

Lit Kits to Go & More!

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I had the opportunity to visit all 14 branches of the Volusia County Public Library system the week ending July 19. What a fantastic experience to see how each branch is very similar, yet quite different. Of course, every branch offers books, computers, DVDs, Audiobooks, magazines, and tons of services and programs as expected. The staff at every branch location was welcoming, smiling, and happy to make my acquaintance. I enjoyed meeting each, and every one of them. Although I will not remember all of their names, I will never forget Charlie Schwab, the branch manager at the Lake Helen library branch as he introduced me to his friend and sock puppet, white-bearded Prospector Jake. Charlie donned a white beard and matching cowboy-style hat to complete the illusion of the puppet talking and telling jokes. I enjoyed meeting Charlie, the master storyteller, and his gruff-talking yet endearing friend.

As I traveled to each branch location over three days, I witnessed many children and young adults enjoying a program demonstration, listening to an audiobook, or reading a novel that they just found amongst the thousands of books on the countless shelves at the library. I also witnessed numerous adults using the computers available to do research and expand their knowledge base.

I gathered information from each location to familiarize myself with the vast number of programs offered, and I came across two that caught my eye. I thought readers might enjoy hearing about these programs and services.

Lit Kits To Go

The Volusia County Public Library offers Lit Kits for children to enjoy elsewhere than the library. Parents can request a kit for their child by stopping by a branch location or by requesting the kit online at <https://volusialibrary.org/kids>.

The Lit Kit to Go is filled with library books, activities, and fun educational materials chosen specifically for your child's interests to enjoy at home, at grandma's house, in the car, and just about anywhere else. Lit Kits are available for children from infant to 5th grade. Of course, infants have yet to develop their interests, but parents can use the kit to expose the infant to colors, shapes, sounds, and visuals. The library books have to be returned by their due date, but the other materials included in the Lit Kit are free for the parents to keep.

Let's say 3-year-old Jimmy loves dragons and dinosaurs. The Lit Kit would be comprised of books about dragons and dinosaurs, materials to create a dragon puppet, and other activity materials aligned with his interests would also be included.

Interactive Books for Kids-

iVOX is a children's book app for ages 3-8, which engages and delights curious young minds with the latest in storytelling technology; part eBook, part audiobook, and part virtual pop-up. Children follow along with the exciting stories while interacting with 3D characters and scenes – immersed in the narrative like never before (no 3D glasses needed!).

VOX Books combine outstanding picture books, chapter books, and non-fiction titles with audio recordings that capture children's attention and make learning and literacy development fun.

Since their introduction in 2015, VOX Books have been embraced by schools and libraries across the globe as a powerful tool for engaging children with books and developing the reading skills needed for success in school and in life. iVox books are available from the Volusia County Public Library website. The direct link is <https://ivox.libraryideas.com> and once there you will be asked to enter your library card number and PIN number.

Visit the Volusia County Public Library nearest to you today to take advantage of these and other wonderful programs. As always, with your library card, all of these services are free. To find a location and to explore the services and programs available, visit <http://www.volusialibrary.org>.

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