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## Children set Guinness record with giant book

Zoe Mak and Joyce Man

Two hundred children have set a Guinness world record by decorating a 1.22-metre-high book on International Book Day to show their love of reading.

Grade Five and Six children from 12 schools met 12 Hong Kong authors of children's books at a Children's Reading Day organised by the Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association yesterday as part of this month's International Book Day.

Association supervisor Tsang Kwong-yuen said while children had a healthy helping of western authors, it was forgotten that the city had many authors of children's books. "We wanted children to have a better understanding of them," he said.



Leung Hoi-ting and her mother, Choi Kit-shan, join the activities at the Children's Reading Day in Kowloon City yesterday. Photo: May Tse

They listened to Wong Hing-wan, 88, reminisce about telling stories to child workers and watched a puppet

show based on her latest book, *Mr Zhu's Pet*, which features an overweight pig.

Using newspaper, cloth and markers, the pupils made their own characters, sticking them into the giant book. Organisers said the pupils showed a healthy love of reading.

"In the past few years, Hong Kong children's reading has improved. Reading volume and interest has increased," Mr Tsang said.

"Books are our good friends," said Coty Chan Chun-ling, 11, who attends Aplichau Kaifong Primary School. "I like reading alone, but after finishing a book I like to talk about it with my friends and family."

Leisure and Cultural Services Department has recorded a steady increase in registered borrowers at libraries in the city since 2003, with 3.55 million registered borrowers last year.

### Turning a page

About half of Hong Kong's residents are now registered borrowers with libraries

Total borrowed items (books, CDs etc)

03	58.6m
04	62.15m
05	61m
06	61.3m
07*	58.4m

Total registered borrowers

03	2.96m
04	3.14m
05	3.3m
06	3.44m
07	3.55m

\*Six public libraries underwent renovation last year

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SOURCE: LCSD



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