Resource List:
Wild/Feral Children

This is a comprehensive list of resources available in the library on the subject of wild/feral children. These resources include: fiction and non-fiction books, short stories, audiovisual materials (DVDs and VHS tapes), and electronic databases (Gale Student Resources in Context, InfoTrac Student Edition, Marvel!: Maine’s Virtual Library, and SIRS® Knowledge Source).

Fiction

Almond, David. *Raven Summer*. (FIC ALMOND)
   Led to an abandoned baby by a raven, fourteen-year-old Liam seems fated to meet two foster children who have experienced the world's violence in very different ways as he struggles to understand war, family problems, and friends who grow apart.

Andrews, V. C. *Flowers in the Attic*. (FIC ANDREWS)
   A novel describing the experiences of four children who are locked up in the attic of their grandmother's home after the death of their father.

Carbone, Elisa. *The Pack*. (FIC CARBONE)
   Becky is convinced that Akhil Vyas is the weirdest person on earth when he shows up in her English class. He refuses to sit in chairs, stares at her with spooky eyes, and has scar-covered skin. But soon Becky’s revulsion turns to fascination. The National Institutes of Health is studying Akhil, but he won’t say why.

Donoghue, Emma. *Room*. (FIC DONOGHUE)
   Five-year-old Jack has spent his life living in an eleven-by-eleven foot space his mother calls Room and while Jack uses his imagination to create wondrous fantasies to entertain himself, his mother dreads the day her son begins to question why they must remain in Room and tries to find a way to escape.

Fleischman, Paul. *Breakout*. (FIC FLEISCHMAN)
   A young woman presents a play based on her life as a seventeen-year-old runaway whose escape from her foster home in Los Angeles is thwarted by an all-day traffic jam, an event which provides time for her to explore her free-floating identity, hunger for her unknown mother, and yearning for human connection.

A grotesque foundling turns against the witch who sacrificed almost everything to raise him, when he becomes consumed by the desire for money and revenge against those who have hurt him; but he eventually finds his true heart's desire.

Hawes, Louise. *Waiting for Christopher*. (FIC HAWES)

Shortly after moving with her mother to Florida, a lonely, fourteen-year-old bibliophile is reminded of her infant brother who died and decides to care for an abused, abandoned child with the help of a new friend.

Holman, Felice. *The Wild Children*. (FIC HOLMAN)

Left behind when his whole family is arrested by soldiers during the dark days following the Bolshevik Revolution, twelve-year-old Alex falls in with a gang of other desperate homeless children, but never loses his hope for a better life.

Hornung, Eva. *Dog Boy*. (FIC HORNUNG)

After four-year-old Romochka is abandoned by his mother and uncle on the streets of Moscow in the wake of perestroika, he takes up with a pack of stray dogs living in a church basement and acquires the ability to pass for both human and dog, but when he attracts the attention of the local police and scientists, both Romochka's future and the pack's survival will depend on his abilities.

Lynch, Janet Nichols. *Messed Up*. (FIC LYNCH)

Fifteen-year-old RD is repeating the eighth grade, planning to have an easy year, but after his grandmother walks out her boyfriend is no longer able to care for him, which leaves RD to fend for himself while avoiding being caught.

Shaw, Susan. *The Boy from the Basement*. (FIC SHAW)

For Charlie, the cold, dark basement is home. Father has kept him locked in there as punishment. Charlie doesn’t intend to leave, but when he is accidentally thrust outside, he awakens to the alien surroundings of a world to which he’s never before been exposed. Though haunted by hallucinations, fear of the basement, and his father’s rage, Charlie must find a way to survive in his new world. He has escaped his past, but his journey has just begun.

Shreve, Anita. *Light on Snow*. (FIC SHREVE)

When a father and his daughter find an abandoned infant in the snow, the event forever alters the 11-year-old's understanding of the world.

**Non-Fiction**

Benzaquén, Adriana S. *Encounters with Wild Children: Temptation and Disappointment in the Study of Human Nature*. (155.45 BEN)

Examines what wild children can teach researchers about the way humans related to outsiders and the historical process of socializing the unsocial, and explores how research on wild children has influenced modern understandings of the child.
Bolnick, Jamie Pastor and Tina S. *Living at the Edge of the World: A Teenager's Survival in the Tunnels of Grand Central Station.* (362.74 BOL)  
Tina S. spent four years as a teenage living in the tunnels of Grand Central Station.

Bridge, Andrew. *Hope's Boy: A Memoir.* (362.73 BRI)  
The author describes his experiences living with his mother, a young woman suffering from mental illness; his removal from her custody when he was seven years old; and his more than eleven years in foster care, discussing the problems in the foster care system of Los Angeles County.

