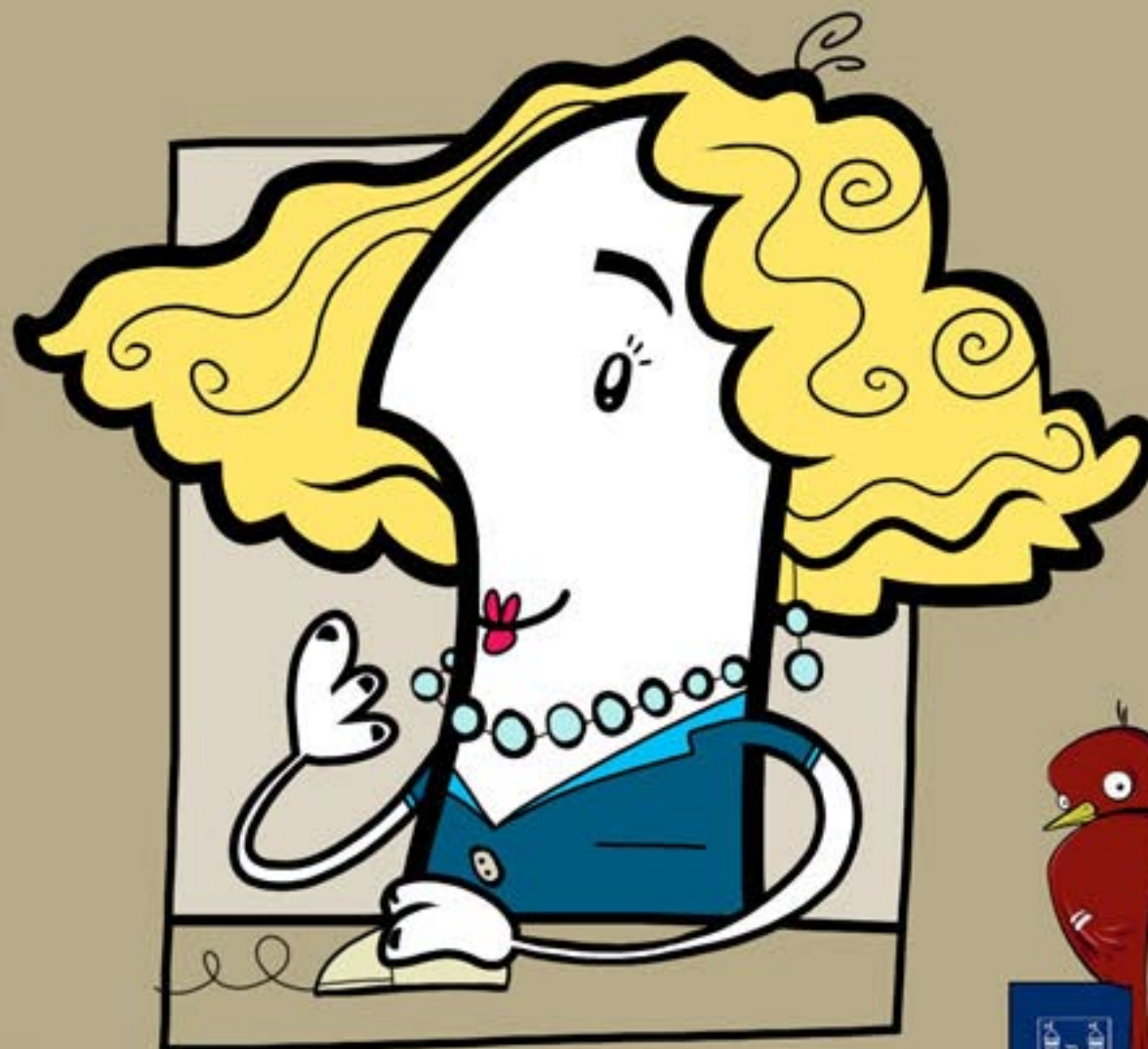


CORK CITY LIBRARIES present:



LIBRARIES
LEABHARLANNA
www.corkcitylibraries.ie

THE

WHAT YOUR CHILDREN
WANT FROM CORK CITY
LIBRARIES SURVEY

RESULTS

Introduction



The Library Association of Ireland's Policy Statement on Library Services to Children and Young People which echoes the ethos of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child, states:

- Every child should have easy access to a library throughout their lives
- Library membership to children should be free of charge
- Children's library services should be given equal status to those of adults
- A fundamental aim of library services to children and young people is to promote literacy.

