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## **Parent/Child Workshops** at Owasso Library

**The Owasso Library is one of four** Family Place libraries in the Tulsa City-County Library system. Family Place Libraries provide a welcoming community environment with resources families need to nurture their children's development during the critical first years of life, focusing on children ages 0-3 and their parents or caregivers.

The first three years are the most important time for learning early literacy skills and brain development. Libraries are ideal places to bring together information and education resources as well as help parents discover other community services and programs.

At the Owasso Library, we have a Family Place learning area that encourages interaction, imagination and socialization.

There is a collection of parenting books in the children's area, which includes books on parenting, information on encouraging early literacy skills at home, bibliographies and information from community agencies of interest to parents.

All of this is located in one place so the parent can browse these items while their child plays or looks at books. Educational toys and a computer station pre-loaded with educational games and books are available in the learning area.

We want parents to feel welcome in this space and use it to read, meet with other parents or spend time playing and reading with your children.

We also provide a series of parent/

ily Place Library is unique because it focuses on both the parent and the child. Parents are encouraged to play with their children.

Resource professionals are available for one-on-one discussions at each workshop to answer any questions parents may have about that week's topic in a relaxed, fun environment.

The resource professionals are early childhood specialists in the areas of child development, speech and language, nutrition, play, movement and music and early literacy.

The workshop encourages parents to use library resources and supports them as the primary educators of their children.

We understand how busy life can be with schedules and daily activities. One of our goals is to provide parents with an uninterrupted hour to spend simply playing with their child.

First-time parents can learn a lot about ways to encourage early literacy skills in their children. We hope parents will leave the workshops more confident in their abilities as their child's first teacher and with a better awareness of the importance of pure, fun playtime together for parents and kids.

If you have a child under the age of three, we would love to have you sign up for our next Family Place work-

1,2,3, Play With Me: A Parent/Child Workshop is a five-week series from 4-5 p.m. Tuesdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31



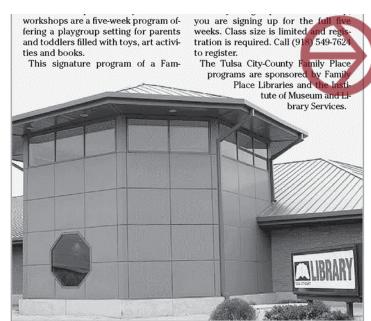
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