FY 15 Family Place Libraries™ Project
Six Month Progress Report

Photographs of Texas Family Place Libraries ™

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission Family Place Libraries™ Project is made possible through a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (2015).

Family Place Libraries™ is a network of children's Librarians nationwide who believe that literacy begins at birth and that libraries can help build healthy communities by nourishing healthy families. Family Place Libraries™ promotes a national model for Transforming public libraries into welcoming, developmentally appropriate early learning environments for very young children, their parents, and caregivers. Based on research about the importance of early brain development, Family Place Libraries™ supports the essential role of parents as first teachers and addresses the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive aspects of child development to help build a foundation for learning during the critical first years of life. By partnering and working with other social, health and educational services providers, the Family Place model positions libraries as key early childhood and family support organizations within the local community.

What does it take to be designated a Family Place Library™?

Among the essential components are a specially designed space within the children's area; a collection of books, music, toys, multimedia materials for children, as well as parents and caregivers; offering a five-week parent-child workshop for families; conducting outreach to new library users; and having library staff trained in family support.

Furthermore, at least one staff member and one administrator from any potential Family Place library must attend a three-day Family Place Training Institute session and must complete additional online training.

www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/industry-news/trade-shows-events/article/67126-ala-2015-all-in-the-family.html

The Texas State Library Family Place Libraries™ Project provides funding for two staff members from participating Texas libraries to travel to the Middle Country Public Library in New York for the Family Place Libraries™ Training Institute on the core elements of the program, and 3 years of follow-up and support by MCPL staff.

Tuition is funded through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (2016). After attending the Institute, participating Texas libraries are eligible for a grant of $6000 from State funds to develop their Family Place Libraries™ program.

Staff from 12 Texas libraries attended the Training Institute in FY 15 and staff from twenty-four Texas Libraries are scheduled to attend the Institute in FY 2016. Pending approval of funding, the Texas State Library will continue the Family Place Libraries™ Project in the FY 17.

FY 15 Texas Family Place Libraries ™

Aransas County Public Library

Bertha Voyer Memorial Library

Clara B. Mounce Public Library, Bryan & College Station Library System

Denison Public Library

Harrington Library, Plano Public Library System

South Irving Library, Irving Public Library

Main Library, City of Grand Prairie Library System

McAllen Public Library

Keach Family Library, Nueces County Library System

Mount Pleasant Public Library

Pasadena Public Library

Sam Fore, Jr. Public Library, Wilson County Public Libraries

Aransas County Public Library

Rockport, Texas

“It's been like Christmas came early here!”
“Once we set up our area, it was an almost immediate hit.”

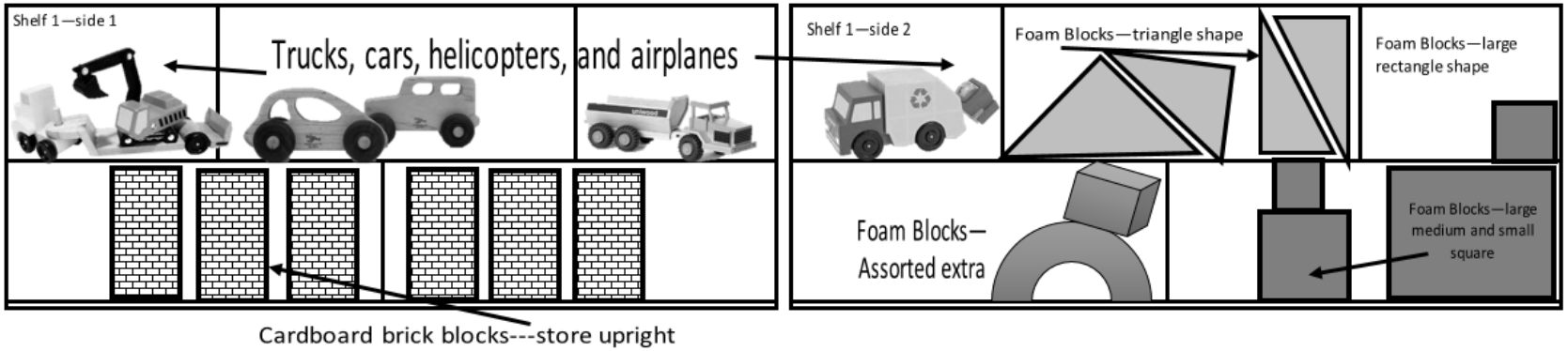
“We created a corner nook, and we see them reading to a doll or stuffed animals sometimes.”

