storytelling has something for everyone aged 1-8 and their families.

At The 100 Story Hotel there are all sorts of guests; lions and tigers, dinosaurs and bears. Some sausage dogs are having a party on the hotel beach. And that's to say nothing of the dedicated staff. The porters are penguins, the housekeeping team is headed up by a handy octopus.

There's just one problem at this wonderful establishment – although the hotel is usually full of 100 amazing stories, one story has just gone missing! We desperately need your help to find the naughty culprit. Can you follow the clues and track them down?

Sat 17 Feb | Various times available

Join us for our Launch Event!

Grrrr Themed Fun Day: Join us for a beary good time with our Best Bear-themed contest and an exhilarating assault course filled with hula hoops, gold medals, and a podium for our triumphant champions. Plus, you can craft your very own bear ears to wear during the contest.

It's a day of bear-tastic adventures!

Discover Children's Story Centre

Manchester Literature Festival

Rob Biddulph

Scan here to discover more!