Supporting these ideals and those of The National Children's Strategy (ONCYA), which states that "children's lives will benefit from evaluation, research and information on their needs, rights and the effectiveness of services", Cork City Libraries are continuously developing new ways to engage children in its services and activities.

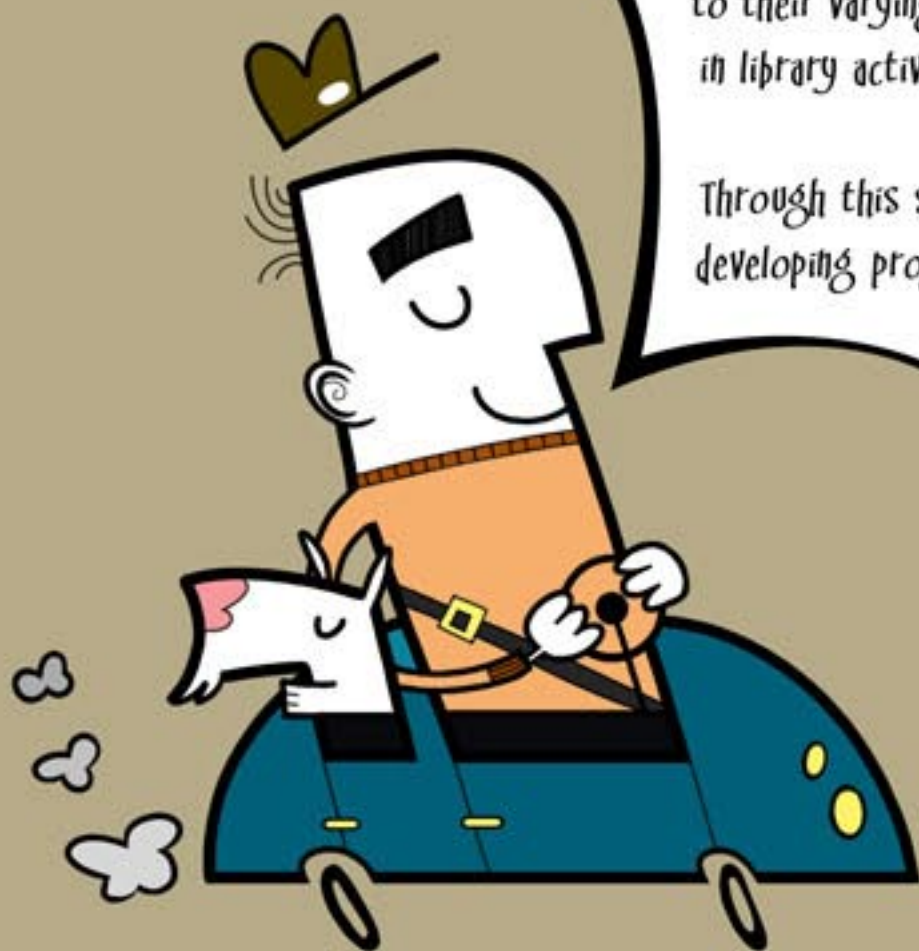
Children's libraries are often thought of as scaled down adult spaces. But as children differ from adults and each other, so children's libraries need to be unique spaces that respond to their varying needs, creativity and imagination. The magic of reading and participating in library activities comes from inside the child.

Through this survey Cork City Libraries is giving children a voice and engaging them in developing programmes of activities and facilities relevant to them. We hope that by giving them this opportunity we will welcome them to a lifelong experience of the world of books, creativity and electronic resources for which they have provided the guiding framework.

Breda Hassett and Patricia Looney

Executive Librarians

Children's & Young People's Services



1: HOW OLD IS YOUR CHILD?

