

# The Grand Rapids Public Library Story Guide



This project was made possible by a grant from the Friends of the Grand Rapids Public Library.

# Hello!

We are excited you are visiting us! We hope you may find this **Story Guide** helpful before and during your visit.

# I'm going to the Grand Rapids Public Library

There are different ways to travel to the Grand Rapids Public Library. I can use the library's website to look up directions. The Grand Rapids Public Library has eight locations. The first thing I'll do is decide which library location I'd like to visit.

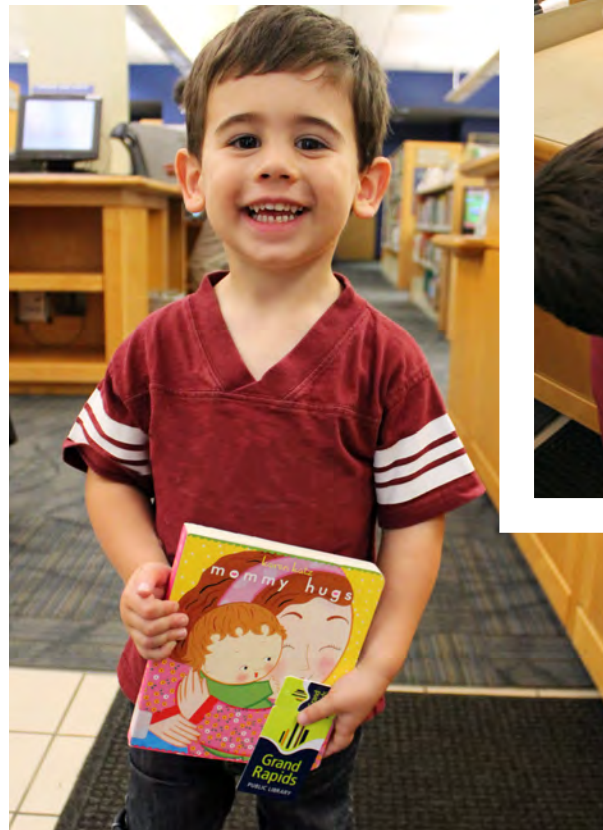
I might travel to the library by walking, or by riding in a bus or a car. I might even travel to the library in a bus with my teacher and all of my class from school!



# A Library Card

There are lots of fun things to do while I'm at the library, but if I want to take anything home, I'll need to get a library card.

To get a library card my grown-up and I will need to bring a picture ID and something that says where we live. A library card is free.





# Using My Library Card

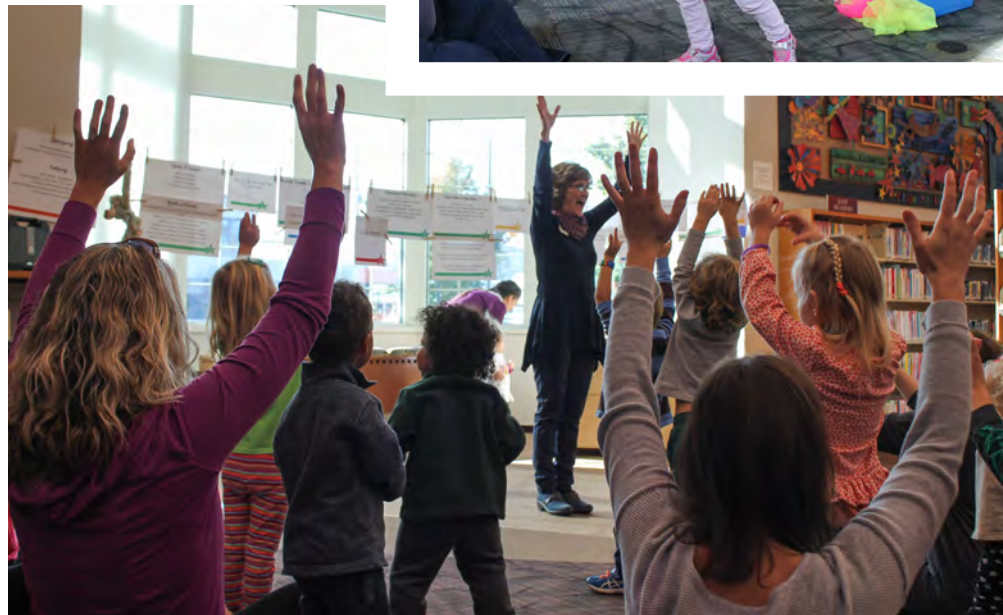
Now that I have my library card I can find books, movies, magazines, music, and more to bring home with me. I do not buy things at the library. I use my card to borrow things and bring them back. This does not cost money.



