

MIND IN THE MAKING

CREATING PLAY & LEARN SPACES @ YOUR LIBRARY

Katrina Ireland-Bilodeau, Northborough Free Library
Mia Cabana, Amherst Jones Library
Steve Fowler, Bellingham Public Library

ABOUT MIND IN THE MAKING

Based on years of extensive research by Ellen Galinsky, president of the Families and Work Institute.

Proposes that there are 7 essential life skills that parents can help their children gain through simple, everyday exchanges.

- Focus and Self-Control
- Perspective-taking
- Communication
- Making Connections
- Critical Thinking
- Taking on Challenges
- Self-directed, Engaged Learning

Let's
have
some
fun...



OKAY...
WHY LIBRARIES?



NORTHBOROUGH FREE LIBRARY

FIT IT IN THERE!



ANY NEW PATTERNS?





WHAT CAN WE REARRANGE?



SURPRISING
OPPORTUNITIES?



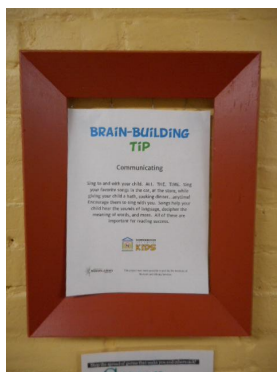
WE'VE GOT ALL THIS STUFF, NOW WHAT?

Tell parents and caregivers!

- Tips during storytimes
- “Brain-building tips” posted in areas of room
- Hand out VROOM cards
- Model by playing with the kids!



The Award-Winning Early-Literacy Program



Babble On

Don't be afraid to babble. When your child starts to make noises, treat it like a real conversation and mimic the sounds right back. See how many times you can go back and forth!

Brainy Background
powered by Mind in the Making

All kinds of “conversations” help to build babies’ brains - even when they’re still learning how to talk. By following your child’s lead and responding, you’re sparking the connections he/she needs for language and communication later on.

For more activities like these, check out the free Daily Vroom mobile app!





KITTY TIME!



AMHERST JONES LIBRARY



INCORPORATING PLAY IN STORYTIME



- Bridging the divide between listening to stories and inventing stories
- The role of adults in the practice of play
- Inspiration from books or from play resources
- Modeling good habits for play materials (sharing, clean up, communication)
- Fostering a welcoming environment for our diverse community





BEFORE: OUR COLLECTION WAS VERY SEGMENTED AND ITS ORGANIZATION WAS HARD TO FOLLOW. THE ROOM HAD A COZY FEEL, BUT PLAY SPACE WAS LOCATED IN HIGH TRAFFIC AREAS.

AFTER: WE REARRANGED OUR ROOM SO THE COLLECTION IS EASIER TO FOLLOW. NOW PLAY RESOURCES HAVE THEIR OWN AREA, SIGHT LINES ARE IMPROVED, AND THERE IS MORE FLOOR SPACE THAT ISN'T IN PATHWAYS THROUGH THE ROOM!





SING WITH YOUR BABY IS ONE OF OUR MOST POPULAR PROGRAMS. WE WERE ABLE TO ADD ADDITIONAL SESSIONS THROUGH GRANT FUNDING. FAMILIES ALWAYS LINGER AFTER THE PROGRAM IN OUR LEARNING SPACE!

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



Baby and Me is a local organization supporting parents of children from birth to age 3. They were a great source of local information during our application process, and we're excited to share our resources with their families! They visited our room for their "graduation" ceremony in March.

BELLINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY



***New & Expanded
Children's Play Area
Opened May 6, 2017***



