

FAMILY PLACE LIBRARIES™

Building Foundations For Early Learning

Overview & Impact Summary



Middle Country Public Library
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www.familyplacelibraries.org

What is a Family Place Library?

Based on a model of comprehensive family-centered services, a **Family Place Library** is a center for **early childhood information, parent education, early literacy, socialization and family support**. Expanding the traditional role of children's services, Family Place builds on the knowledge that good health, early learning, parental involvement and supportive communities play a critical role in young children's growth and development.

Family Place Libraries redesign the library environment to be **welcoming and appropriate** for **children beginning at birth**; to **connect parents with resources, programs and services** offered at the library and other family service agencies; and reach out to **non-traditional library users**.



Family Place Libraries™ provides a **developmental framework and comprehensive model** for family centered library service. To date, the model has been replicated in **over 500 libraries in 32 states**.

Key Components

Parent Child Workshop

The **Parent Child Workshop** is a five week program that involves toddlers and their parents and caregivers. It:

- Features **local professionals** who serve as resources for parents
- Emphasizes the role of **parents as the first teachers** of their children
- Facilitates **early intervention**
- Teaches strategies for **healthy child development and early literacy**



“Family Place has had such a tremendous impact on our community. What a special model you have created. Your work is transforming lives for the better across the country.”

Librarian, Grand Prairie, TX

“I found Family Place training to be so inspiring. It reinvigorated me and gave me so many new ideas to enhance my space, my programming and my interactions with families.”

Amy Dreger, Children's Services Supervisor, Cuyahoga County Public Library - Berea Branch

Collections

There must be **collections** of books, toys, DVDs, music, digital/streaming access and other materials for babies, toddlers, parents and family service providers.

Key Components

A Family Place Library Should Have:

- A specially designed, welcoming, developmentally appropriate space within the library for families with young children
- **Specialized collections** for toddlers, parents, and family service providers.
- **Collaborative work with community agencies** that serve families and young children to connect parents to local resources
- **Outreach** to new and non-traditional library users, especially parents and young children
- **Age-appropriate programming** for very young children and their parents
- **Librarians trained in family support, child development, parent education and best practices**



With the above elements in place, **Family Place Libraries** become welcoming environments for the youngest children and their parents and caregivers. They provide the local network that families need to nurture their children's development during the **critical first years of life** and help ensure **all children enter school ready and able to learn.**

Project Impact

Findings from independent evaluations,^{*} as well as internal reports and surveys^{**} reveal the following regarding parents and children:

- Parents (including limited English proficiency families) report feeling **less isolated** and a sense of **community belonging**.^{**}
- Parents are **increasingly communicating** with one another as a result of the Workshops.^{**}
- Parents report being **better informed** of library and community resources.^{*}
- Children with **delays and special needs are being identified early** and connected with **early intervention** services.^{**}
- Parents and caregivers spend **more time reading, playing, talking and singing** with their children **both in and out of the library**.^{* **}
- Parents feel **more confident** in their roles as first teacher.^{* **}
- Parent-Child Workshop parents reported the library **helped them be better parents**.^{*}
- Parents prize the **informality and the relaxed atmosphere** of the Parent-Child Workshop format and reported it **encouraged curiosity and discovery learning**.^{* **}
- Parents value **the development of their child's social, verbal and early literacy skills**.^{* **}
- Nationally, over **581,000** people visit Family Place early childhood areas throughout the country each month and over **45,000** families attend the Parent Child Workshop each year.^{**}

“Family Place represents the best of what a library can offer that is completely consistent with how a mental health practitioner would want to operate...It is best to offer these types of family focused programs within a community that are done with respect for each family and in a way that provides parents with what they need and desire at that point in time.”

Dr. Randy Ahn, Director of Program Dissemination, West Coast, Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) America.

Project Impact

...regarding libraries:

- 90% of library administrators credit Family Place with having a **positive impact on library staff, parents/caregivers, young children and the library** as an institution. *
- 97% indicated the library has become a **community destination** for families with very young children. *
- 95% of librarians reported **increased ability to identify and connect parents to community resources.***
- 95% of Family Place Libraries report **partnering with community agencies** serving families with young children.**
- Overall, librarians reported an **increase in number of parents/caregivers using a wide array of library resources** in addition to Family Place.*
- 98% of libraries reported an **increase in attendance to all early childhood programs.***



*IMLS National Leadership Evaluation
**Family Place Libraries National Survey 2023