Age	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
percent %	5	4	5	13	13	16	12	9	15	8

2: GENDER:	Female	Male
	71%	29%

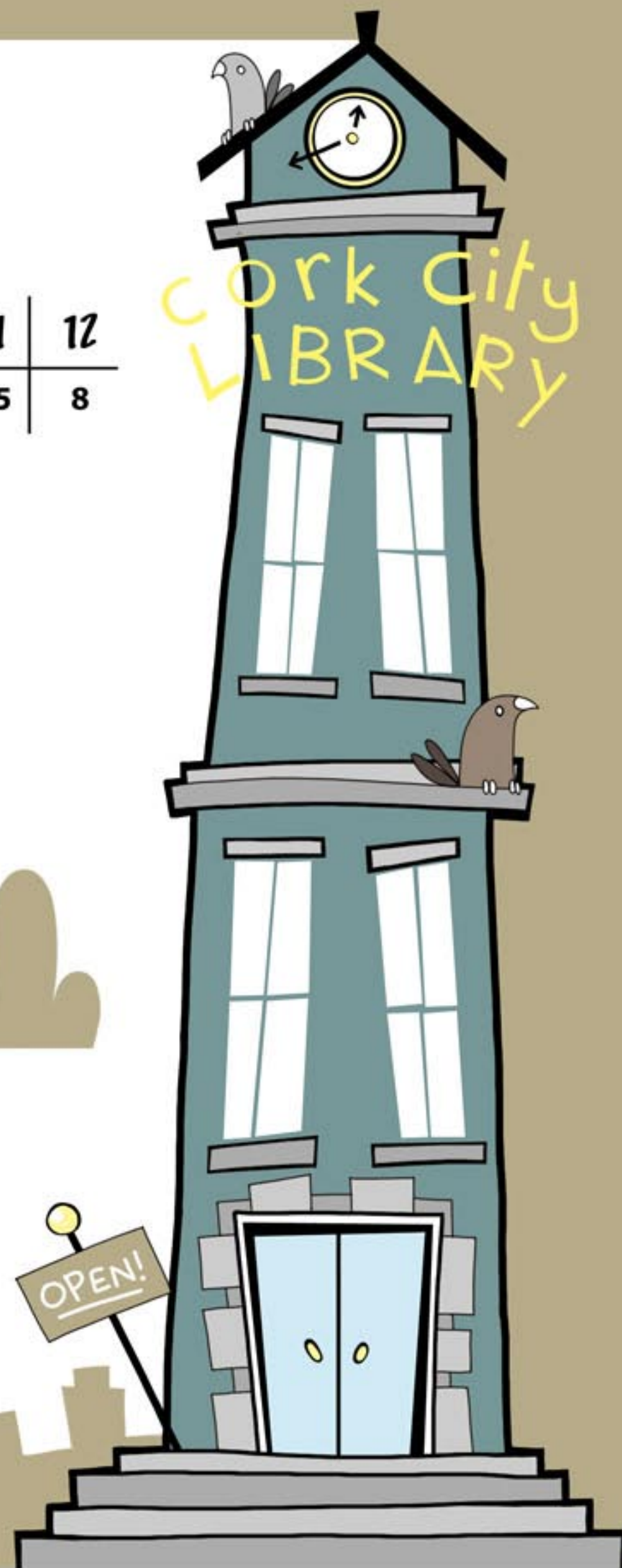
3: IS YOUR CHILD JOINED CORK CITY LIBRARY?

Yes	No
86%	14%

4: DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY IS LOCATED?

Yes	No
98%	2%

Cork City
LIBRARY





5: WHY DOES YOUR CHILD USE THE LIBRARY?

Borrow Cds	.....	8%
Improve Reading Skills	.....	20%
Attend Events / Activities	.....	10%
Borrow Books	.....	46%
Homework	.....	6%
Wait for Parent	.....	1%
Use Internet	.....	4%
Attend Clubs	.....	2%
Meet Friends	.....	3%

6: WHY DOES YOUR CHILD NOT USE THE LIBRARY?

Distance from Library	.....	21%
Opening Hours Don't Suit	.....	5%
Staff Not Helpful	.....	1%
Boring Stigma Attached	.....	2%
Fines for Late Returns	.....	8%
Buys Books	.....	35%
Uses Home Internet	.....	28%

7: HOW OFTEN DOES YOUR CHILD USE THE LIBRARY?

Weekly	Fortnightly	Monthly	Other
28%	33%	26%	13%

8: MEMBERSHIP OF THE LIBRARY IS FREE FOR CHILDREN. DO YOU AGREE WITH THIS?

