

## LSTA

Library Services Technology Act

### Mind in the Making: Engaging Young Children in Interactive Learning and Doing

**Grant Amount:**  
\$10,000

**Time Range:**  
1 year

**Eligibility:**  
Public Libraries

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**Summary:**  
Establish or improve play spaces for young children



### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This grant allows libraries to carry out a program to establish or enhance play spaces for children ages 0-6 in public libraries. These play spaces are aimed at early learning and social interaction among children and their caregivers.

Suggested components include:\*

- Creating an interactive play and flexible learning space
- Designating a space for tinkering and invention
- Offering activities such as a Countdown to Kindergarten program, family programs on “Brain Building in Progress”, or creation of Creativity Kits to be borrowed by parents and caregivers and used in local preschools
- Purchasing materials supporting emergent reading, writing, and fine motor skills
- Developing collections of print, digital materials, and realia

### BACKGROUND

Ellen Galinsky's book *Mind in the making* highlights the seven essential life skills children need most: focus and self-control, perspective taking, communicating, making connections, critical thinking, taking on challenges, and self-directed engaged learning. In their report *Growing young minds*, IMLS highlights how libraries can support these types of skills through hands-on experiences. By providing play and inquiry-

based programs, libraries increase the opportunities for young children to participate in activities that will help develop critical skills and result in their becoming more confident and engaged learners.

\*Create a circulating library of toys or “make and take kits” and items that support social-emotional learning development for toddlers and pre-schoolers, or creation of kits such as Beverly Public Library’s kits.

Provide augmented virtual programming using library staff and outside performers.

Develop a regular kids “Pop-up library” either outside library building or in designated community location.

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