

PPLD Databases

These platforms provide high-quality educational content and are fun to explore! Access is available with a valid (400 series) library card and pin number. Go to ppld.org/kids/databases/all to access any of these resources and discover more databases for kids! Or go to ppld.org/databases and type in the name of the database.

HelpNow

(ppld.org/databases/helpnow)

HelpNow offers live virtual tutors for grades K – 12 (and older) daily from 2 - 11 p.m. Students can also submit writing assignments for review and editing. In addition, learners can identify and address skills they need to improve with the “SkillSurfer” option (a comprehensive library of lessons, videos, and practice tests by grade level and subject). Or they can use the “LEAP Learning Platform” to complete an online assessment for an academic skill, receive a customized learning plan (with lessons, quizzes, and videos that address areas requiring attention), and track their progress until they achieve mastery. There are also practice tests for the ACT and SAT!



World Almanac for Kids and Elementary

These robust databases provide resources for homework, reports, and projects for all the core subject areas. A user-friendly interface encourages kids to improve their online research skills while exploring age-appropriate content including up-to-date articles, images and engaging videos, interactive games, and more. Included are printable science projects and diagrams, topographical maps, full-color flags, and hundreds of printable handouts (outline maps, student activities, etc.). The extensive “Teacher Resources” section includes state educational standards, lesson plans, and more.



Science Reference Center

Designed to meet every student researcher’s needs, this database contains full text for 732+ science encyclopedias and reference books, 195 periodicals, 519 science videos and other sources. Students can browse by category or search by keywords, refine their results by limiters such as publication or format, and access citations. A “Reference Shelf” feature links to lesson plans, science experiments, curriculum standards, worksheets, and more.



Novelist K - 8 Plus: Find a great book!

(ppld.org/databases/novelist-k-8-plus)

If you are looking for titles to support your curriculum or wanting to help your child find a book in a favorite genre, this database is your first stop. NoveList K-8 Plus includes picture books, chapter books, younger teen titles, and non-fiction books (use NoveList Plus for books for older teens and adults). You can search by author/title/series, subjects, or genres, and then limit your results by audience age, fiction or nonfiction, and appeal factors such as genre, writing style, and more! Entries include a cover image, brief description, reading level, reviews, and links to the PPLD Catalog.



Culturegrams

(ppld.org/databases/culturegrams-online)

Learn how people live in other countries! In addition to the facts, you will also meet residents (young and old) during video interviews. Need some curriculum ideas? There are hands-on lesson activities for grades K - 12.



Mango Languages

This platform includes 70 languages. The courses have been created by expert linguists and native-speaking instructors to ensure that the content is grammatically/conversationally correct, and culturally relevant.



Homeschool Connections

PPLD Resources for Homeschoolers

Winter can be cold, dark, and dreary, but Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD) has tons of resources that everyone can use to beat the boredom that comes with the season. Use our databases to support curriculum or homework assignments or try some of the many options provided for fun, educational experiences that will enhance learning! Here are some suggestions on how to get started:

Check out a board game!

These are available at seven PPLD locations, including the High Prairie Library, which reports that Hive, Ticket to Ride: London, and Disney Villainous are most popular there. You can see which locations offer board games to borrow and a list of games by visiting ppld.org/board-games.

Visit the Educational Resource Center (ERC) on the second floor of the East Library! The ERC offers tons of materials to support all areas of education including math, science, geography, and more! You can reserve one of two spaces and find out more about what is available by going to ppld.org/erc. Look inside this issue for more information.

Use your 400 series library card to get tickets to local attractions! PPLD and local organizations have partnered to offer the Pikes Peak Culture Pass. Book a pass online up to 30 days in advance to places like Pikes Peak Children’s Museum, the Money Museum, and the Space Foundation Discovery Center. Get the details and book your pass by heading to ppld.org/culturepass.

Check out more of what PPLD has to offer in this issue of Homeschool Connections and by exploring ppld.org.

Library of Things

(ppld.org/things)

More than just books and DVDs, PPLD offers an array of unique, non-traditional items for check out. Here is a sampling:

Educational Backpacks

Grab a backpack full of supplies for your next family outdoor adventure and dive into hiking, birdwatching, animal tracking, and stargazing in our beautiful local parks. Look for the Junior Ranger Nature Pack (ages 7 - 13), the Check Out State Parks Pack (includes a pass), and the Family Star Gazing Backpacks.