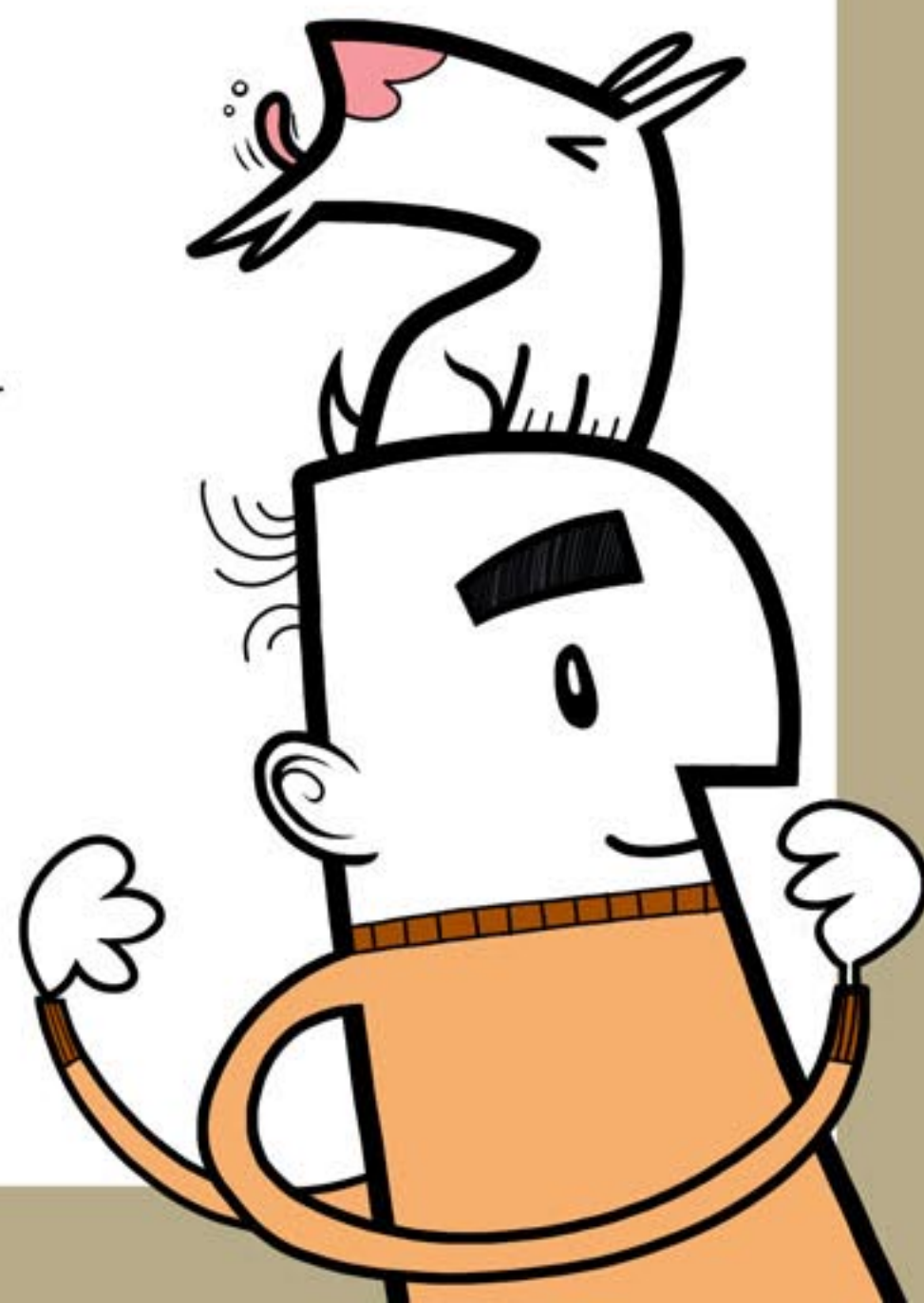
Yes	No
96%	4%

9: THERE IS A MEMBERSHIP CHARGE FOR CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF ADULTS. DO YOU AGREE WITH THESE CHARGES?

Yes	No	If No, How Much?
77%	23%	€12.50 average

10: DO YOU THINK CHILDREN SHOULD BE FINED IF BOOKS ARE OVERDUE?

