

♥ Charity & Nonprofit



Exeter Library by Libraries Unlimited

Case Study

Location
Exeter, UK

Date
August 2025

Project
Osborne Technologies'
Aurora sensory zone

Product
Sensory room



About Libraries Unlimited

Libraries Unlimited is the charity responsible for operating 54 public libraries across Devon and Torbay. Its mission is to enrich lives and build communities through access to knowledge, creativity, and opportunity. Each year, over 2 million visits are made, with 130,000 members and thousands more supported through cultural events, educational programmes, and wellbeing initiatives. Exeter Library is a flagship site, serving as a vibrant community hub that supports literacy, combats social inequality, reduces loneliness, and inspires creativity.

The opportunity

The children's library at Exeter Library is a thriving cultural hub, running more than 770 events annually and attracting over 26,600 attendees, including nearly 11,500 children. While highly popular, the space faced challenges, with furniture and equipment showing signs of wear and the need for facilities that better reflected the library's inclusive vision.

The ambition was to create a children's library that went beyond bookshelves and reading corners, offering a dynamic, welcoming space where families could learn, play, and explore together. The aim was to broaden reach, diversify the user base, and provide a more inclusive, inspiring environment that supported discovery, curiosity, and joy.

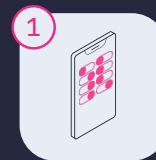
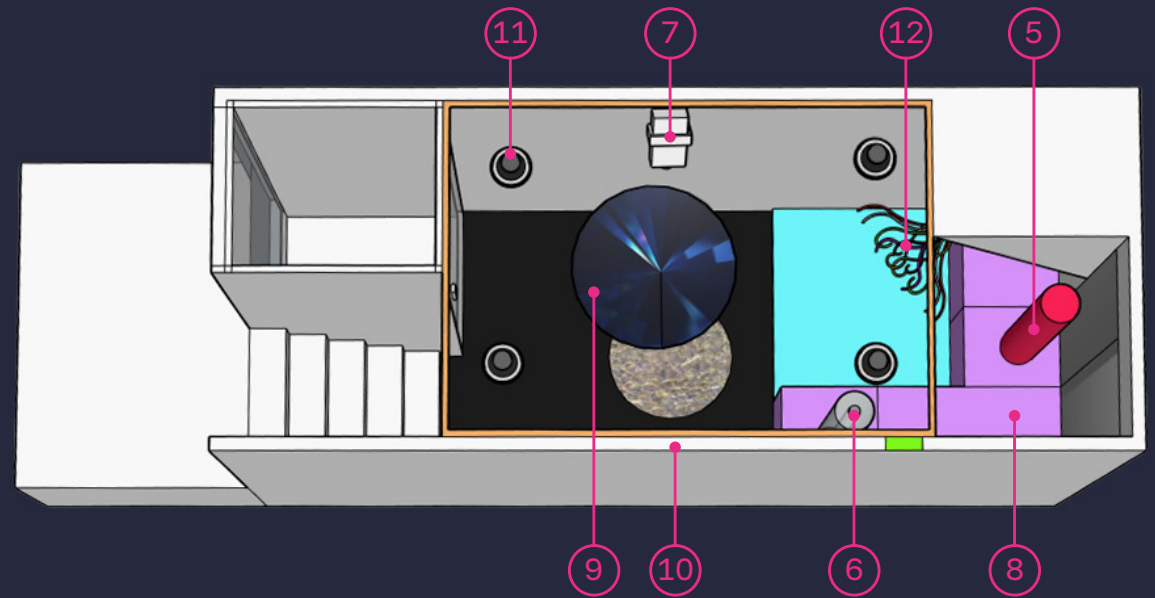
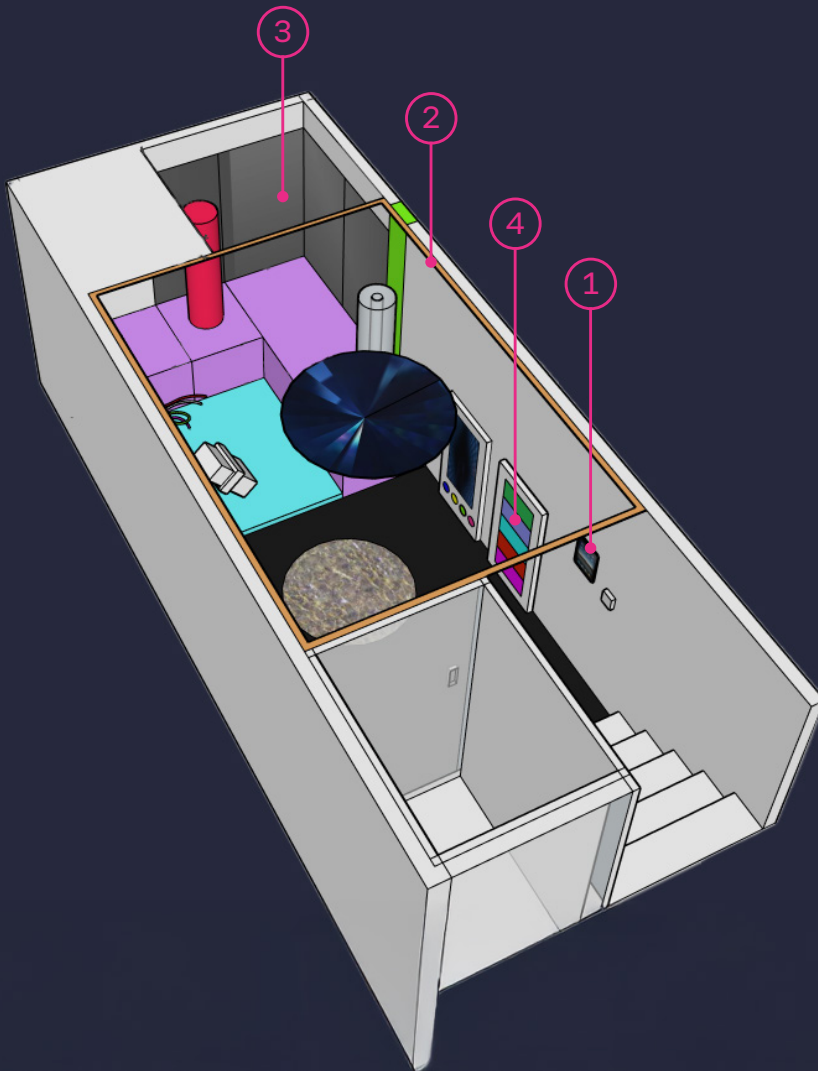
The space before



