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“You look a little young to be in college”: Preschoolers and academic libraries

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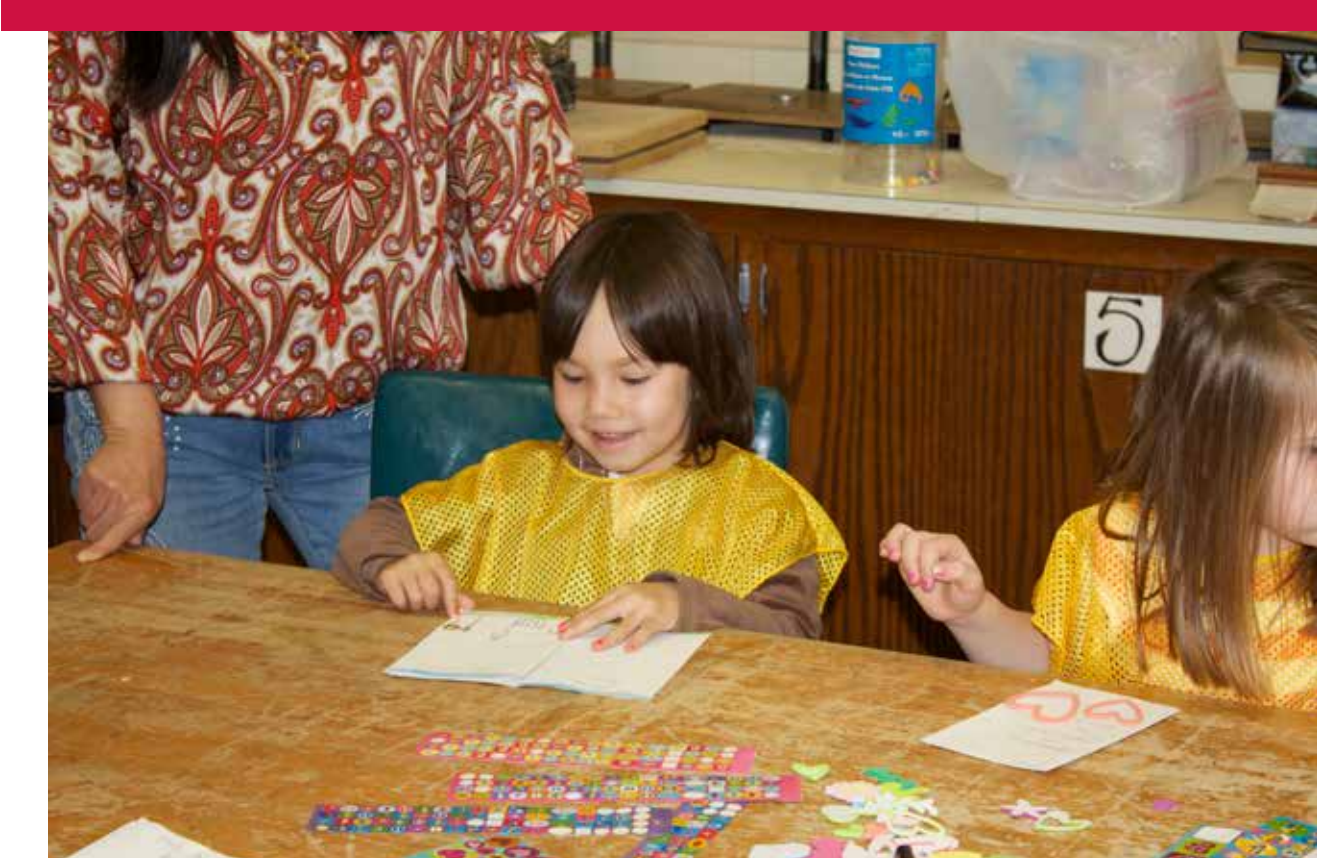
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Reading/sharing their book

Binding book covers in our cataloging department

Practicing writing and drawing skills on a chalkboard in a group study room

Decorating book covers in our cataloging department

Understanding library functions with pretend play

Learning to use a library book drop

Decorating book covers in our cataloging department

“YOU LOOK A LITTLE YOUNG TO BE IN COLLEGE”: PRESCHOOLERS AND ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

Benefits and challenges of preschooler programming at an academic library

	BENEFITS	CHALLENGES
Library	<p>Good outreach tool</p> <p>Helps improve public service skills: if we can't explain to a preschooler, then who can we explain to?</p> <p>Fun learning experience with young children</p>	<p>Staff time</p> <p>Coordination among various departments</p> <p>Materials cost</p> <p>Not our primary clientele</p> <p>Select audience, not intending to grow</p> <p>Scheduling visit at time that does not conflict with needs of primary clientele</p>
Preschool Students	<p>Literacy, language arts & writing skills</p> <p>Experiential learning (learn by do)</p> <p>It's a field trip!</p> <p>Understanding parts and functions of a library</p> <p>Understanding parts of a book</p>	<p>Behavior: attention span and long time at library</p> <p>Transportation</p> <p>Maintaining appropriate teacher or adult / student ratio</p>

Ohio Early Learning Content Standards addressed during library visit

<http://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Early-Learning/Early-Learning-Content-Standards/ELDS-Language-and-Literacy.pdf.aspx>

Strand: Listening and Speaking

Topic: Expressive Language
Pre-Kindergarten (3 - 5 years)

- Describe familiar people, places, things and experiences.
- Use drawings or other visuals to add details to verbal descriptions.

Strand: Reading

Topic: Reading Comprehension
Pre-Kindergarten (3 - 5 years)

- Retell or re-enact familiar stories. Identify characters and major events in a story.
- With modeling and support, describe what part of the story the illustration depicts.

Strand: Writing

Topic: Writing Application and Composition
Pre-Kindergarten (3 - 5 years)

- With modeling and support, use a combination of drawing, dictating and emergent writing for a variety of purposes (e.g., letters, greeting cards, menus, lists, books).
- With modeling and support, use a combination of drawing, dictating and emergent writing to tell a story, to express ideas, and to share information about an experience or topic of interest. (Composition)

Selected Bibliography

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“The newly released Ohio Early Learning and Development Standards make it clear that curriculum that focuses exclusively on fiction misses opportunities for the kinds of learning that only non-fiction can provide. Young children are naturally curious and their desire to research is apparent when they are given access to reference materials. One language and literacy standard states that young children should understand that print has a purpose. A visit to a University library provides infinite possibilities for children to understand the purpose of print. Whether exploring maps or science books that catalog a variety of species, the sheer number of materials make it clear that print is important. It is powerful for young children to see such a grand space dedicated to print.”

Shauna M. Adams, Ed.D., Executive Director, Center for Early Learning, Associate Professor of Early Childhood Teacher Education, School of Education and Health Sciences, University of Dayton, Bombeck Family Learning Center



Learning how books are organized in the library stacks

Stamping due dates

Decorating books in our cataloging department

Enjoying story time with a librarian

Learning where books are located on shelves

Understanding how books are shelved

Creating/writing their book in our cataloging