# Storytime

Some of the Grand Rapids Public Library locations have times when I can come in and do fun planned activities. These are library programs.

One of the library's most popular programs is called storytime. During storytime I can come to the library and **Read, Sing, Talk, and Play** with other kids. My family can check the library's website to see when and where we can attend.





# Using My Library Card

I borrow things I want to take home using a computer called a Check Out Station. I put all of the items I'd like to check out on the blue square next to the computer.

Next I'll put the back of my library card up to the scanner. Once the computer knows who I am, it will make a little beep! The Check Out Station is touchscreen. I follow the directions on the screen to check out my items.

If I need help, the friendly librarians behind the desk will be happy to help me check out my books and movies.



# Computers for Kids!

I know that no matter which Grand Rapids Public Library location I visit, I'll find at least one computer for kids with games on them to help me learn about letters, numbers, shapes, and colors.

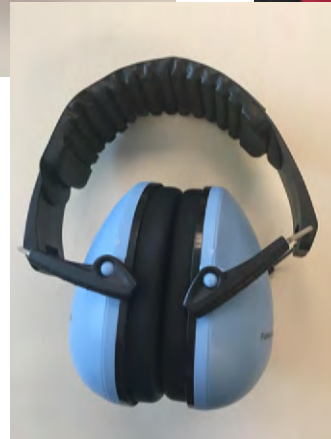
There might be another boy or girl already playing on the computer. That's okay, I can go to the desk where the librarians are working and ask for a Launchpad. A Launchpad is a tablet I can use while I am in the library. It has learning games too.





# Sensory Tool Kit

When I get to the library I can ask to borrow a Sensory Tool Kit. This is a backpack filled with things that might help me while I'm at the library. I need to remember to return the backpack to the librarians before I leave the library so I can use it the next time I visit.



# Things I Should Remember:

There are so many fun things I can do at the library! I can play with toys, I can find a place to sit and read books or magazines, I can pick out books, movies, and more to take home with my library card, and sometimes I can even go to special programs just for kids. Even when I'm excited to be at the library I should remember six important things:

1. I should stay close to my grown-up.
2. I should use my inside voice.
3. My feet should walk, not run.
4. I should not throw anything.
5. The people who work at the library are glad I came and they are here to help me!
6. I should return the Sensory Backpack to the librarians at the desk before I go home so I can use it the next time I visit.



# Grand Rapids Public Library Locations

Click on the library you plan to visit.



## MAIN LIBRARY

111 Library Street NE ■ 49503  
616.988.5400



## MADISON SQUARE BRANCH

1201 Madison SE ■ 49507  
616.988.5411



## OTTAWA HILLS BRANCH

1150 Giddings SE ■ 49506  
616.988.5412



## SEYMOUR BRANCH

2350 Eastern SE ■ 49507  
616.988.5413



## VAN BELKUM BRANCH

1563 Plainfield NE ■ 49505  
616.988.5410



## WEST LEONARD BRANCH

1017 Leonard NW ■ 49504  
616.988.5416



## WEST SIDE BRANCH

713 Bridge NW ■ 49504  
616.988.5414



## YANKEE CLIPPER BRANCH

2025 Leonard NE ■ 49505  
616.988.5415





# Main Library

# MAIN LIBRARY

## I'm going to the Main Library!

The Main Library looks big and serious, but the people who work inside are excited about my visit. There are so many fun things to see and do at the library!

