

What is a Family Place Library?

A Family Place Library is a center for early childhood information, parent education, emergent 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. Core components of a Family Place Library:

- Collections of books, toys, music and multimedia materials for babies, toddlers, parents and service providers
- A specially designed, welcoming early learning space within the children's area for families with young children
- The Parent/Child Workshop - a five week program that involves toddlers and their parents and caregivers; features local professionals who serve as resources for parents; emphasizes the role of parents as the first teachers of their children; facilitates early intervention; and teaches strategies for healthy child development and early literacy
- Coalition-building with community agencies that serve families and young children to connect parents to community resources and develop programs and services tailored to meet local needs
- Outreach to new and non-traditional library users, especially parents and very young children (beginning at birth)
- Developmentally appropriate programming for very young children and their parents
- Library staff trained in family support, child development, parent education and best practices

FAMILY PLACE LIBRARIES

Middle Country Public Library is the creator and national model for Family Place Libraries. Since 1979, Middle Country Public Library has provided library-based family support services. A leader in building library/community coalitions and networks, the library has developed a broad array of model services aimed at children, families, and the adults who work with families, including the Parent/Child Workshop. Through grants and private foundation support, MCPL has helped to replicate the workshop and other family support programs in libraries on Long Island and throughout the Nation. MCPL is recognized as the national model for Family Place Libraries.

Family Place Libraries™
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Family Place Libraries™



A National Initiative

**Attend a Family Place
Training Institute:**

October 23rd - 26th, 2017

Family Place Training Institute

The four-day Family Place Training Institute provides theoretical grounding in family centered library services and practical training in the core components of Family Place.

Topics include:

- Serving families and children through partnerships
- Infant brain development
- Child development
- Emergent literacy
- Parent education
- Space design
- Collection development
- The Parent/Child Workshop
- Assets and needs assessment
- Community outreach
- Coalition building
- Documentation & Evaluation

All participants receive a Training Manual, relevant articles and books, and practical program materials.

The Family Place Training Institute prepares participants to implement the program locally and to share experiences and effective practices with other Family Place Training Institute attendees from across the United States.

Technical Assistance and Site Support

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Three years of technical assistance and site support includes one on-site visit and ongoing consultation from Family Place National Staff via phone, fax, and/or e-mail on topics such as:

- Core parenting and early childhood collections
- Welcoming and developmentally appropriate public library spaces
- The Parent/Child Workshop
- Coalition and partnership building
- Outreach to new audiences
- Programming beyond the Parent/Child Workshop
- Data collection, documentation & evaluation
- Long-term goals and objectives

ONLINE RESOURCES

Family Place Training Institute materials are updated annually and available online. Items include early childhood and parenting bibliographies, suggested early learning toy lists and furniture/equipment for the Parent Child Workshop and Early Childhood space. In addition to these resources, space photos from various libraries including some before and after shots of early childhood areas in various children's rooms and sample promotional materials for the Parent Child Workshop and the general Family Place Libraries initiative are included. These online resources are accessible only to members of the Family Place national network.

NATIONAL FAMILY PLACE LISTSERV

Family Place Libraries™ sites in the national network participate in cross-site communications via the online National Family Place Listserv. The listserv provides members of the network an opportunity to ask questions, share resources, problem solve, and share success stories with other Family Place librarians and national staff.

ADVANCED TRAINING

Family Place Library staff have the opportunity to attend national and local Family Place sponsored meetings and advanced trainings for free or at a reduced cost. Topics in the past have included Infant Brain Development, Early Literacy, Learning through Play, Cultural Differences in Parenting and Family Engagement.

Fees

The fee for an individual library to become a Family Place Library is \$12,000* and includes:

- Tuition for the 4-day on-site Family Place Training Institute, 7 hours of online training, materials, food and lodging for two people. Each additional person for current and future trainings from the same library (or branch) is \$2,000.
- Technical Assistance and Site Support for 3 years
- An on-site visit from National Family Place staff
- Access to the National Family Place Listserv
- Free or reduced cost at advanced online and in-person trainings for Family Place Libraries

*Multi-branch rates are available.