



Public libraries are for  
***everyone***

Your public library strives to be a welcoming place for **everyone**, regardless of skin color, economic standing, gender, age, or abilities.

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# Public libraries are for *everyone*

Your local public library is a **free, accessible** public service typically supported by a combination of county property taxes and state or federal grants. In other words, we work for **you and yours!** Public libraries provide services to **make their communities better.** We carefully create programs and play spaces that work for your family. We have recreated the stuffy, quiet public library experience of your childhood into a space where **playful learning, socializing,** and even **noise** are **central** to everything we do!



## Public library programs

Our public library offers storytimes and other programs for **all children**, regardless of ability. Our children's programming is designed to be fun as well as educational! We don't expect kids to sit still. We don't mind if you just have to wiggle sometimes - that's what young children do!

Curious? Talk with your librarian about storytime and programming opportunities that are just right for you and your family. We understand that sometimes kids need to take a break in the middle of programming (and that's ok), while others may actually need to leave. Please know that whatever your needs may be, you're always welcome to come back and try again another time.

## Help us improve

Our librarians are deeply motivated to support your family. Communicating with us about your needs enables us to better support both you and your child. If there is something we can change or add to help you feel welcome, let one of our library staff know! When you make suggestions, you allow us the opportunity to improve a program for everyone.

If your family could benefit from a service, program, alternative schedule, or resource that our public library does not currently offer, consider talking with one of our librarians.



# More than just books



## 01. A place to play

Public libraries are spaces for exploration and wonder, facilitating times of joy, curiosity, and opportunities to safely fail. Many public libraries even offer special areas for sensory play.

## 02. A place to learn

We have a lot of fun with our children's programming, but our main goal is to create life-long learners, and one way to do that is through community building. We aim to build each child's skills to get them ready for school and to inspire a love of reading that lasts a lifetime.



## 03. A place to belong

Think of the library as your family's home away from home. We offer opportunities for children to make social connections and new friends. Caregivers can socialize, too, and share their parenting experiences.

## Get involved

## **Services for Children of All Abilities in Libraries: An Exploration (SCALE)**

The Services for Children of ALL Abilities in Libraries: An Exploration (SCALE) project is a multidimensional, multi-state, multiple site case study research project. It was designed to explore how libraries are currently serving families with young children with disabilities, in hopes of identifying positive practices that could be replicated by public libraries nationwide. The information in this pamphlet is the result of the research which included interviews and surveys with library staff and caregivers over the course of three and a half years. SCALE is a collaboration among the University of Kentucky, the University of Missouri, and Kansas's Emporia State University.



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