Sometimes lots of people want to come to the library at the same time, so it might be a little crowded or noisy inside. I feel better when I remember the workers at the library are friendly and want to help me find my way.

The front door might beep at me when I walk in, but I know I don't have to worry. I can go to the desk to get my library card. On my right I see people checking out books and movies.



## The Main Library

The Main Library has five floors filled with great things I can use or borrow with my library card. I take a tour and here's what I find:



- On **Level 1** where I walk in I find DVDs, audiobooks, CDs, books in languages from around the world, and biographies (books about someone's life)
- On the **Lower Level** I see computers where people with library cards can use the internet. I also see nonfiction books (true stories) for adults.
- On **Level 2** I find fiction books (made up stories) for adults. I also find the children's and teen library.
- I can go to a library program on **Level 3**. I can also head to the Quiet Reading Room and read newspapers or magazines. There's even a place where I can buy used books.
- **Level 4** is the local history library. I find information about Grand Rapids and Michigan history.

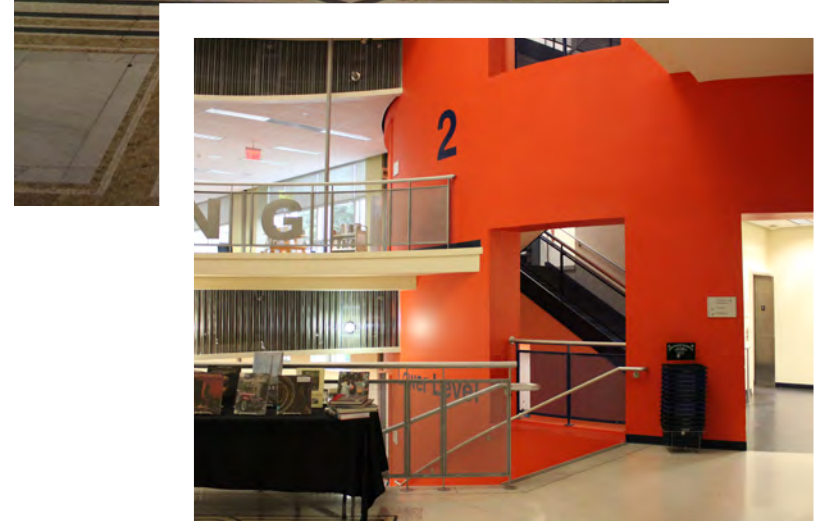


# MAIN LIBRARY

## I'm on my way to the Children's Library

The children's library is on Level 2. You know what's funny? The stairs I find right when I walk into the library will take me to the Level 3, but not Level 2.

To get to the children's library, I walk through the big entry room, down a big green hallway, and then turn to my right for the stairs or elevator. The stairs or elevator will take me up to the children's room. If I'm not sure where to go I can ask for help from the people at the desks on Level 1. They will be happy to help.



