

You **Believe** in Your Community.  
You **Invest** in Your Library.

Here's how your support makes a difference.



## You **invest** in early literacy. Saint Paul kids build a foundation for **lifelong learning.**

Grace loves the library. She loves the friends she meets there: Ms. Kim, Ms. Heather – and Mr. Owl and Baby Bear, of course. She's sees these friends each week during storytime at George Latimer Central Library, where she gets to sing, dance, and play.

Saint Paul Public Library staff have created programs like storytimes and designed “play and learn” spaces at branches in order to cultivate a foundation for literacy and learning starting with our youngest patrons.



Kelsey Johnson-Kaiser, Youth Services Manager at the library, says “play and learning are two sides of the same coin - children can’t have one without the other.”

The research backs her up. According to a study by the American Academy of Pediatrics, **“cultivating the joy of learning through play is likely to encourage long-term academic success.”**



This strategy is working. Grace has fun and can’t wait to come back each week. Her mom, Bethany, knows that Grace is learning skills and developing curiosity that will serve her throughout her life.

Having recently moved to Saint Paul, their family has yet another reason to love the library – a new community.

**“We have found a family at the library. The excellent literacy programming brought us here, and the strong relationships we have built have kept us coming weekly. To see Grace’s excitement each week and how loved she is by her librarian friends is such a gift. I have also been able to meet other families from all over the world. The library gave me a sense of belonging in my new community.”**  
- Bethany

Because of your support, more people in Saint Paul are reading and talking together. Because of you, our City will come together to address another challenge when Read Brave returns this fall.

**Join the conversation at [www.sppl.org/readbrave](http://www.sppl.org/readbrave).**



# Saint Paul Public Library Early Learning Programs

## Saturday Live!

This literacy-based program features performers that are both entertaining and have the ability to promote the joys of reading and libraries to young audiences. Children engage with puppets, magicians, wild animals, storytellers and more.

## Multi-language storytimes

The library offers storytimes for kids and families of multiple ages in English, Spanish, Karen, Hmong, Amharic, Oromo, and more.



**2,687**  
people attended  
**126** Karen language  
storytimes across  
**4** branches in  
2018.

## Beanstack

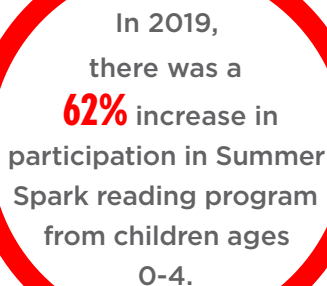
This is a personalized service designed for families with young readers. Patrons can log their reading, earn badges, receive rewards, and even receive weekly reading recommendations for their child.

## Think Small

This free program sends parents three free texts a week with tips on how to develop their child's social skills, increase motor and language ability, and prepare their child for Kindergarten.

## Summer Spark

Summer Spark encourages kids to have fun, stay active, and keep learning all summer long. Kids attend free programs at their library and earn prizes by completing reading and activity challenges.



In 2019,  
there was a  
**62%** increase in  
participation in Summer  
Spark reading program  
from children ages  
0-4.

[sppl.org/early-learning](http://sppl.org/early-learning)

## Donor Perspective: Why I Give to The Friends

The library has become a staple in Meghan and Garrett's life. Each week, their family walks to the Highland Library, where their three kids get to pick out whichever books strike them. They enjoy storytimes and the Summer Spark reading program. The kids love the "treasures" they bring home and Meghan and Garrett love that they are learning as new readers.

As Friends supporters, Meghan and Garrett believe in giving back to the library. Recently, they held their own fundraiser in memory of their other daughter Sybil on what would have been her third birthday – the age when each of their children gets their own library card.



*“Having access to the library - and its quality collection - allows us to weave reading into the very essence of our family... The library encourages us to share stories, start conversations, and nurture a love of reading in each family member. The library regularly expands our horizons and brings us together. It's important to us to know that ALL have access to these resources.”*

- Meghan, Friends donor



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## Partner Spotlight: Knight Invests \$100k In Saint Paul Public Library

The Friends recently received funding on behalf of Saint Paul Public Library from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation advance the work of the Nicholson Workforce and Innovation Center at the George Latimer Central Library. The Center helps residents acquire technical skills and pursue career goals.

Partners like Knight – and like you – help our libraries strengthen and inspire their communities.

Learn more at [thefriends.org/knight](https://thefriends.org/knight).

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