**ClearVision Children’s Braille Library**

ClearVision is a national charity based in a small building in the grounds of Linden Lodge School in South west London. It grew out of a small collection of braille and print books created in the mid-1980s for young braille readers at the school. ClearVision became a registered charity, independent of the school, in 1992 and now lends books by post to over a thousand families, schools, Sensory Support Services and public libraries all over the UK.

ClearVision books are designed for sharing; the braille text is added to ordinary children’s books so that each book can be read and enjoyed by print readers and braille readers together.

ClearVision provides a wide selection of children’s books to suit different tastes, interests and reading levels. The collection includes novelty board books for blind and partially-sighted babies and toddlers (with sound buttons, scents, flaps and textures), print-and-braille books for pre-schoolers and children learning to read, early 'chapter books' for newly fluent readers, and some books for pupils at Key Stage 3 (ages 12/13) who are not fluent readers. ClearVision also lends books to braille-reading parents, grandparents etc. so that they can share them with sighted children.

For schools and services only, ClearVision has a loans collection of around 800 books with tactile illustrations – one of few such collections worldwide. Most of these books are hand-made by volunteers. Work has now started on expanding this collection to include more appropriate books for children and young people with sight impairment and more complex disabilities. Many of the children and young people we support today, including those at Linden Lodge School who visit in us person, have a variety of disabilities in addition to sight loss, including dual sensory impairment (Deaf/blind), physical disabilities, communication difficulties, severe learning disabilities and/or are Autistic. Many have complex health needs, which means their lives may be shorter and/or very different to those of children without disabilities. Many will never be “readers” in the conventional sense but can enjoy exploring tactile pictures as the story is read aloud to them. We are very proud to bring the excitement, pleasure and joy of books to all our borrowers.

ClearVision is one of the few sources of reading materials in Moon, another touch-reading language, somewhat simpler than braille, and is proactive in promoting its use for children unable to learn braille.

The ClearVision Trustees are keen that the library should continue to develop to meet the changing needs of children with sight impairment – including those with additional needs. ClearVision encourages and supports families and professionals by sharing information, publishing booklets, and promoting and celebrating touch reading wherever appropriate. ClearVision works closely with RNIB, Calibre Audio Library, Guide Dogs and other service providers and users through its positions on various boards, campaign groups and committees.

Office staff consist of one full-time Director, one part-time Library Administrator and one part-time Project Officer, currently working on implementing our new online catalogue. We currently use a part-time freelance fundraiser. Books are transcribed into braille by three self-employed home workers and a prison braille unit. All books are proofread by a self-employed proofreader working from home. Tactile books are mainly designed and produced by volunteers working from home.

Membership of the ClearVision library is currently free for families and a heavily-subsidised £60 p.a. for schools, services and public libraries, who receive a larger loan. ClearVision receives no state funding and relies on donations from trusts and individuals. ClearVision's location in the grounds of Linden Lodge School helps to keep overheads to a minimum; total annual expenditure is currently approx. £125,000 p.a.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the strategic development of the charity, for ensuring compliance with charitable and accounting regulations and for overseeing the management of the ClearVision library. The Trustees bring professional experience and personal interest to this task. ClearVision's patron is former Children's Laureate Anne Fine, OBE.

For more information please see our website and social media:

[www.clearvisionproject.org](http://www.clearvisionproject.org/)

[www.facebook.com/clearvisionproject](http://www.facebook.com/clearvisionproject)

Twitter: ClearVisionOrg

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