

Branigan Library receive national designation as Family Place Library

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LAS CRUCES It's taken a year of hard work, but Thomas Branigan Memorial Library will receive a special national designation Tuesday for their efforts.

According to a news release, Branigan will be named one of 28 Family Place Libraries in the country.

What began with training in Los Angeles, Calif. last year, led Branigan to join the other Family Place Libraries across the country to receive an Institute of Museum and Libraries Services National Leadership Grant, which helped Branigan staff purchase toys and equipment, as well as fund training to help them meet the requirements of Family Place Library, which focuses on children from birth to 5 years old.

At 10 a.m. Tuesday, Sandra Feinberg, national coordinator of Family Place Libraries, will visit the site, located at 200 East Picacho, and give a presentation — open to the public — to officially designate the library and give them a banner for the children's section of the facility.

The presentation will help inform the public on what it means to be a Family Place Library and offer advice and assistance to Branigan so they can run a successful program.

"We're very pleased to be able to offer more services to parents of preschool children and to be able to offer a literacy play area and parent-child workshops," said Catherine Christmann, youth services manager of the library.

The biannual child-parent workshops, part of the Family Place Library's mission, were offered in March and will again be offered in August. The five-week workshop series will bring in Las Cruces experts on child development, nutrition and more to educate parents on the different facets on the health and wellness of their child, Christmann said.

"Parents are the child's first teacher, and the first five years of life are crucial for developing skills needed throughout life," she said in a statement. "Parents are encouraged to develop their child's brain by talking to, reading to, singing to, playing with and cuddling their child at home and at the library."

Apart from the new play area and workshops, part of becoming a Family Place Library also includes story time to foster a love of reading in preschool-age children.

The designation will be given in seven states in the U.S. and helps create a network for families to nurture their child's development, helping the student enter school with the skills they need to learn, according to a news release.

As a Family Place Library, parents can connect to their young children through Branigan Library programs that include Mother Goose, Toddler Time, Rhythm Round Up and Read To Me.

For more information on Tuesday's designation, or on upcoming workshops offered at the library, call 575-528-4000.

For more information about the Family Place Libraries, visit familyplacelibraries.com.

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