Yes	No
75%	25%



11:

ARE YOU AWARE THAT BORROWED
ITEMS CAN BE RENEWED ONLINE BY
USING A PIN NUMBER?

Yes	No
40%	60%

12:

DOES YOUR CHILD VISIT THE LIBRARY WITH:

You	Carer	Grandparent	School	Alone
60%	2%	4%	29%	5%

13:

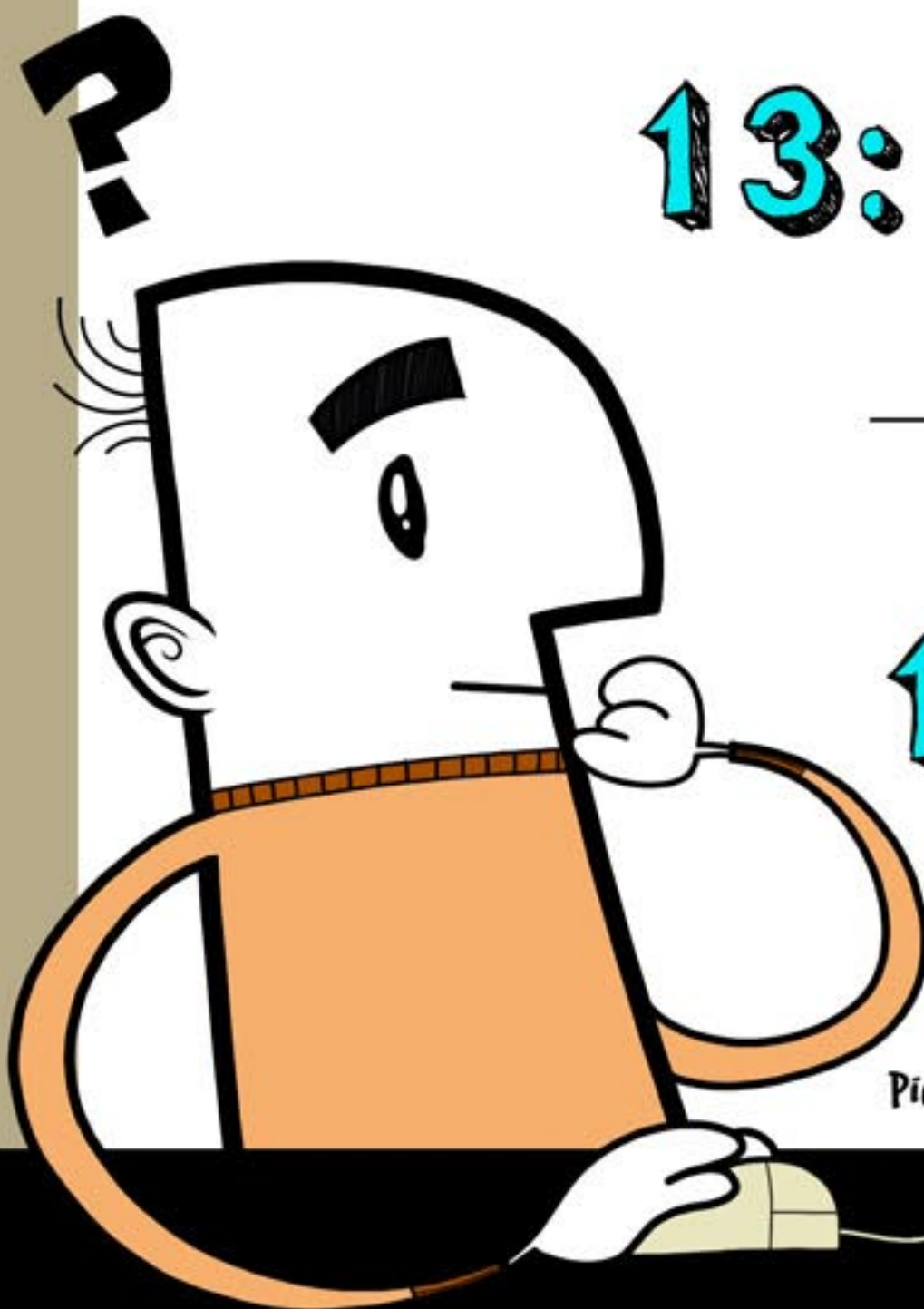
WHAT DOES YOUR CHILD THINK OF
THE STOCK IN THE LIBRARY?

