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News & Reviews by Roz Weedman  
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## Putting words and voice together – VOX Books and more

Thanks to a Thrivent Financial Action Team grant requested by librarian Michelle Duclos, the library now has six VOX Books – a new addition to our literacy initiatives for our young readers. Cheri Stainforth, the library’s Early Learning Specialist, is busy implementing plans for improving reading opportunities for children with autism or other needs, and VOX Books are a part of this.

Each VOX book has a port to plug in ear buds, and a control panel on the left that pretty young elementary school children can learn to use. The control buttons are simple enough – play and volume buttons that young children won’t have a problem with.

Evidence shows that some people – not just children – who can hear a book read and follow along with the printed words will improve their own reading and vocabulary faster than only reading (or only listening which doesn’t emphasize the act of reading). Our collection of VOX books is a children’s collection. Each book has a different signal – a fun sound effect specific to the story – to indicate when it’s time to turn the page.

All of these books look like fun stories. From **A Perfectly Messed Up Day to Mr. Tiger Goes Wild; If You Ever Want to Bring a Piano to the Beach DON’T to And the Nuts Keep Rolling** – these books know their young audience. I think any parent would also be entertained reading these with your kids. (I was pretty taken with the Mr. Tiger book.)

Look for a special display when you come to the library and ask for assistance to see how these work (but it’s simple).

We also have some new books with audio for Tweens, the popular Geronimo Stilton series, for instance. Audio books aren’t just for grownups anymore.

But they aren’t just for children with special needs either. The Library of Michigan offers even more opportunities for a special free library service. It offers audio books and Braille books “available to those who are unable to read standard printed materials as a result of blindness, visual disability, or physical limitations.”

Patrons must meet one of several eligibility requirements to qualify for this service. For those who are blind, deaf/blind, or have a visual or physical disability, simply checking the box on the form (with assistance) is good enough. For those who qualify with a Reading Disability, the certification of a doctor is required. The application – available at the library – has the

certification form to take to your doctor right on it. You also get to check off your favorite authors and subjects so that suggestions you might like are specific to your preferences. You even can have a book automatically sent to you whenever you return one. Veterans are given preference (as required by law) to this service. Once you get qualified, it's a convenient and free service.

Making books accessible to everyone and supplying the means to enhance literacy for those with differing needs is an advancement that we are pleased to offer and assist patrons in accessing. Just let us know. The possibilities are extensive.

See you at the Library!

**Upcoming Events: Friday Night at the Movies for Adults** at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 1 "Little Women."  
**Zombies Nerf War for Teens** Sat. Feb. 2 at 6:00 p.m. **Part 2 Nature Series – The Secret Life of Skunks** Tues. Feb. 5 at 6:30 p.m. **Pout Pout Fish Party** Sat. Feb. 9 from 10 – 12. Keep track of events on our website, FB, and Twitter.