

The Childrens Floor

LAES

- a universe of reading for children
at Copenhagen Main Library

IN
ENGLISH





The Childrens Floor LÆS (READ)
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Welcome to LÆS

The Children's Floor LÆS is an all-new type of childrens library that uses neuroscience and knowledge about children's reading habits and language acquisition to connect reading with playing and learning.

In LÆS, Copenhagen Main Library has dedicated 1000 square meters to support linguistic development and the love of reading in children aged 0 to 12 years, through 10 activity zones that together form a landscape of nature- and urban-areas open for exploring, discovering books and being challenged physically.

We hope that the floor increases love of reading and inspires to read for and with your children.

Enjoy!
Copenhagen Main Library

www.bibliotek.kk.dk/laes

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FONDEN**
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More children reading more

There is a worrying development in Denmark where children read less today than previously. Apart from having fewer experiences with good books and engaging narratives, this is a fundamental problem because it delays the child's linguistic development and proficiency in reading. Skills that are necessary throughout the child's life, in school and on the job market. The children's floor LÆS, is Copenhagen Main Library's contribution in order to turn things around.

In LÆS, Copenhagen will get a living universe of reading, where the floor's design and activities create great experiences with letters, words and reading. LÆS will contribute to:

- having children between 0 and 6 years of age reading
- having children between 6 and 12 years of age continue reading
- teaching parents how and why children can become avid readers

Children think with their bodies

Reading involves the entire body, whether you are using your hands to understand the shape of a letter or tasting a sound when pronouncing or spelling a new word.

The Children's Floor connects the mind and body to books. The unique design of the floor is based on neuroscience and relies on the idea that movement and activity is fundamental for children to the point that it can be said that children think with their bodies. For this reason, the zones follow the linguistic development of the child and combines language with developing motor skills along the way - and experience shows that we remember things better when we use our bodies.



Read with your child

Through reading aloud, conversation and playing with letters and words, children's early experiences with written language and literature are encouraged - this can be done at home, at the day nursery, in kindergarten or at the library.

It pays off to read with your child. Research suggests that early language acquisition provides for a good start in life, because children:

- gain a larger vocabulary
- become better readers
- become more empathetic
- do better in school
- become better at focusing
- develop abstract thinking



Go exploring in LÆS

Together, the 10 zones form a landscape of nature- and urban-areas, where the children can explore, encounter books and be challenged physically. Each zone is set up with a focus on functionality, safety, the child's development stages and the appropriate books.

LÆS offers experiences for:

- the youngest children
- children just beginning to read
- the older children

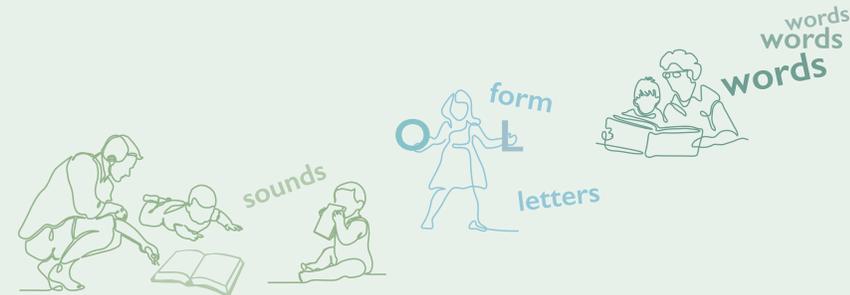
In LÆS, you can also meet hosts that function as staff on the floor. They guide children and adults in the use of the floor and can help you find the book you are looking for.



“ The youngest children often moves around from zone to zone and are captured by the things they encounter; a furry letter, an exciting book or a shortcut in *The Up&Down Forrest*. I see how the meeting with the letters gains their curiosity and turns into motions and sounds.

Thomas - "LAES"-host

The youngest children



From sound to language

Toddlers learn language by listening to and looking at adults speaking. The more spoken language children hear, the quicker they are able to put words on the world - and if language is combined with moving and sensing, the words will be remembered better. In the zone *The Sound Meadow*, the adults can receive inspiration to talk with their children about objects found in the area while moving about.

Many children have a natural interest in letters and their use. In the beginning, children are mostly interested in the shapes but little by little they find an interest in the sounds as well, making it possible to spell and read short words. In the zone *The Spring of Letters*, you can play with all of your favorite letters - only the alphabet and your imagination set the limits.

When children are building a vocabulary, it starts off slow at first but gains momentum after a while. The more words you know, the easier it gets to guess the meaning of new words. New words are best remembered if you activate multiple senses during the process - and that is exactly what the zone *The Up&Down Forest* is intended for.



Beginners

Getting started

Children learn to read in three phases. At first, they have limited knowledge of the letters and their sounds, and they read words as pictures. When they get acquainted with the connections, they start spelling letter by letter, sound by sound. With time, they become more confident when reading, and they become faster at recognizing the shape, pronunciation and meaning of words. They will read bigger units at a time, for example syllables and longer words. In the zone *The Book Castle*, you can explore this development in order to bring home the perfect book.



- that listening is also reading. Both audiobooks and reading aloud count
- that you are usually able to read a book with a high lix rating, if you find the subject interesting



“ I find the zones fantastic and they make it easier to find books just right for my child. The children’s floor is able to turn reading into a joy and not a duty as it sometimes feels like at school.

Daniel - father to Jens



“ In the area for the older children you see how they go exploring on their own. They look for books and talk to other children about topics relevant to them. Especially books about friendship and humor is a big hit.

Louise - "LÆS"-host



Older children

We read with our bodies

In *Literature Alley* you can find anything from non-fiction to novels, poems and cartoons. Older children can try out books alone or together in one of the many houses found in the *Literature Alley* and maybe find a house that fits the book.

Children read with their bodies, which is why there are several ways of using the room; whether you prefer reading lying down, upside down or in a pile of friends. The zone also includes reading challenges which encourages reading in fun and unusual ways. The book exhibitions presents a selection of the genres preferred by children and in the yellow house you can find the latest news regarding literature festivals, reading campaigns and much more aimed at children at Copenhagen Libraries.



“ Children and hosts enjoy “suitcase stories”. We open up a suitcase and with puppets and other things we tell stories. The children participate wholehearted and really wants to join in. It is “hyggeligt”.

Pernille - “LÆS”-host

Activities for all

Every week, Copenhagen Main Library offers events and activities at fixed hours aimed at families with children, public day-care facilities or schools. This could be “Baby Book Club”, “Suitcase Stories”, “Reading Aloud” or “Films for the Youngest”.

See the current weekly program under “Activities” at www.bibliotek.kk.dk/laes