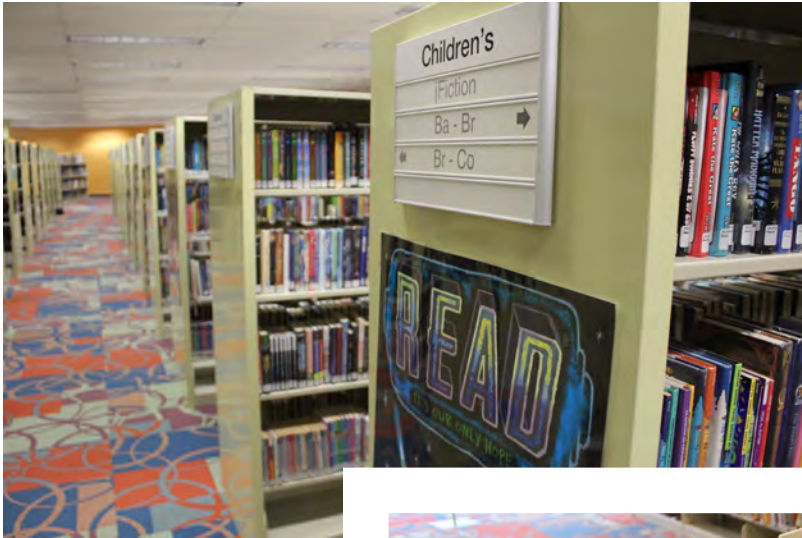
## The Children's Library

I found the children's library! The helpful people at the desk lent me this backpack full of things to use while I'm here. The people behind the desk are called librarians. Librarians can help me find books, movies, toys, and more.

This is where I can ask to borrow a Sensory Tool Kit, a backpack full of items to help me enjoy my time at the library.



## The Children's Library



I walk into the children's library and there is so much to see! There are books, computers just for kids, DVDs, CDs, and toys. Other children at the library might want to play. I can join in with them or decide to play on my own.





## The Children's Library

Sometimes the children's library has programs just for kids. If there is a program at the library on the day I visit, I may be able to join in.

When I'm ready to go home I can check out my books and movies at the Check Out Station right by the children's desk. If I borrowed a Sensory Tool Kit I return it to the desk so I can use it on my next visit!





# Madison Square Branch

# MADISON SQUARE BRANCH

## I'm going to the Madison Square Branch!

When I walk in the door I see the bathrooms and a drinking fountain. I might hear some beeps as I walk further into the library, but I know I don't have to worry.

I see people working behind a desk. They are librarians. They are friendly and say hello to me as I walk in the door! Librarians can help me find books, movies, toys, and more in the library.

This desk is where I go to get a library card or ask to borrow a Sensory Tool Kit, a backpack full of items to help me enjoy my time at the library. If I want to use the bathroom, I go to the desk and ask for a key.





# MADISON SQUARE BRANCH

## The Madison Square Branch Kids' Area



Right away I see the children's section of the library. Here I find kids' DVDs and so many books! I find audiobooks and CDs for kids, and the kid's computer too.

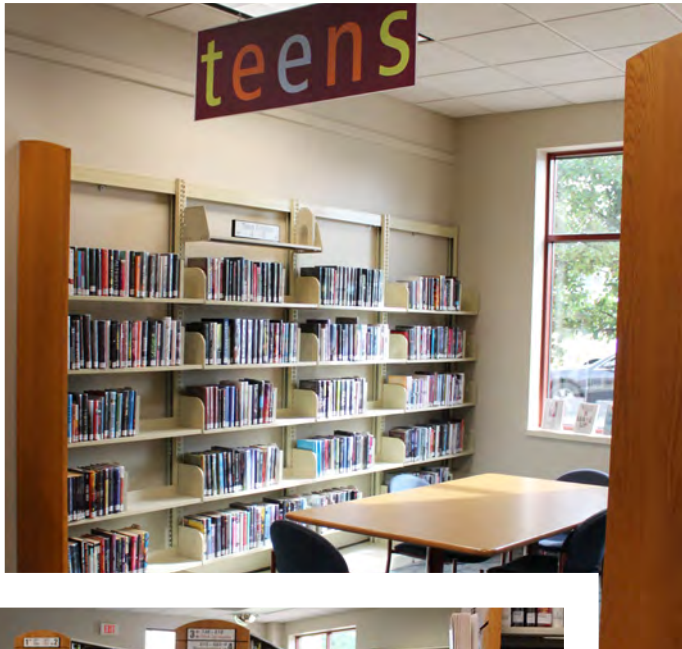


# The Madison Square Branch Kids' Area

There is a play area with toys. I see puzzles, cars, blocks, and more! The toys stay at the library so I can play with them the next time I visit, but I can bring books, movies, and music home if I check them out with my library card.



