

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

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## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This program allows public libraries to apply for a one-year grant ranging from \$7,500 to \$10,000 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

## ELIGIBILITY

Any public library that meets standard eligibility requirements for Direct Grant programs and has identified a need to serve young children in their long range plans may apply.

## INTERESTED?

Applicants must submit a Letter of Intent form with the “Mind in the Making” option checked off. If you need more information about this program, call Shelley Quezada at the MBLC at 1-800-952-7403 ext. 235 or email [shelley.quezada@state.ma.us](mailto:shelley.quezada@state.ma.us)

## 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.