



Early Learning Spaces



YOUNG CHILDREN LEARN BY PLAYING.

They develop critical skills for school readiness by exploring their world and having fun. While playing and engaging with hands-on activities, children develop pre-literacy skills, learn how the world works, and create connections with others. Specially selected spaces in each of our libraries encourage and celebrate this type of learning.

Children and parents are invited to explore these spaces together:

- Put together puzzles or build with blocks to help with fine motor skills.
- Play a make-believe game to begin understanding how stories are constructed.
- Go on a scavenger hunt for letters, animals, or even textures to build language.
- Curl up together with a good book to start developing a love of reading.

Early learning installations are available in many of our libraries to encourage pre-literacy skills through play beginning at birth. Our unique installations were created by the Burgeon Group, specialists in early-learning facilities for public libraries. These highly-interactive pieces have been specifically designed to encourage kids to explore, ask questions, and foster collaborative play between children and their parents/guardians.



The Early Learning Center (ELC) at **Vancouver Community Library** is the highlight of these installations and is the largest library-based ELC in the world. Designed to spark wonder and curiosity, the 23 colorful interactive sculptures and hundreds of interactives reference the abundance of knowledge found at the library. With jokes and puzzles hidden for adults, too, the ELC is an early literacy landscape tied to the Washington State Early Learning Standards established to prepare children for school by learning through play. Designed, fabricated and installed by Burgeon Group, it is also rich with inspiration and ideas for further exploration of the library's collections as well as with activities to practice at home.