## My trip to the Madison Square Branch



I find a teen section with a table near a nice, big window where people can sit and read.

Near the teen space I see an area with books written in Spanish for babies, children, teens, and adults!

I see lots of books, DVDs, CDs, and magazines for adults and teens and computers where people can use the internet.



On my way out I stop at the Check Out Station to borrow my books and then I wave goodbye to the librarians. If I borrowed a Sensory Tool Kit I return it to the desk so I can use it on my next visit. I hope I get to come back to the Madison Branch soon!





# Ottawa Hills Branch

# My trip to the Ottawa Hills Branch



When I walk into this library I may hear a beep, but I know I don't have to worry. I see that this library is pretty small and quiet. The people working behind the desk are called librarians. They are friendly and say hello to me. Librarians are there to help me find books, movies, toys, and more in the library.

This desk is where I go to get a library card or ask to borrow a Sensory Tool Kit, a backpack full of items to help me enjoy my time at the library.

# The Ottawa Hills Branch Kids' Area

I go to the left side of the library and I'm in the kids' area. There are so many books, CDs, and DVDs for kids! I can bring them home if I check them out with my library card.

I can sit in the rocking chair and read, color at the table, or play on the computer that's just for kids. There is also a cart with puppets, puzzles, cars, and lots of fun things to do! The toys stay at the library so I can play with them the next time I visit.





# My trip to the Ottawa Hills Branch



The library has lots of books, movies, music, and magazines for adults and teens too. I see computers where people can get on the internet and comfortable places they can sit and read.

On my way out, I stop at a Check Out Station to borrow my books and I wave goodbye to the librarians. If I borrowed a Sensory Tool Kit I return it to the desk so I can use it on my next visit. I hope I get to come back to the Ottawa Hills Branch soon!



# Seymour Branch

# I'm going to the Seymour Branch



When I walk through the front doors, I may hear a beep, but I know I don't have to worry. On my left I see people working behind the desk. They are called librarians. They are friendly and say hello to me. Librarians are there to help me find books, movies, toys, and more in the library.

The desk is where I go to get a library card or ask to borrow a Sensory Tool Kit, a backpack full of items to help me enjoy my time at the library.



# The Seymour Branch Kids' Area

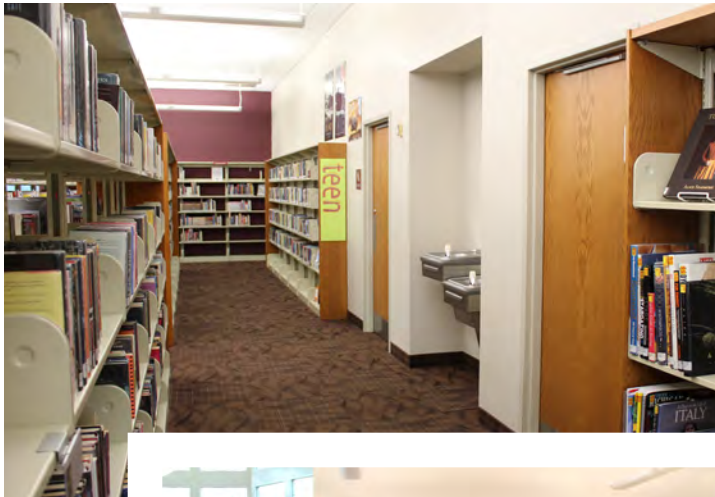


When I turn right, I see the kids' area. There are bright posters on the wall and stuffed animals sitting way up high in the windows. There are so many books, and DVDs, and CDs for me to borrow with my library card!

I can color a picture, send mail to my favorite book character, or play on the kids' computer. There are also lots of toys. I see blocks, LEGOs, trains, and more. The toys stay at the library so I can play with them the next time I visit.



# My trip to the Seymour Branch



The library has lots of books, movies, music, and magazines for adults and teens too. I see comfortable places to sit and read and computers where people can get on the internet. I find the bathrooms and the drinking fountain when I head back to the adult fiction section.



