



COUNTY of CUMBERLAND



Public Library & Information Center

Winner of the National Medal for Museum and Library Service

NEWS RELEASE

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Cumberland County Public Library Launches Early Literacy Centers

Child-friendly activities make learning fun and help develop pre-reading skills

Learning experts tell us that what happens during a child’s early years sets the foundation for all the educational years that follow. In cultivating an environment rich in learning experiences, the Cumberland County Public Library & Information Center has established Early Literacy Family (ELF) Centers all locations.

The centers provide easily accessible, child-friendly, literacy-based activities including books, puzzles, games, manipulatives, and more. In explaining how these activities help children learn to read, the library’s Youth Services Division Manager Megan Smith, said, “When children and parents or caregivers read, play, write, talk and sing together, it begins to help children build a bridge between how words are formed and how stories are shared.” She added that by offering warm and welcoming spaces where families interact, “we are fostering future readers and lifelong learners.”

An element at several of the centers is a digital learning station that is outfitted with iPads, which are preloaded with the best kids’ reading apps. This encourages seek-

and-discover learning experiences that allow young minds to pursue and interact with the educational content that captures their attention.

This project is made possible through a \$45,656 grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) under provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the State Library of North Carolina, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources.

For more information about the centers, youth programming, story times and other library programs or services, visit cumberland.lib.nc.us, visit any location, or call 483-7727.

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