



Upper Dublin Public Library

Volunteer

Kids Place

Team Member

Position Overview:

Assist in the development of the library's newly updated Kids Place Children's Area by supporting youth services staff with various programs and space geared towards infants, toddlers, and young children.

Responsibilities:

- Be a liaison between the library and families by increasing the community's awareness about library resources and programming for families and young children.
- Be a friendly and informative role model in the Kids Place children's area, making connections with families and modeling appropriate child-adult interactions in the library.
- Assist library staff in enforcing children's area rules for usage.
- Assist in the development of children's programs.
- Support staff at scheduled library story times and programs that focus on families and children under 5 years old, such as the 1-2-3 Play With Me! Workshop.
- Assist with the maintenance of the library's early childhood toy and book collection, working with library staff to neaten, sanitize, and clean toys.

Benefits:

- Playing an important role in educating families and children
- Knowledge that you are a key member of the youth services team
- Being a part of an exciting time in libraries, where the focus on early literacy has broadened into a focus on early brain development for the youngest library patrons
- Grow your creativity by developing youth activities

Training/Support Available:

- Training and support from staff on library policies and principles.
- Assistance with developing unique programs that focus on your strengths.
- Library materials and technology

Qualifications:

- Knowledge & experience with small children is a must
- High degree of initiative and creativity
- Excellent people skills, especially with young children and parents
- Ability to explain and enforce Kids Place library policies to children and families
- Ability to develop and work with a team
- Willingness to assist with maintenance & upkeep of the children's area.

Commitment:

- Ongoing commitment
- Minimum of 2-3 hours/week
- Must agree to initial library interview, discussion of expectations for this position, & training.

Contact:

Contact: Lauren Smyth, Assistant Director, 215-628-8744, ext. 3244 or lsmyth@mclinc.org



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F.A.Q.

UDPL's Kids Place is a Family Place™ Library? What is that?

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. The Family Place™ Libraries network currently includes more than 300 sites in 23 states and continues to grow. (Source: *Family Place Libraries*, <http://www.familyplacelibraries.org/>)

When did Upper Dublin Public Library become a Family Place Library™?

UDPL was proud to join the Family Place Library™ network beginning in Fall 2012, when two library staff attended a multi-day training held in Long Island, New York, the Family Place™ “headquarters.” Staff spent time learning about infant brain development, the importance of play in the lives of young children, and how to turn a library into a welcoming center of early literacy and learning for all children and families. This opportunity was funded by a PA State LSTA grant, which also provided for funds for much of the early literacy toys, books, and games that you see in the UDPL children's area today.

Staff also learned that offering programming for the youngest patrons is vital. Beginning in April 2013, the first 4 week 1-2-3 Play With Me! Workshop was held, engaging children and their caregivers in an early literacy and play environment, while providing resources and having experts on hand to discuss a variety of topics with parents, from nutrition to health to books.