Good	Bad	Okay
78%	21%	1%

14:

SHOULD THERE BE MORE:

CDS	11%	Games	16%
DVDs	16%	Factual Books	14%
Magazines	8%	Story Books/Novels	25%
Picture Books	10%		



15: WHAT DOES YOUR CHILD USE COMPUTERS IN THE LIBRARY FOR?

Email	Homework	Games	Word-Processing	Internet
5%	28%	31%	5%	31%

16: WHY DOES YOUR CHILD USE THE LIBRARY TO DO THEIR HOMEWORK?

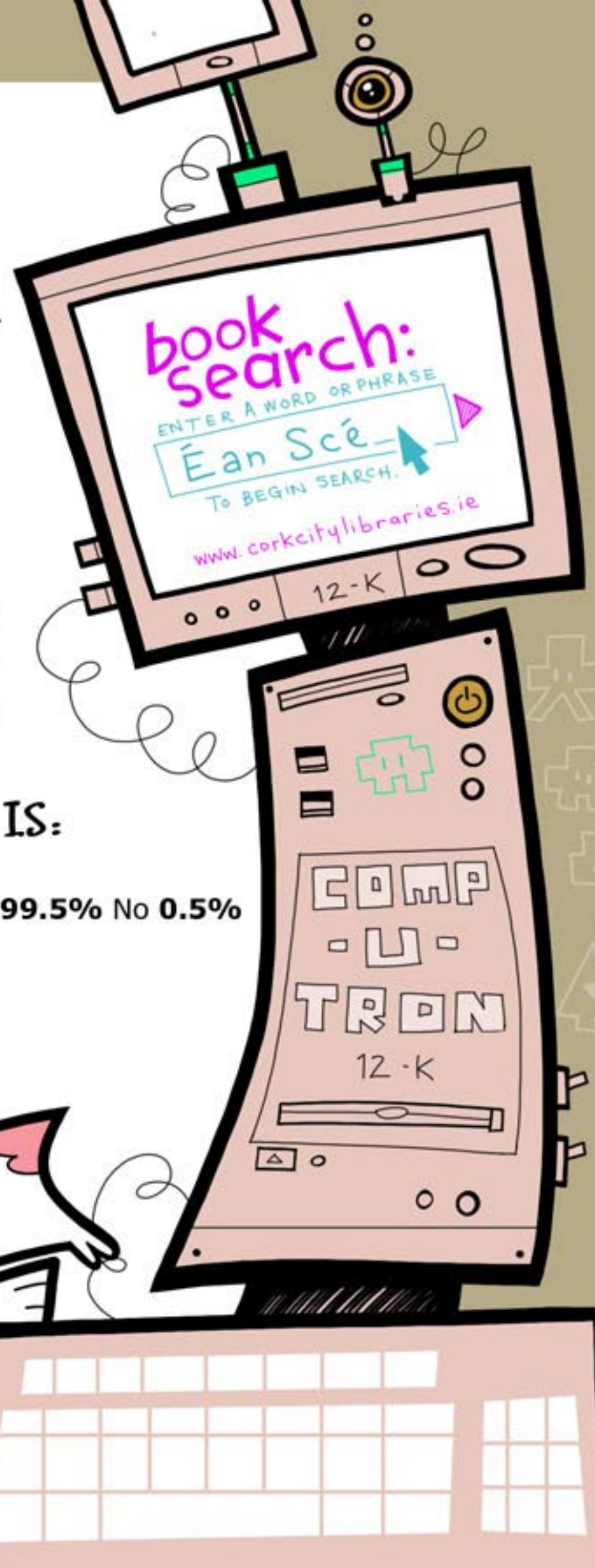
Helpful Staff	.....	10%	Useful Books	.....	28%
Quiet Space	.....	34%	Computer Access	.....	10%
			Other	.....	18%

17: DOES YOUR CHILD THINK THE LIBRARY IS:

A Friendly Place	.....	Yes 99%	No 1%	A Safe Place	.....	Yes 99.5%	No 0.5%
An Intimidating Place	.....	Yes 10%	No 90%				

18: HAS YOUR CHILD ATTENDED ANY EVENTS IN THE LIBRARY?