“We painted the backdrop, re-arranged shelves, pulled a table out of storage, created an icky bucket, and of course, added all our new materials from the grant.”

“Their favorite things are the puppets, kitchen area with play food, pirate ship, chunky puzzles, and cars and trucks. We have also seen them in the dress up clothes while they were ‘cooking’ in the kitchen.”

“We have ordered more books to add to our Parenting Collection (newly re-located to the children's area)… We have plans to add DVD and CD materials to the parenting area this year.”

Toys and storage for Parent/Child Workshops

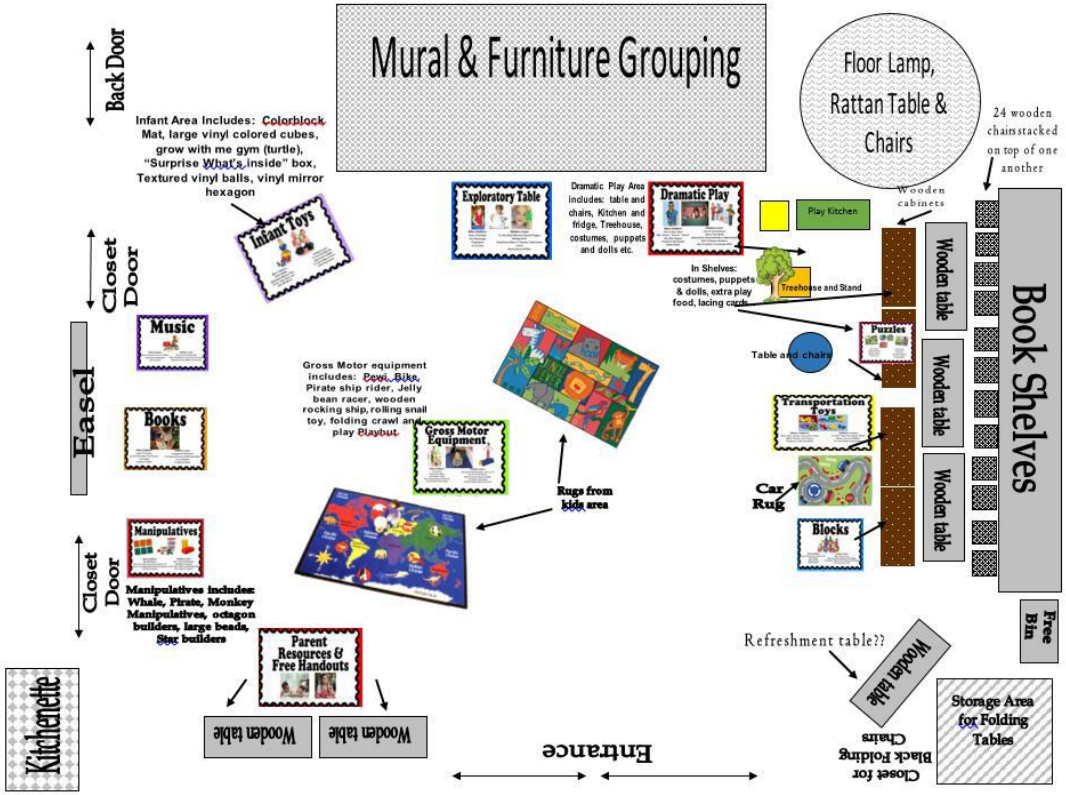


Materials and Storage for Parent/Child Workshop

Board book/puppet sets	Board Books	Board book/puppet sets
Storytime scarves Star blocks, wooden blocks	Music Instrument tub, Stacker blocks	

Large stringing beads	Pirate, monkey, cloth book, "what's inside" manipulatives	Rolling Snail toy, soft storybooks
Blocks to Colorblock Mat	Turtle "Grow with me" gym, extra blocks	

“This project has allowed us to bring a new level of service to our community. It has inspired us to step into areas that we knew needed to be approached and nudged us into the right direction… We are excited about the new direction our library is taking.”



Clara Mounce Public Library

Bryan & College Station Library System
Bryan, Texas

Before Family Place Libraries

The New Family Place Center!