On my way out, I stop at a Check Out Station to borrow my books and I wave goodbye to the librarians. If I borrowed a Sensory Tool Kit I return it to the desk so I can use it on my next visit. I hope I get to come back to the Seymour Branch soon!



# Van Belkum Branch



# I'm going to the Van Belkum Branch!

When I walk into the Van Belkum Branch Library, I may hear a beep, but I know I don't have to worry. Right away I see people at the desk. They are called librarians. They are friendly and say hello to me. Librarians are there to help me find books, movies, toys, and more in the library.

The desk is where I go to get a library card or ask to borrow a Sensory Tool Kit, a backpack full of items to help me enjoy my time at the library.

At the front of the library, there are two spaces to sit and read. Both spaces have nice big windows. One space is for teens and the other is for grown-ups.



# Van Belkum Branch Kids' Area

I find the kids' area on the right past the desk. There are so many books, CDs, and DVDs for kids! There is also a section of books in Spanish and other languages. I can bring all of these things home if I check them out with my library card.

Just past the desk I see the kids' computer and a play area with toys. There are puppets, puzzles, cars, and more! I can play with the toys while I'm visiting but they stay at the library so I can play with them again the next time I visit.



# My trip to the Van Belkum Branch!



Right next to the kids' area I see computers where people can get on the internet. On the other side of the library I see books, magazines, music, and more for adults. The bathrooms and the drinking fountain are at the back of the library.

I head back to the front of the library and find two spaces to sit and read. One space is for teens and the other is for adults.



On my way out, I stop at a Check Out Station to borrow my books and I wave goodbye to the librarians. If I borrowed a Sensory Tool Kit I return it to the desk so I can use it on my next visit. I hope I get to come back to the Van Belkum Branch soon!





# West Leonard Branch

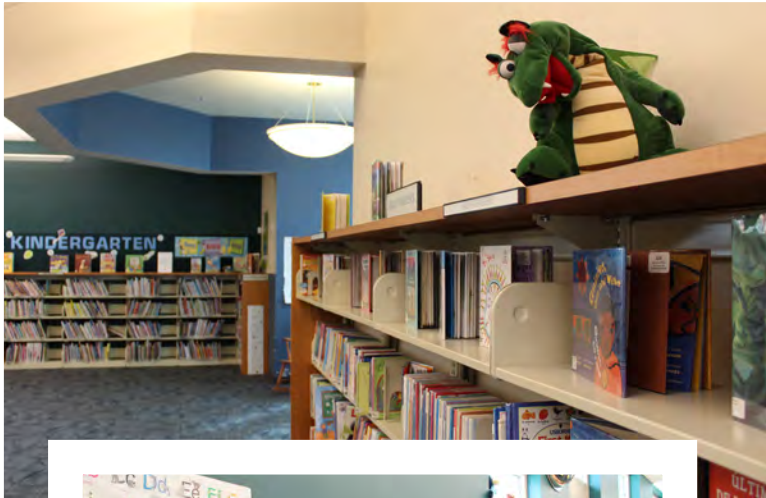
# I'm going to the West Leonard Branch!

I might hear a beep when I walk into the West Leonard Branch, but I know I don't have to worry. I see people at the desk when I walk in. They are called librarians. They are friendly and say hello to me. Librarians can help me find books, movies, toys, and more in the library.

The desk is where I go to get a library card or ask to borrow a Sensory Tool Kit, a backpack full of items to help me enjoy my time at the library.



# West Leonard Branch Kids' Area



I find the kids' area behind a big bookshelf with Library Dragon at the top. I can write a letter to Library Dragon and leave it in the mailbox next to the shelf!

The kids' area has so many books, DVDs, and CDs! I can bring them home with my library card.



I also see the kids' computer and lots of toys. I can play with the toys while I'm here, but they stay at the library so I can play with them again the next time I visit.

