



Media release

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## Talking books bring stories to life

Selwyn children can now improve their reading skills in a fun and interactive way by watching and reading along with talking storybooks.

TumbleBooks is a collection of free animated storybooks and digital chapter books. The books read text out loud to children while highlighting text so they can follow along. Pages turn automatically and storybook illustrations move around the page as children watch them.

There are hundreds of books available on the database and they are listed by age groups and reading levels. Books are available for a range of ages from pre-schoolers to young teenagers. As well as a large collection of stories, there are also interactive games, challenging puzzles and educational videos.

Selwyn Libraries Manager Vicki Carlyon says the database will provide a great selection of new reading material for young readers.

"We're finding there is a growing demand for alternative ways of engaging kids with books in libraries so TumbleBooks will be a great addition to our services and will encourage kids to have fun while they are reading.

"Kids will be able to watch the animated story unfold in front of them and read out loud as the words move across the screen. It's a fun and unique take on traditional reading which will help improve children's reading and language skills."

TumbleBooks are available through the Selwyn Libraries website at a local library or from home on any device with an internet connection such as an iPad, tablet or computer.

Popular children's stories available through TumbleBooks include *Dear Peter Rabbit*, *Franklin Goes to School*, *The Itsy Bitsy Spider*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Old Mother Hubbard*, *T'was the Night before Christmas*, *Nancy Drew*, and *The Wind in the Willows*.

To find TumbleBooks, visit [www.selwynlibrary.co.nz/kids](http://www.selwynlibrary.co.nz/kids) and click on the TumbleBooks icon.

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