Colorful Play Area Rug and Train Table with Wooden Trains

Kitchen Playscape and Puppet Theater

“Parents say they absolutely love it, that it is a ‘sanity-saver’."

Denison Public Library

Denison, Texas

“Parents absolutely love the space! The best thing we have added to the Library. The play area is continuously in use. Only during the week of Christmas did we see a reduction in usage.

“One parent drives from Durant, OK just to use our space…We have a group, Texoma Babywearers that schedule regular meetings in the space and other play dates.”

Have you observed any of the following? (Please select all that apply.)

Value	Percent	Count
An increase in the number of young children and their adults who visit the library	58.3%	7
A decrease in the number of young children and their adults who visit the library	0.0%	0
Families coming to the library to use the Family Place Space even when they are not visiting for a specific program	83.3%	10
Increased interaction between children and their caregivers when they visit your children's department	83.3%	10
An increase in the length of visits by young children and their adults	83.3%	10
An increase in the frequency of visits by young children and their adults	75.0%	9
Increased circulation of your parenting collection	58.3%	7
None of the above	8.3%	1
Total		12

Gladys Harrington Library

Plano Public Library System
Plano, Texas

“We have already received positive feedback from patrons, staff, and administration alike and are hopeful for the success of this program for years to come.”

McAllen Public Library

McAllen, Texas

“Our patrons always express how much they love the Play Space because is gives their child a chance to socialize and the parent's a chance to interact with them in a comfortable setting.”

“We also hear thank you from our visiting patrons for providing such an inviting space. This has been such a great opportunity to offer more to our patrons and give our littlest patrons a head start. It has been a great success.”

Mount Pleasant Public Library

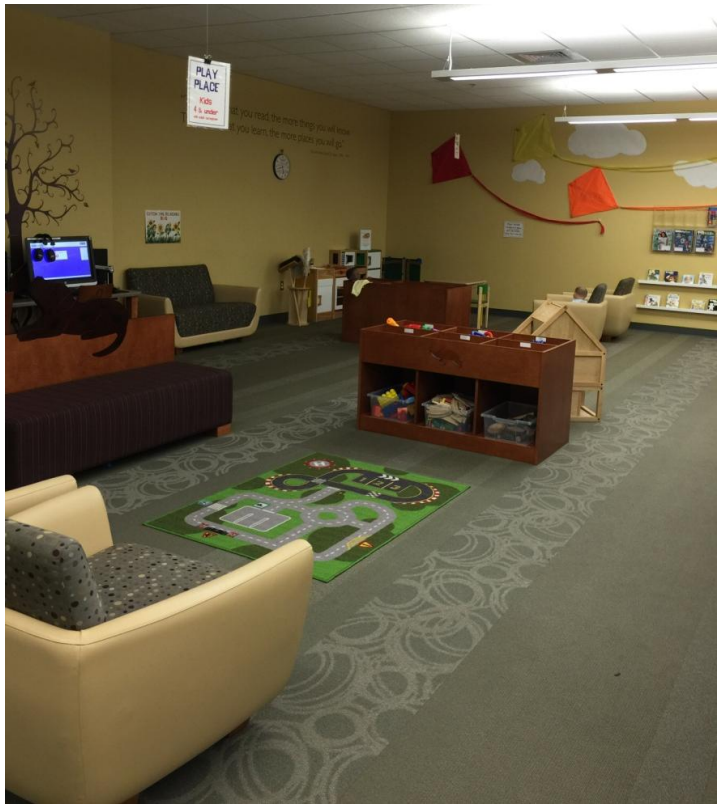
Mount Pleasant, Texas

“This is the best library ever”