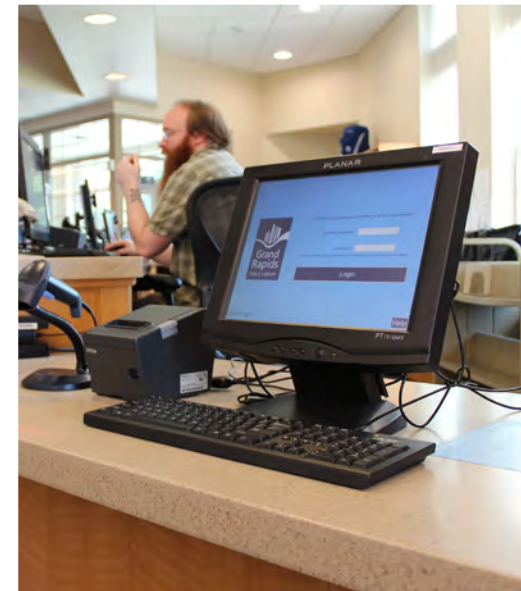


# My trip to the West Leonard Branch

On the other side of the library I see lots of books, DVDs, and CDs for adults and teens. There are also computers where people can get on the internet. I find the bathrooms and drinking fountain when I head to the teen section.

On my way out, I stop at the Check Out Station to borrow my books and I wave goodbye to the librarians. If I borrowed a Sensory Tool Kit I return it to the desk so I can use it on my next visit.

I hope I get to come back to the West Leonard Branch soon!





# West Side Branch

## WEST SIDE BRANCH

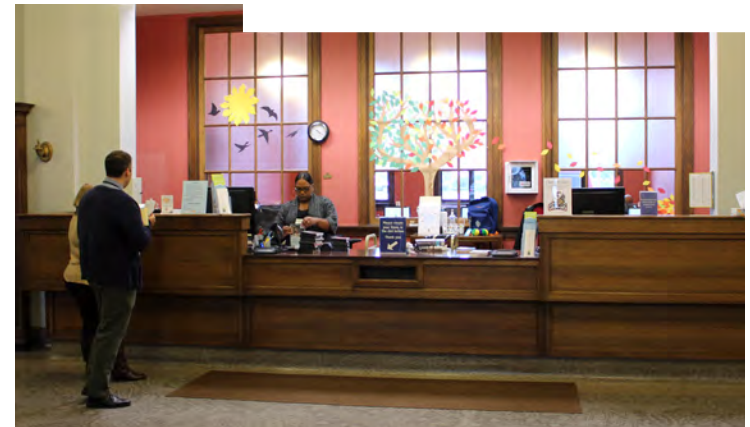
# I'm going to the West Side Branch!

There are two ways I can go into the West Side Branch. One door is right at the front of the building on a busy street, and the other is on the side of the building. This door has a big blue button I push and the door opens for me. I should use this side door if it's hard for me to open doors on my own. I might hear a beep when I walk in, but I know I don't need to worry.

I see people at a long desk. They are called librarians. They are friendly and say hello to me. Librarians can help me find books, movies, toys, and more in the library.

The desk is where I go to get a library card or ask to borrow a Sensory Tool Kit, a backpack full of items to help me enjoy my time at the library.

I see two big rooms in this library. One is where adults sit and read, and one is just for kids!

