

The Values of Libraries: Outreaching to our Child Development Center

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Introduction

In our effort to promote information literacy, lifelong learning, and love for libraries throughout the college community, the Los Angeles Trade-Technical College Library outreaches to its youngest community members at our Child Development Center (CDC). Our outreach program provides lifelong learning opportunities to the children enrolled in the center, but it also provides opportunity to the parent(s)/guardian(s) of our college community to also develop and strength in lifelong learning and their love for libraries.

The library's initial collaboration with the Child Development Center started with a CDC faculty request to increase our children's literature in our collection. After learning that many of the children enrolled in the center, who primarily come from low-incomes families and/or families who are working & attending school, do not have the opportunity to visit or experience a library environment due to time constraints, obligations, and other factors. Our program allows children from the CDC to visit the library every two to three weeks to browse the children's collection and, in turn, check out one book to take home. In the event the classrooms are unable to visit the library, the library provides a book mobile to visit the children in their classroom(s). This process is continuous throughout the academic year and builds a greater bond between the children and library. Since the implementation of our outreach program, there has been an increase of children's material checkout and interest in our overall collection and library from both the community parents as well as our student parents.