

Discovery Zone Project Final Narrative

In 2018, the Oroville Branch was fortunate to be awarded a grant from the Library Advisory Board Library Endowment Fund (awarded 2018, extended 2019) for the creation of a Discovery Zone, a low-tech Makerspace set up in their Children's Room and an opportunity to upgrade the selection of board books and toys/displays for our infants and toddlers. Purchases have been completed June and all materials have arrived – origami kits, board games, puzzles, STEM/STEAM-related manipulatives – just to name a few.

We planned to start using these Discovery Zone materials in the Library in June, to align with the start of our Summer Reading Program, but with the current events with the novel coronavirus, we have been unable to see the Zone in action. While it may be several months until we are able to return the toys and puppets to the Children's Area, the Discovery Zone materials will be ready to go on that first day. When the children are able to use the toys and materials in the library, we will be able to use the measures of success outlines in the application (boardbook checkouts, and Zone attendance) – we all hope it will be a success! Staff at the Oroville Branch have created a designated area in the Children's Area where we have put out signs, letting the public know what is coming.

Sustainability was a key part of the ordering process. Materials that were not consumables were selected primarily for their durability and longevity. The longer items last, the fewer times we have to replace and reorder. The two-week rotation we will be using for the Zone's activities will also help prevent too much wear and tear on the materials. We definitely want to see evidence of use, but the limited time each activity is out minimizes use and extends their life. For the items that are consumables (for example, the origami paper), we expect them to be used up and we expect that reordering will happen. We were able to order larger quantities of these – in addition to the two-week rotations, this will limit their depletion. When it comes to replenishing, the branch can decide to reorder the materials or to try out a new activity for the rotation.

The Countywide Children's Librarian and the staff at the Oroville Branch thank the Library Advisory Board allowing this project to happen. When we provide positive experiences for the child, the whole family is affected in a positive and meaningful way.

Narrative prepared by:
Avery Campbell
Countywide Children's Librarian
acampbell@buttecounty.net
530.552.5638

Grant originally written in 2018 by Patty Young
Former Senior Library Assistant
Oroville Branch