



The Hawley Public Library Family Place



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.

Key Features of a Family Place Library

- **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
- **Collections** of books, toys, videos, music and other materials for babies, toddlers, parents and service providers
- **A specially designed, welcoming, developmentally appropriate space** within the library for families with young children
- **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.

The Parent/Child Workshop

WHO: children ages one through three and their parent or caregiver.

WHEN: regularly scheduled, 5-week program

HOW: play-based program presented in an informal early childhood setting arranged with toys, art-activities and a materials resource area containing parenting and early childhood materials for checkout.

WHY: encourages parents / caregivers and children to play together, meet other parents in the area and become familiar with the librarian and library resources as well as to bring families into contact with local health and human service professionals from their communities.

WHERE: The Hawley Public Library
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