Family Place Center

Kitchen Play Center

Play Centers



Mount Pleasant Public Library
Parent/Child Workshop Room

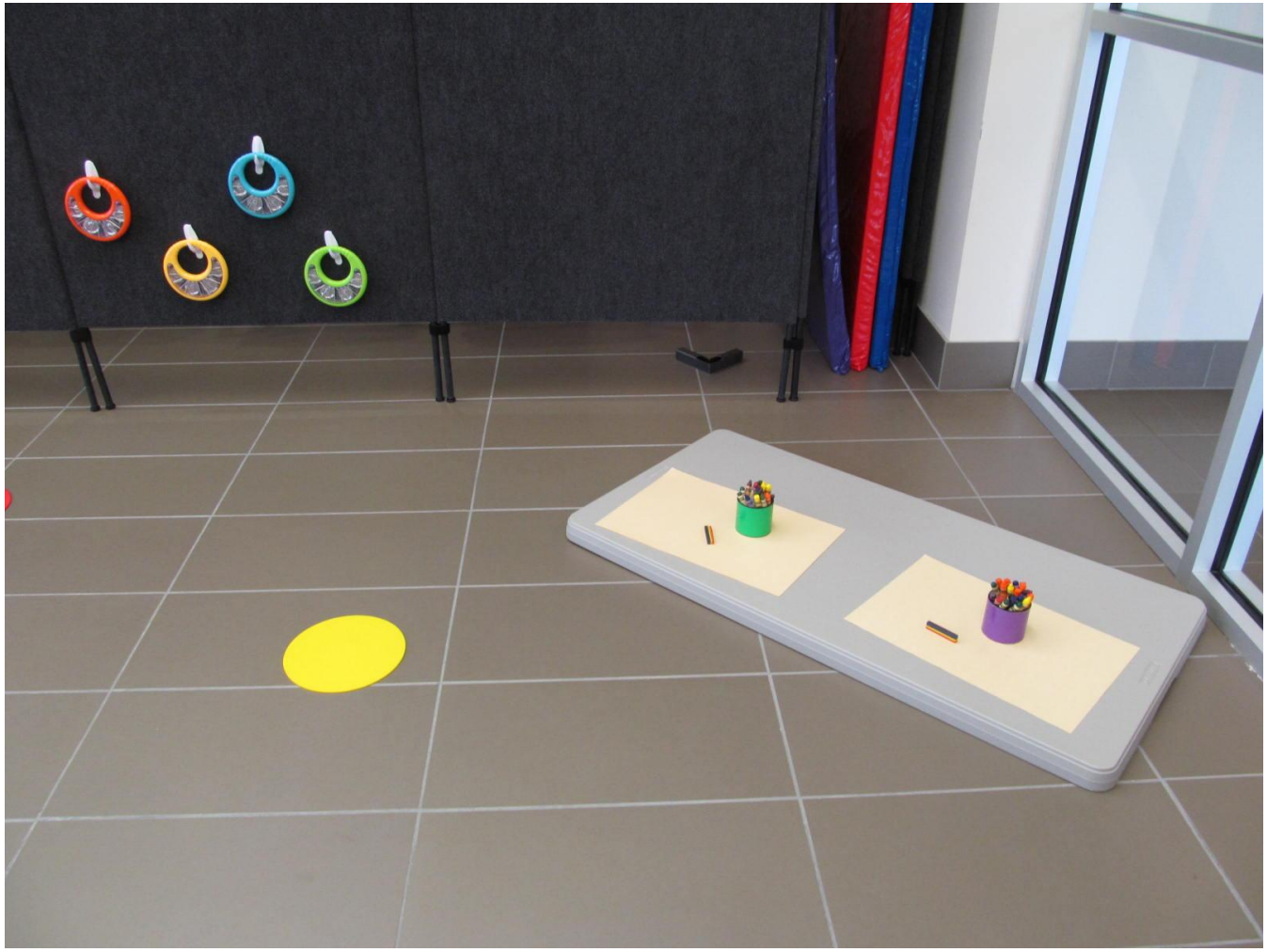
Mount Pleasant Public Library
Parent/Child Workshop Room

Mount Pleasant Public Library
Parent/Child Workshop - Reading Area

Mount Pleasant Public Library
Parent/Child Workshop
Large Motor Skills and Dramatic Play Centers