Discovery Kits

Do you want to dive into robotics by building with Cubelets? Would you like to learn about coding by programming a robot mouse to navigate a maze and find the cheese? Do you want to design a structure that can withstand an earthquake? Think about borrowing Cubelets, Code & Go Robot Mouse, Survive the Quake, or another one of the fun, interactive Discovery Kits.



Makerspaces and More

PPLD provides families, individuals, artists, entrepreneurs, and those with curious minds places to learn, grow, and turn ideas into reality.



Makerspaces

(ppld.org/create/makerspaces)

Want to make something as a gift, for a business, or just to stretch your creative energies? PPLD Makerspaces offer access to tools, materials, and machines such as 3D printers, laser engraving and cutting machines, vinyl and die cutters, sewing machines, and more. Makerspaces are available at Library 21c, East Library, Sand Creek Library, and Manitou Springs Library.

Studios

(ppld.org/create/studios)

You just might hear “Lights, Camera, Action!” if someone is filming at the studio at Library 21c, where you can make a reservation and film a video, record a podcast or music, use editing software, and more! There is also Studio916 at Sand Creek Library. You can even check out equipment like a GoPro, camera, or a microphone to use at home.

Location Key

- CA **Calhan Library**
600 Bank St., Calhan
(719) 531-6333, x7013
- CH **Cheyenne Mountain Library**
1785 S. 8th St.
(719) 531-6333, x7001
- EA **East Library**
5550 N. Union Blvd.
(719) 531-6333, x7014
- e Library**
ppld.org
Open 24 hours, 7 days a week
- FO **Fountain Library**
230 S. Main St., Fountain
(719) 531-6333, x7002
- HI **High Prairie Library**
7035 Old Meridian Rd., Peyton
(719) 531-6333, x7003
- KCH **Knights of Columbus Hall**
20 W. Pikes Peak Ave.
(719) 531-6333, x6142
- LI **Library 21c**
1175 Chapel Hills Dr.
(719) 531-6333, x7012
- MA **Manitou Springs Library**
515 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs
(719) 531-6333, x7004
- MLS **Mobile Library Services**
ppld.org/mobile-library-services
(719) 531-6333, x7702
- MO **Monument Library**
1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr., Monument
(719) 531-6333, x7005
- OL **Old Colorado City Library**
2418 W. Pikes Peak Ave.
(719) 531-6333, x7006
- PA **Palmer Lake Library**
66 Lower Glenway St., Palmer Lake
(719) 531-6333, x7007
- PA **Penrose Library**
20 N. Cascade Ave.
(719) 531-6333, x7015
- RO **Rockrimmon Library**
832 Village Center Dr.
(719) 531-6333, x7008
- RU **Ruth Holley Library**
685 N. Murrury Blvd.
(719) 531-6333, x7009
- SA **Sand Creek Library**
1821 S. Academy Blvd.
(719) 531-6333, x7018
- UT **Ute Pass Library**
8010 Severy Rd., Cascade
(719) 531-6333, x7011



Homeschool Hub

(ppld.org/homeschool-hub)

The Homeschool Hub is a great place to learn more about PPLD resources! Upcoming district-wide events are often posted here. You can also find two informative videos: "Homeschooling: Where to Begin" introduces the basics of getting started and features a panel of parents that use different methods to homeschool their children. "Homeschooling: PPLD Resources" provides an overview of the many available online databases and more valuable resources for students in Pre-K through high school (and beyond).

Use the "PPLD Programs" tab to access a monthly calendar of homeschool events and follow the "Newsletters" tab to sign up for E-blasts listing monthly programs or a booklist. You can also find older issues of Homeschool Connections here.

PPLD Teens

(ppld.org/teens)

Find links to homework help, reading lists, info guides that address tough topics, resources for navigating your future, and more.

Workforce Readiness Training

(research.ppld.org/workforce-readiness-training)



Work your way through courses focused on professionalism, communication, social skills, and goal setting to prepare for a job or college. Those younger than 15 should focus on "basic" training while those older should review "intermediate" training. Complete the training and pass an assessment to earn 10 hours of volunteer credit.

Issues & Paper Topics Guide

(research.ppld.org/papertopics)

Are you working on a research project? This guide offers an overview of some of PPLD's research resources. These resources are best suited for an argumentative research paper but can be applied to other research projects as well. Included are links to helpful databases, citation tools, writing assistance, plus educator resources for parents!



