



LEARN, PLAY, GROW

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The Allegany County Library System recently added Learn, Play, and Grow activity centers to the LaVale, George's Creek, and South Cumberland libraries "as additional ways to enhance early literacy and encourage parent and caregiver involvement through shared play and discovery," explained Library System Executive Director John Taube. Learn, Play, and Grow centers are dedicated spaces within the library which contain materials, such as discovery tables and activity panels, that foster high-level play and discovery. The Learn, Play, and Grow centers have been tremendously popular. Regina Spiker, Service Leader at the George's Creek Library, describes their center as "constantly busy, especially after Story Time. It allows the grown-ups to sit in and observe or interact with their kids/grandkids."

Program Specialist Tammy Fearon, who leads Toddler Time and Story Time at the South Cumberland Library describes some of the panels installed on the walls of the Children's Room: "The children can hear what the ocean sounds like for the first time, while others are learning what materials can be used for insulation, like denim. Beginning readers can make basic phonic matches to form words with the egg pull game."



Families who discovered South's new activity center during the library's June Summer@Your Library Block Party have started coming to weekly Children's Programs, which are fun-filled times of book reading, singing, rhyming, moving, and creating with the Library System's Story Corps. The full schedule of children's programs for all 6 libraries can be found on the library website at: <http://www.alleganycountylibrary.info>. "Libraries are at the heart of our community. We want families to feel welcome and to use the library not only for the many resources and programs it offers, but as a safe and positive place where they can enjoy learning and growing together," notes Jennifer Howell, Director of Programming. This project was funded through a grant from Western Maryland Regional Libraries, The Maryland State Library and the Institute for Museum and Library Studies.

The Allegany County Library System provides high quality early childhood learning and events to improve and enrich our community. Please contact Jennifer Howell, Director of Programming with any questions at jhowell@alleganycountylibrary.info or 301-777-1200.