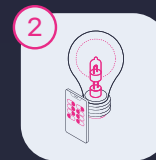
The process

Having already worked with Osborne Technologies on Wizefloor installations, Libraries Unlimited chose Aurora to deliver the sensory zone. Aurora partnered with Arque Ltd and worked closely with Norse Group to design a bespoke solution for Exeter Library, transforming the children's area into an exciting space for active exploration as well as a calming retreat when quiet moments are needed. Careful consideration was given to inclusivity, accessibility, and ease of use for staff.

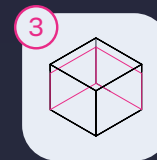
The plans



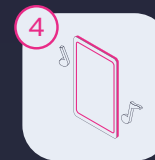
Aurora console



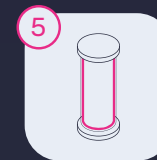
Ambient lighting



Wall mirrors



Sound panel+



Chroma tube



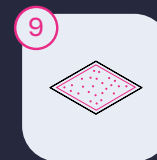
Air tube



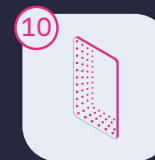
Oil projector



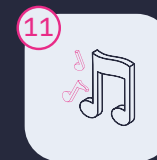
Padded furniture



Fibre optic star ceiling



Infinity panel



Audio system



Fibre optic tails

“The sensory zone has been a fantastic addition to our Children’s Library, helping us demonstrate our commitment to inclusivity and accessibility. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and we’re very happy with the impact it’s had on the library and our community.”

Callum Elliott Archer, Centre Manager for Exeter Library, Libraries Unlimited



The solution

The installation of the Aurora sensory zone has revitalised the children's library, creating a space that adapts to different needs. During peak times, the area is full of energy, offering an engaging environment for children to play, learn, and discover. At quieter times, it transforms into a calm, welcoming space where families can relax together.

The build quality and intuitive control system ensure that staff can operate the zone easily, allowing them to focus on supporting visitors. The flexibility of the space ensures it can serve multiple purposes, from lively sessions to quiet, reflective moments.

The results

Since opening, the new sensory zone has already made a noticeable impact on visitors and staff. Children are returning for repeat visits, and families value the dedicated area that can be both exciting and calming. Staff have praised its simplicity and effectiveness, noting how seamlessly it has blended into the library's wider services.

“Although the sensory zone has only been open for a short time, the response has already been hugely positive. Families have told us how much they value having a dedicated space that feels both exciting and calming, depending on their needs. Staff have found it easy to set up and manage, and we're already seeing children return for repeat visits. It's clear that the installation is going to be a real asset for the library and the community.”

Callum Elliott Archer, Centre Manager
for Exeter Library, Libraries Unlimited





To find out how we can bring your next project to life,
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