Career & Education Pathways

(research.ppld.org/careerpathways)



A starting point for teens who are uncertain about their future after high school, this guide offers information on college alternatives, including service/volunteer opportunities, military service, and trade/technical school as well as resources about job searching, the application process, and best practices for becoming a successful applicant.

Homework Help Guide

(research.ppld.org/homework)

Secondary students should start here for all their homework help needs! The guide includes links to live tutoring, databases, standardized test preparation, and research help.

The "Resources" tab links to the Homeschool Hub: Information and Resources guide (research.ppld.org/homeschooling-resources), a wealth of information about homeschooling in general and in our community. Broad categories (blue bars) are listed on the lefthand side and subcategories across the top. Here are some highlights:

Homeschool Basics: Information about getting started, Colorado homeschool law, curriculum providers with links, and more!

Academics & Academic Support: PPLD databases, educational websites, information about testing and providers, local tutors, and more!

Local Homeschool Programs & Enrichment Opportunities: An overview of public schools and organizations that offer homeschool programs and much more!

Extracurricular: Field trip ideas and local organizations that have programs for homeschoolers (including music, sports, science, and more).

Homeschool Websites & Support Groups: Includes websites, podcasts, and national and local support groups.



PPLD kids

(ppld.org/kids)

You can find plenty of links to PPLD resources here! Click on one of the buttons on the webpage to explore:

Homework: Search by subject to find databases, recommended websites, and more.

Read: Access booklists by grade level and genre, online resources, and more.

Create: Links to hands-on activities and websites.

Games: Links to educational online games.



PPLD'S Innovative Learning Space: The ERC

"Play is the work of childhood." Mr. Rogers, with his iconic understanding of youngsters, recognized that play gives children an opportunity to learn how to learn. At PPLD, we support this idea with the Educational Resource Center (ERC), a unique space housed at East Library that serves children across Pikes Peak Library District. The ERC has evolved since its inception in 2013, providing age-appropriate experiences for children from toddler through middle school, and supporting the fact that hands-on experience combined with visual perception reinforces the natural learning process.

The ERC provides hundreds of hands-on materials for families to use in enriching their children's education, helping to improve their skills across all curriculum areas. This space can be used for study during your school day, with access to materials that will support your student's learning. Additionally, our curated and up-to-date collection also offers children a chance to discover new interests and new ideas. This exploratory play is the basis for learning 21st century skills, such as problem solving, collaboration, and creativity.

Located on the second floor of East Library, the ERC has two separate rooms, each accommodating up to eight patrons, which can be reserved once a week for your family/group.

During your visit, you will find intricate mazes that invite creativity and problem solving to assemble and complete, circuits that activate "bells and whistles," items that challenge

sequencing skills and develop visual memory and eye-hand coordination, and games that teach important skills through fun interaction. There are robotics that will entertain and teach toddlers to tweens, toys that lay engineering foundations in the guise of fun, and an array of figurines that promote both realistic and imaginary play. Also available are a variety of microscopes/slides, science and nature kits, and owl pellet dissection packets. If "play is the highest form of research" (Albert Einstein), then the ERC is the lab of your young researcher's dreams!

Visit ppld.org/erc to make a reservation for the ERC during East Library's open hours, Monday - Saturday (until 6 p.m.). Sometimes walk-up reservations are available; check at a Service Desk for more information.



Pikes Peak Library District's
16th Annual Teen Art Contest

Teens in El Paso County grades 6 - 12 are invited to enter this art contest!

This year the theme is 'Memory.'

Entry forms and requirements can be found at:
ppld.org/teenartcontest



eLibrary: Borrow Online!

(ppld.org/eLibrary)

Tired of lugging that bag of books from the library to your house and back? Use one of PPLD's eLibrary platforms to borrow digital versions anytime! Access is available at no charge with a valid 400 series library card and pin number.

Tumblebooks: This curated database of children's ebooks offers more than 1,000 titles for kids in grades K - 6. Included are animated talking picture books, read-along chapter books, factual videos, nonfiction books, graphic novels, and more. Each book has a reading level, Lexile level, and grade information plus an optional quiz.

Freeding: More than 100,000 titles are always available for download (no holds or wait!)

Hoopla: Digital video, music, books, and comics are available for streaming or temporary download.

