Why We Need Toys in the Library: Welcoming and Supporting Our Youngest Learners
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Family Place Libraries
• Literacy Begins at birth; libraries build healthy communities by nourishing healthy families
• Established at PPLD in 2014
• Requirements—Play Area, Parenting Collection, Special Programs, 5-week Family Place Playgroup
• The Family-Centered Library Handbook (available to borrow)

The Needs of Young Children and Their Families
• Issues and influences facing today’s families
• How children develop and learn from birth
• How to welcome patrons with family-centered principles and practices
• What do children 0-5 need to develop to full potential?
  • Trusting relationships with one or more adults
  • Exposure to language and interesting, safe stimuli
  • Security in predictability and routines
  • Exposure to a mixture of the familiar and new

What are some ways we can make patrons’ experiences the best they can be?

Ideas:

Encouraging Play
• Play experiences provide the foundation for many skills in young children
• Play is the right of every child, yet time spent in play has decreased significantly
• Benefits of play—physical, emotional, social, cognitive, creative, communication
• Types of play—active, hands on, sensory, functional, imaginative, symbolic, dramatic, pretend, narrative, creative
• Solitary vs. Cooperative Play
• Structured vs. Unstructured
• Adult Roles—stage manager, co-player, onlooker
• Best toys for play

Being Family Center: Principles and Practices
• We need to recognize the family unit as the child’s most important relationship, one that will impact their learning and attitude toward the library
• Parents as Partners—treat them well
• Reduce barriers
• Empathize, rather than judge
• Build relationships with library staff
• Be positive!

Connecting Parents to Resources at PPLD and Beyond
• PPLD Kids Web
• Grow a Reader Kits
• Bright by Three
• Helping Hands Lib Guide - http://research.ppld.org/HelpingHands
• Growing Readers Together Grant
• Parenting Collection