

Play in Children's

Purchased through a combination of IMLS Grant Funds and Friends' Funds, the three types of items in the central area in Children's encourage interactive learning, multigenerational play and literacy engagement.

Superspace are giant, felted magnetic tiles that inspire open ended, creative play. Children and adults have been using them to create a wide variety of structures while experimenting with magnets, engineering and more. What makes a structure sturdy? Does it need a base? How do the different sized pieces fit together? What can be a window? What can be a door?

Stapelsteins are multicolored, lightweight steppingstones that come in in two sizes. They are used as steppingstones, but also as chairs, towers, bowls, hats and more. Light enough for toddlers to pick up and strong enough for school age kiddos to stand on, families use them in a myriad of ways including as reading chairs or wall support when building their Superspace structures.

The Dino Bones are from Imagination Playground – the same company that produced the very popular big blue blocks which we recently borrowed from the Building for Kids. The large set of bones is in the central play area and the small set of bones is on the Tween Table. Each set can be used to create at least three fully developed dinosaur skeletons as well as a seemingly endless combination of skeletal structures.

One of the most delightful parts of the new play items has been watching caregivers and kiddos, friends and strangers, preschoolers, toddlers and elementary students all come together to learn through play as they utilize the elements together and separately. After all that playing, they often turn to the nearby collection to settle in with a book or grab a few to take home. Play with Purpose. Joy and Community. Literacy and Learning. All of these and more at the library.