Mount Pleasant Public Library
Parent/Child Workshop - Blocks and Manipulatives

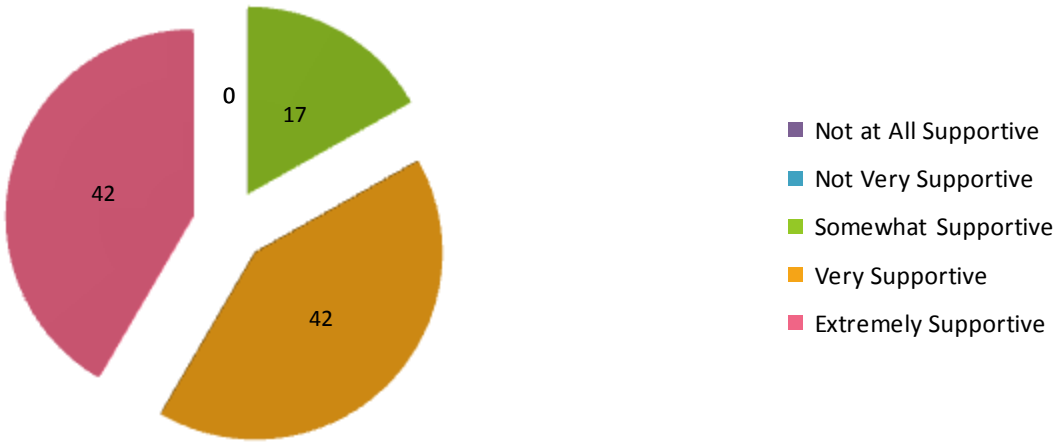
Mount Pleasant Public Library
Parent/Child Workshop - Music and Art Area



Mount Pleasant Public Library
Parent/Child Workshop - Parenting Resources

Mount Pleasant Public Library
Parent/Child Workshop - Parenting Resources

Please rate the level of support from your library staff for your Family Place Libraries program.



Value	Percent	Count
Not at All Supportive	0.0%	0
Not Very Supportive	0.0%	0
Somewhat Supportive	16.7%	2
Very Supportive	41.7%	5
Extremely Supportive	41.7%	5
Total		12

Nueces County Keach Family Library

Robstown, Texas

Our packages have arrived!

Our New Family Place Center!
Interactive Carpet, Mirrors, Books, and Toys for Babies

Transportation Toys, Bead frames, Manipulatives

Kitchen Playscape

Wooden Blocks

Art and Writing Center

Parenting Collection

Shelves for Storing Toys

Did your library allocate additional funds to support your Family Place Libraries program (In addition to the $6000 grant provided by the Texas State Library)?

Value	Percent	Count
Yes	100.0%	12
No	0.0%	0
Total		12

Pasadena Public Library

Pasadena, Texas

“Pasadena Public Library's Family Place welcome area was open to the public in late October 2015. We have average 25 children and their caregivers visiting this designated area daily.”

“My children love to come and play in the library.”

Newly replaced carpet and writing and drawing station.

Play Kitchen, Transportation Toys, Climbing Toys

"Believe it or not, the car toys were used by an elementary student to conduct her science experiment about ramps and cars."

"Thank you so much for having so many toys for kids."

Pasadena Public Library Parent/Toddler Fun Time

Our 5-week Parent-Toddler Fun Time started on Jan. 13 and will run through February 10. For the first two session, we had 25 and 30 participants.

Pasadena Public Library Parent/Toddler Fun Time

The workshop consists of 5 sessions led by librarians, dentist assistants from two clinics, one speech language pathologist, and one childhood behavioral specialist from Pasadena ISD respectively. At the second session, we observed that the speech pathologist gave tips to the caregivers, like how to help the toddlers add new vocabulary.

"We are fortunate to join other Texas libraries to implement Family Place Libraries program in our library. It is impossible to do so without the funding provided by the State Library. Thank you so much for all the support!"

