



CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Children's Services at Georgia Public Library Service provides myriad services to help libraries improve the quality of children's and families' lives. GPLS plans and implements statewide family literacy programs like summer reading and **PRIME TIME Family Reading Time™**. The latest research in family and early literacy is compiled and disseminated to libraries across the state. The children's services staff at libraries incorporate this research into storytimes and other programming for all ages. These programs help build a strong foundation for lifelong learning.

Consulting, Training and Networking

GPLS acts as a consultant for systems developing new children's services initiatives or for systems continuing service for parents and children. GPLS can also provide specialized training at staff training events.

GPLS oversees several statewide training opportunities each year. **The Children's Services Annual Conference (CSAC)** is the major training event. Celebrating its 10th year in 2008, CSAC is a daylong training and networking event that all 59 Georgia public library systems and many media specialists from Georgia's public schools attend. CSAC provides information about library trends in children's services and the current research on family and early literacy. Local presenters offer training alongside nationally recognized experts on varied topics such as storytelling, incorporating music into storytimes, library service to children with special needs, summer reading and emergent literacy.

Teen Services are highlighted during the annual **Teen Services Conference**. This conference provides training for library staff working with teens and young adults. Previous sessions have included creating teen-friendly spaces within libraries; connecting teens to books; programming for **Teen Read Week** and **Teen Tech Week**; and collection development for middle and high school students.

Training opportunities are also offered twice annually at the Spring and Fall Quadrant Meetings held at convenient locations across the state on topics of interest to staff working with children, teens and families. Library staff have the opportunity to meet colleagues, exchange information, discuss ideas and discover new ways to reach parents and

children. GPLS helps to promote other training opportunities such as children's literature conferences, COMO/GLA conferences and other training of interest to children's and teen services staff.

GPLS also hosts the Children's Services listserv (CHLIB-I). This electronic listserv posts messages to and from people working in Georgia's public libraries with children, families and teens. Children's services personnel can pose questions (*"What were the Caldecott honor books in 1971?"*) or spark a lively debate (*"What is the best way to encourage parent participation during storytime?"*) via the listserv and within moments, several replies are posted. The support on CHLIB-I is instant and generous.

The Children's Services Advisory Council

The Children's Services Advisory Council ("the Quadrant Council") is another way GPLS considers the needs of Georgia's public library staff. The Quadrant Council is composed of the director of Children's Services for GPLS, who acts as leader and convener, along with two representatives from each of the four geographic areas of the state. The council meets regularly as a group to advise the director of Children's Services and GPLS on the needs of the library systems in the quadrant, to discuss upcoming events and to assist with planning and implementing training events. Serving on the Quadrant Council provides children's services personnel with professional development opportunities and helps develop leadership skills.

Children's Services Make a Difference!

When public libraries provide services for children, the benefits are numerous. From providing high-quality, literature-based programs for children and families to assisting teens with their informational needs, Children's Services staff at GPLS strive to help libraries develop lifelong readers and learners. Through the services offered across the state, GPLS helps create a community of support and advocacy for library personnel working with children, families and teens. Working in tandem, GPLS and library systems provide parents and caregivers with the best tools to help prepare their children for life and introduce them to a lifelong love of reading.

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