The library is helping your child get ready to read by creating a place that encourages children and their grownups to explore and to learn together. When completed, the Kids Library will be an interactive learning environment that will host a variety of skill-building structures including identification of letters, numbers and colors combined with opportunities to tell stories through imaginative play.

Kids go from learning to read to reading to learn. They need spaces that appeal to their age, engage them in fun learning and change to meet their growing independence. The library needs to provide graphic-heavy, simple vocabulary signage, cozy nooks for reading, and awe-inspiring learning stations like the blown glass solar system for astronomy.

The library helps children be successful in school by creating an exciting and fun environment to read in. The library is facing the challenges in our community of reversing a troubling trend; up to 37 percent of preschoolers tested struggle with the basics of reading. *“Being able to read on grade level by third grade is an essential building block for all future learning achievement,” says Marie Pyko, Public Services manager. “We are creating a space that focuses on literacy and playing with language and that will help children and families nurture those building blocks of learning.”*

It is important that all children have access to a place with books and computers beyond the classroom. For many in our community, the public library is their only resource – it’s their place.

*DIBELS assessment on basic literacy skills.*
YOU CAN HELP CREATE THE KIDS LIBRARY

Private funding is building the Kids Library. The Library Foundation launched its capital campaign to fund the next phases of this project. 3-D sculptures, based on the drawings shown below, will spark kids’ curiosity to learn more found in the books on the shelves. We need your help to move forward with this project.

To make your contribution, contact Kathy Groesbeck, at The Library

Reading introduces kids to new worlds, both real and fantasy. Artist Michael Perkins’ mural captures the world from a kid’s perspective and grows with them.

The Kids Library will soon feature a mini solar system made of hand-blown glass to help kids explore both fiction and nonfiction.

Kids will experience the ocean at our salt water aquarium

Learning about their environment and history are focuses for the tweens. Kids will experience size and scale as they walk by a dinosaur leg when searching for the perfect dinosaur book.

(above) Doug Sheafor, AlBo Glass, created a blown glass solar system based on the artist’s sketch. The Earth orb is part of the glass installation that anchors the nonfiction area. (far right) The lighthouse sketch will encourage children to explore in its 3-D sculpture form.