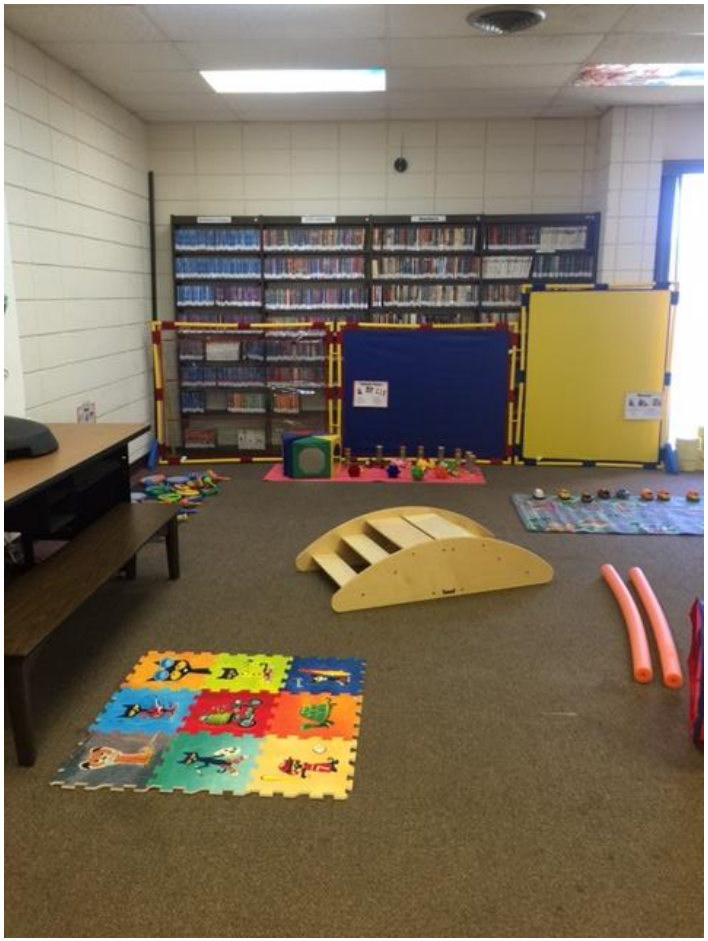
Sam Fore, Jr. Public Library

Wilson County Public Library

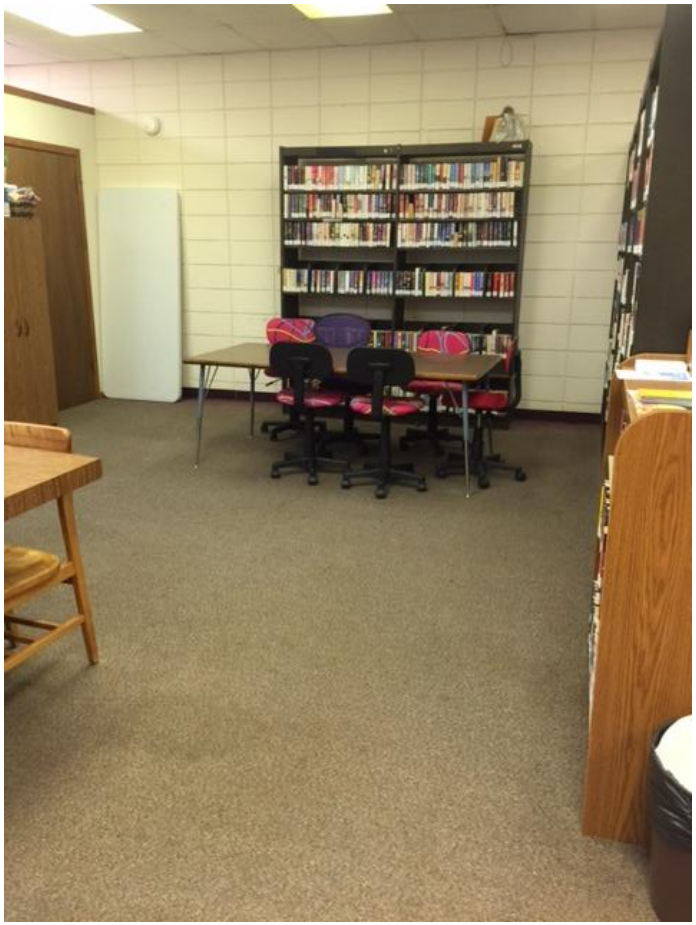
Floresville, Texas

Sam Fore, Jr. Public Library
Family Place Center

Sam Fore, Jr. Public Library
Before and After Photos



Sam Fore, Jr. Public Library
Before Photos



“We converted one part-time employee to full time in order to help cover our circulation/reference desk for the expected rise in library attendance records.”

“The new parenting collection has been well-received.”

“This morning [Feb. 2, 2016] was our first day of presenting our Play and Learn Play Date. Boy, was it ever a huge success. I missed a crucial photo op as one young girl rounded the corner into the play area. It was so like a Christmas expression that I just couldn't snap the camera fast enough.”

“Everyone had a blast. The best thing to happen was to see a shy little girl shed her timidness and join in the band with a play piano and drum set. ”

Please share your level of satisfaction with the Texas State Library's Family Place Libraries Project.

Value	Percent	Count
Unsatisfied	0.0%	0
Somewhat Satisfied	0.0%	0
Neutral	0.0%	0
Very Satisfied	8.3%	1
Extremely Satisfied	91.7%	11
Total		12