Children's Book Festival	.....	15%
Story Time	.....	26%
Summer Programme	.....	6%
Colouring / Craft Activities	.....	30%
Science Week	.....	13%
Other	.....	10%





19: HOW WOULD YOUR CHILD DESCRIBE LIBRARY STAFF?

Friendly	Helpful	Unfriendly	Unhelpful
57%	40%	2%	1%

20: WHAT WOULD YOUR CHILD LIKE TO SEE INCORPORATED IN A NEW CENTRAL LIBRARY?

- Better seating, more colour pictures
- More film books
- More activities & new books
- More books on plays
- More DVDs & games
- More science-based educational toys
- Book sales
- Library tours
- Up to date books, more computers, more author visits
- Courses to help or train children in the use of catalogues and internet

- More nice staff
- A better selection of factual books aimed at children
- More convenient opening hours
- A cafe where you can eat snacks
- Christian novels
- More true stories for the age 11/12
- More story times
- A screen to watch movies
- Email parents with upcoming events for children
- Book club

21: IF YOUR CHILD HAS SPECIAL NEEDS, WHAT ADDITIONAL MATERIAL COULD THE LIBRARY SUPPLY THEM WITH?

Specific Books	Access to Building	Audiovisual Material	Activities/Events
57%	40%	2%	1%

22: DO YOU USE CORK CITY LIBRARIES?

Yes	No	No, But I Like To Read	I Don't Read	I Use Music Library
62%	16%	19%	1%	2%

23: WHICH LIBRARY DOES YOUR CHILD USE?



Grand Parade	Tory Top	Mayfield	St. Mary's Road	Hollyhill	Douglas	Bishopstown
15%	21%	11%	4%	0%*	16%	33%

"Facility to join a branch and use all branches is fantastic!" (Grand Parade & Douglas)

"I like going there. They are providing a great service." (Grand Parade, Tory Top & Bishopstown)

"Sometimes too noisy to do homework, staff very helpful." (Mayfield)

"It is a great place for children. Lots of activities and plenty of books." (Grand Parade)

"It has separate floors for adults and children; it is good because the adults can relax, without being disturbed by passing children." (St Mary's Road)

"Douglas is very hard to access at the moment, but I am sure that will change. Helpful staff." (Douglas)

"It has a fantastic stock of new books and great staff." (Tory Top)

"Great relationship with the schools." (Grand Parade & Mayfield)

"A great place to come without outside distractions, lots of story times for children." (Bishopstown)

"It's a good place but needs to be updated. No parking. Nice staff." (St Mary's Road)

"Very happy with it but an enclosed area for toddlers would be wonderful so that they cannot climb the stairs." (Bishopstown)

"Very unwelcoming exterior." (Mayfield)

*Hollyhill Library was closed for the duration of this survey due to relocation

24: HOW CAN YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY SUPPORT YOU IF YOUR FIRST LANGUAGE IS NOT ENGLISH?

- More Polish books, AV material, CDs & films
- Translation dictionaries
- More books in my first language
- English classes
- Sign language
- Through language books or CDs on the internet
- Special sections for different languages
- A language course
- Speak slowly
- Have staff who can speak other languages & help you read English books

My First Language Is:

English
Polish
Slovakian
Tagalog (Philippine)
Nepalese
Urdu
Lithuanian
Hungarian
Arabic
Hindi
Malaysian
Irish
Chinese



Methodology

In order to implement the ideas outlined in the policy statement, Cork City Libraries Children's and Young People's Service's designed a twenty four question survey. This was based on the opinions of children who took part in **Our New Library Project** in libraries citywide during the summer of 2007.

The aim of the survey was to determine **What Your Children Want From Cork City Libraries.**

Eight hundred survey sheets were circulated to:

- 60 primary schools citywide
- 5 Special Needs Education Units
- HEN (Home Education Network)
- Cork City Childcare
- Cork Traveller Women's Network
- National Council for the Blind
- Cork Association for the Deaf
- Through Library network citywide

Surveys were processed by Breda Hassett and Patricia Looney, Executive Librarians, Children and Young People's Services; Catherine Creedon and Kate O'Callaghan, Children's Library, Grand Parade.

"Trips to the library with my mother are, in my memory, even more thrilling than trips to the sweet shop, and when I got my eldest daughter a library card I felt as though I had bought her citizenship of that same fabulous world."

J.K. Rowling

