



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Lancaster County's *Family Place*[®] Libraries announce their spring 2012 sessions!

February 3, 2012 - The Ephrata, Lancaster and Quarryville public libraries are pleased to announce Family Place program rosters for spring. The special sessions for young children ages one to three and their families will run throughout March and April at all three Family Place libraries. [See schedule below]

What is a Family Place Library?

A Family Place Library is a center for early childhood information, parent education, emergent literacy, socialization and family support. Expanding the traditional role of children's services, the Family Place builds on the knowledge that good health, early learning, parent involvement and supportive communities play a critical role in young children's growth and development. Family Place library staff, trained in developmentally appropriate and family support practice, leverage the resources of the library to effectively serve young children and families.

The Parent/Child Workshop is the core program at each Family Place Library. This five-week series brings together toddlers and their parents in an informal, interactive setting with professionals from local agencies such as childcare centers, hospitals, speech clinics, universities, public schools and health departments. It emphasizes and supports the role of parents as first teachers, facilitates early intervention, and teaches strategies that promote healthy child development. Workshops promote early literacy through modeling and offer referrals to information and community resources.

Key Features of A Family Place Library

- Developmentally appropriate programming for children and their parents/caregivers
- A specially designed space for young children and their parents/caregivers
- Collections of books, toys, audiovisuals and other materials for babies, toddlers, parents and family service professionals
- Access to electronic resources that emphasize emergent literacy, reading readiness and parent education

Family Place[™] workshop sessions feature art, blocks, books, puzzles, puppets and more! Since an integral part of the project is the collaboration between community agencies and the library, there will be resource people from the community on hand to informally answer parenting questions and concerns.

The three registered *Family Place* Libraries in Lancaster County received grant funds in 2011 from United Way of Lancaster County's LEARN (Local Education and Resource



Network ---a United Way *Success by Six*TM partnership) to enhance their existing early childhood programming.

Lancaster Public Library

Mondays: March 5, 12, 19, 26 & April 2 at 6:00 pm **OR**

Tuesdays: March 6, 13, 20, 27 & April 3 at 10:15 am

Please register at www.lancaster.lib.pa.us or call 717-394-2651, ext. 124



Ephrata Public Library

Tuesdays: March 6, 13, 20, 27 and April 3 at 6:30 pm **OR**

Wednesdays: March 7, 14, 21, 28 and April 4 at 9:30 am

Please register at www.ephratapubliclibrary.org or call 717-738-9291



Quarryville Library

Tuesdays: March 20, 27 and April 3, 10 & 17 at 6:30 pm **OR**

Wednesdays: March 21, 28, April 4, 11 & 18 at 10:30 am

Please call 717-786-1336 or stop by library to register.

For more information about the Public Library Family PlaceTM Programs, please contact:

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Marti Pawlikowski, Youth Services
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125 N. Duke Street, Lancaster, PA 17602
717-394-2651 ext. 124
www.lancaster.lib.pa.us

Fran Vita, Library Director
Nikki Hartman, Youth Services
Quarryville Library
357 Buck Road, Quarryville, PA 17566
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www.quarryvillelibrary.org

Penny Talbert, Library Director
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