

Library Resources for New Parents



The Park Ridge Public Library offers new parents free access to a vast collection of physical and downloadable materials, as well as free services and programs for all ages, from babies to seniors.



Calming Space

We welcome families who need a space to refocus, calm down or feed an infant in private to use our Calming Space. The room has a comfortable chair, dimmable lighting, sensory supports, a changing table and a sink.

Early Childhood Literacy

Early childhood literacy, the development of skills that support reading and writing, begins at birth and is closely linked to a child's first experiences with books and stories. The Library has a wide selection of materials and programs to support this process, including storytimes for babies and toddlers, board books for little hands, picture books to read together, lists of book recommendations, online enrichment databases, and a variety of kits to develop skills and subject knowledge.



Imagination and Play Area

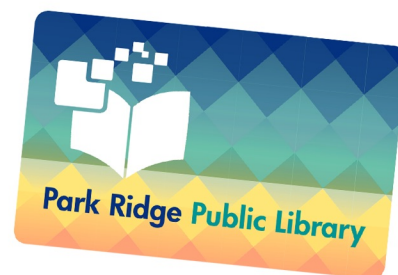
Imagination and play help children develop creativity, social skills, problem-solving and other life skills. The Children's Department features a play area with a variety of permanent and monthly activities for our youngest patrons while allowing their caregivers a chance to connect. Activity programs specifically for babies and toddlers encourage them to move, play and socialize.



Scan here or visit parkridgelibrary.org for our calendar and more information.

Library Card

Library cards are available to Park Ridge residents of any age, including babies and children, with proof of residency. Stop by the Children's Department for a special gift after you get a library card for your child.

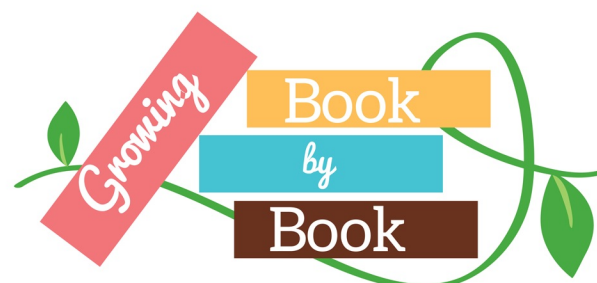


Parent-Teacher Collection

Our Parent-Teacher Collection provides resources on a variety of topics and is divided into two sections: books for parents and picture books for parent and child to read together. Books for parents cover parenting topics such as child care and development, feeding, sleep, potty training, social emotional growth, neurodiversity, homeschooling, and more. The collection's picture books feature age-appropriate stories on common child development topics, including feelings, behavior, mental health, grief and loss, our bodies, and growth and reproduction, providing parents an opportunity for discussion with children.

Reading Programs

To encourage reading together during their early years, join one of the Library's reading programs for kids. Our Growing Book by Book program encourages parents of even the youngest children to read together regularly. Our Summer Reading and Winter Reading programs encourage and reward reading for all ages.



Sensory Support

We welcome our sensory-sensitive and neurodivergent friends to experience the Library in an adapted and welcoming environment during our Sensory Hour on the first Sunday of every month from 11 a.m. to Noon. We also have a number of sensory supports always available at the Children's Department Desk, including noise-canceling headphones and fidgets.