Candland, Douglas Keith. *Feral Children and Clever Animals: Reflections on Human Nature.* (362.7 CAN)  
Explains the history of ideas in psychology by following observations on children deprived of a normal upbringing and animals of exceptional talents.

Craig, Eleanor. *One, Two, Three...: The Story of Matt, a Feral Child.* (155.4 CRA)  
Was he mentally challenged, autistic, or schizophrenic? When Matt first appeared at the counseling center, even hardened professionals gaped. At six years old, he could not speak or gesture, was not toilet trained, and showed only fleeting signs of human sensibility.

D'Ambrosio, Richard. *No Language But a Cry.* (155.4 DAM)  
An account of an abused child, who did not speak for the first twelve years of her life, and was both mentally and physically injured as an infant.

Hayden, Torey. *One Child.* (362.1 HAY)  
Six-year-old Sheila, who had been abandoned by her mother on a highway when she was four, comes to a class for severely retarded children after she has committed an atrocious act of violence against another child.

Lane, Harlan. *The Wild Boy of Aveyron.* (155.45 LAN)  
Examines the case of a feral child found in the Department of Aveyron, France.

Malson, Lucien. *Wolf Children and the Problem of Human Nature.* (362.7 MAL)  
So-called wolf children are children abandoned at an early age and found leading an isolated existence. They are thus natural examples of complete social deprivation and Malson explores their history in this complete study. His essay is followed by Itard's account of Victor, a wolf child found in the forests of central France at the end of the eighteenth century. Itard's two reports have become a classic of psychological and educational literature, and are presented here as the most important first-hand account of a wolf child.

Miller, Floyd. *Wild Children of the Urals.* (361.5)  
The story of an extraordinary American Red Cross mission undertaken during the Russian Revolution, this describes the odyssey of some 800 children rescued from the Siberian wilds, transported some 15,000 miles around the globe to their Petrograd homes.

Tells the stories of feral children throughout history, including Peter the Wild Boy; Kaspar Hauser; two girls raised by wolves in India; a boy raised by monkeys in Uganda; Genie, a girl who lived for twelve years locked alone in a room in California; and others; and discusses scientists' study of related issues, such as language acquisition.


Child psychiatrist Bruce Perry shares the stories of trauma and transformation he has encountered in his line of work, describing what happens to a child's brain when exposed to extreme stress and how innovative treatments are helping those children heal and become healthy adults.

Rymer, Russ. *Genie: A Scientific Tragedy.* (362.7 RYN)

Examines the case of Genie, a thirteen-year-old girl who came to the attention of authorities in 1970 after spending her entire childhood strapped to a chair alone in a back room of her home; and discusses the behavior of scientists who were eager to use Genie to test theories about language acquisition and human development.

**Short Story Collection**

Kipling, Rudyard. *The Jungle Books.* (SC KIP)

First published in 1894 and 1895, *The Jungle Books* remain some of the most beloved tales of all time. Adored by readers of all ages, these classic stories in two volumes spin the unforgettable story of Mowgli—a boy raised by a pack of wolves—as he learns indelible lessons about the laws of the jungle as well as the needs of the heart.

**Audio-Visual Materials**

*Kaspar Hauser.* (DVD) (DVD 791.43 KAS)

Kaspar Hauser tells the bizarre story of an elaborate plot to control the lineage of the throne of the Duchy of Baden. The scheming Countess Hochberg conspires to kidnap the rightful heir, Kaspar Hauser, and replace him with a changeling. Kaspar is imprisoned for twelve years in a dark cellar until, one day in 1828, he appears on the streets of Nuremberg a crippled, disturbed young man.

*Secrets of the Wild Child.* (NOVA Series) (Video Recording) (VC 401.9 SEC)

Introduces the story of Genie, a 13-year-old girl who had been locked in a room and socially isolated for most of her life, her rehabilitation and introduction to language.
**The Wild Child.** (DVD) (DVD 791.43 WIL)

Francois Truffaut plays Dr. Itard, a specialist in the teaching of the deaf. Itard takes in a young boy (Jean-Pierre Cargol) found to have been living like an animal in the woods all his life. In the spirit of social experiment, Itard uses rewards and punishments to retool the boy's very existence into something that will impress the world.

**Electronic Databases**

Includes: Gale Student Resources in Context, InfoTrac Student Edition, Marvel!: Maine’s Virtual Library, and SIRS® Knowledge Source

Here’s a great place to find: magazine, journal, and newspaper articles; podcasts; video clips; excerpts from books; juried web links.


Keywords to search: feral children; feral child; wild children; wild child; foundlings; abandoned children; abandoned child

Note: You will need passwords to access these databases. They are posted below each database link.