

Invest in Children

Summary

- ▶ *Contribute positively to mental, psychological, and physical development*
- ▶ *Promote the joy of reading through storytelling*
- ▶ *Provide year-round reading activities to strengthen reading skills*
- ▶ *Offer homework help*
- ▶ *Encourage lifelong learning*
- ▶ *Partner with schools and preschool programs to strengthen learning skills*
- ▶ *Develop collections and programs tailored to the defined demographic*
- ▶ *Model teaching and storytelling techniques for caregivers*



Goal

Through outstanding programs, resources, and services, Rowan Public Library contributes to the positive development of children by motivating them to explore their world, develop their potential, and strengthen their educational skills.

Objective 1

Create and update unique, attractive spaces especially designed for children and parents

Desired Outcome: Children and parents seek out children's services areas as comfortable, desirable destinations

Activity A: Further renovate Headquarters' children's area with an updated theme designed for children

Activity B: Replace worn furnishings in Headquarters' children's area, which will encourage children and parents to sit and read together

Activity C: Plan a children's area at the new West Rowan Branch Library that will appeal to children and be seen as a desirable destination

Responsibility: Youth Services Supervisor
Management Team

Cost: Annual Operating Budget

Objective 2

Provide computer services that are educational and entertaining

Desired Outcome: Children visit the library to use computers for learning and entertainment

Activity A: Continue to evaluate existing software programs and services and discard those that are out of date

Activity B: Find and evaluate new and innovative programs and services that have significant child appeal and implement the most valuable

Activity C: Research and explore grant funding for additional AWE early literacy stations in the children's areas

Responsibility: Youth Services Supervisor
Information Technology Staff

Cost: Annual Operating Budget
Grant Funding

Objective 3

Market the summer reading program, focusing on at-risk students

Desired Outcome: At-risk students improve their reading skills

Activity A: Continue to develop the program's annual implementation

Activity B: Partner with the Rowan-Salisbury School System and local community groups to identify and serve at-risk students

Activity C: Research and implement an online registration and tracking software system that works with the current summer reading program

Responsibility: Youth Services Supervisor
Library Management Team

Cost: Annual Operating Budget

Objective 4

Continue to expand regular storytime programs to incorporate rhythm, music, and art

Desired Outcome: Children throughout Rowan County learn basic listening and rhythm skills, positively impacting their literacy, social and emotional development, pattern recognition, and learning of language and mathematics

Activity A: Provide children with opportunities to listen to music and to create their own, using various instruments

Activity B: Using various tools, incorporate rhythms found in books and music to develop pattern recognition

Activity C: Provide crafts and basic art opportunities to expand imaginative thinking and improve direction-taking

Activity D: Develop sensory storytimes and other specialized programs for children with disabilities

Activity E: Supplement in-house programming by creating kits that parents can check out in order to teach literacy and employ manipulatives at home

Activity E: Incorporate ALA *Every Child Ready to Read* principles into storytimes

Responsibility: Youth Services Supervisor

Cost: Annual Operating Budget

Objective 5

Design and implement additional programming for children in elementary school grades

Desired Outcome: Children view the library as a place for learning and entertainment in a fun, safe environment

Activity A: Develop book-based programs focusing on current trends

Activity B: Explore winter reading programs

Activity C: Continue partnering with the Children’s Theatre, Livingstone College, the Rowan-Salisbury School System, and the Salisbury Symphony

Activity D: Expand the annual bookmark contest into a regional contest that collaborates with other county libraries

Activity E: Research and develop other programs of interest for the defined demographic

Activity F: Develop and implement a plan to make the new programs reoccurring

Responsibility: Youth Services Supervisor

Cost: Annual Operating Budget

Objective 6

Continue to develop and expand the *Books To Grow* Program

Desired Outcome: To provide patrons with quality programming and materials that encourage “Read Aloud” sessions at home on a routine basis

Activity A: As public schools add more NC Pre-K classrooms, increase the number of classrooms that the library serves

Responsibility: Children’s Outreach Program Supervisor

Cost: Annual Operating Budget



Objective 7

Expand *Stories to Go* and add a second bookmobile

Desired Outcome: Centers on the waitlist (as of Spring 2017) now take part in the *Stories to Go* program, and centers previously served now have more frequent visits

Activity A: Find and acquire additional vehicle for bookmobile

Activity B: Acquire additional staff for expanded services

Activity C: Develop rotation for the two bookmobiles to provide service to child care centers on a three to four week rotation

Responsibility: Children's Outreach Program Supervisor
Stories to Go Staff

Cost: \$200,000