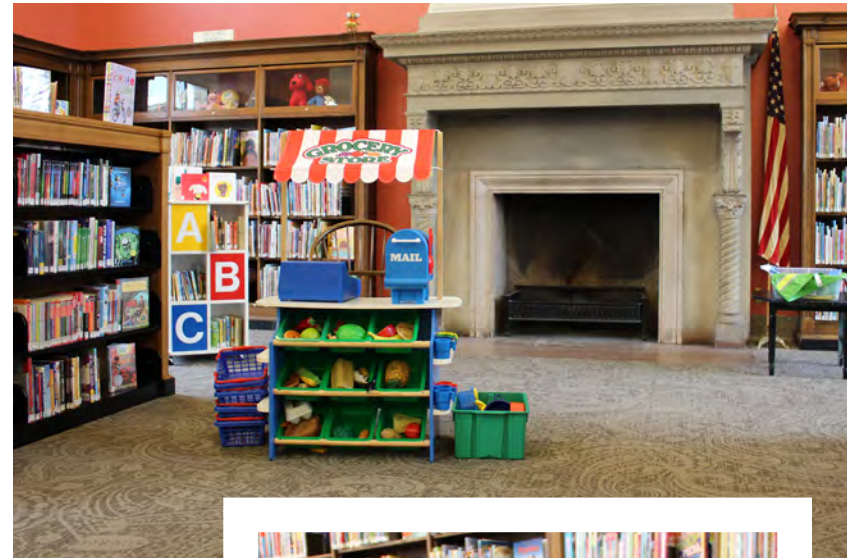




### West Side Branch Kids' Area

I like how this library has a big room for kids and teens. It's called the Children's Reading Room. This room is filled with lots of books, comics, DVDs, and CDs that I can borrow with my library card.

I see the kids' computer and a play area with toys. I can play with the toys while I'm here, but they stay at the library so I can play with them again the next time I visit.



# My trip to the West Side Branch



I walk out of the kids' room and see lots of DVDs and CDs for adults and teens in the center area by the librarians' desk. I head to the other big room in the library and see books and more for adults. This room has tables and chairs for people to sit and read.

I look for the bathroom and find it down a short hallway past the librarians' desk. I find the drinking fountain right next to the bathroom. I also see a room where people can use computers to get on the internet.

On my way out, I stop at a Check Out Station to borrow my books and I wave goodbye to the librarians. If I borrowed a Sensory Tool Kit I return it to the desk so I can use it on my next visit.

I hope I get to come back to the West Side Branch soon!



# Yankee Clipper Branch



# I'm going to the Yankee Clipper Branch!

To get into the Yankee Clipper Library I will walk up lots of stairs or a long ramp. I might hear a beep when I walk through the doors but I know that I don't have to worry. I see people at the desk when I walk in. They are called librarians. They are friendly and say hello to me. Librarians can help me find books, movies, toys, and more in the library.

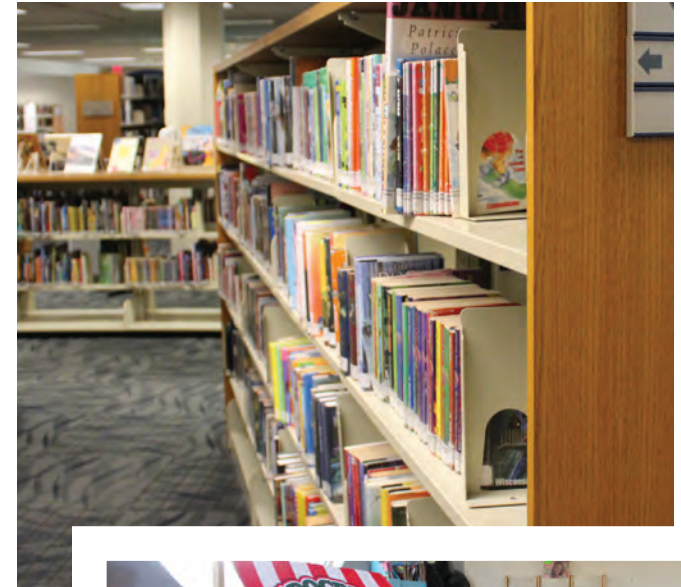
The desk is where I go to get a library card or ask to borrow a Sensory Tool Kit, a backpack filled with things to help me while I'm at the library.



# Yankee Clipper Branch Kids' Area

The kids' area is right in front of me when I walk in. I see lots of books, DVDs, CDs, and more that I can borrow with my library card.

I find the kids' computer and a play area with toys. I see puppets, cars, a grocery store, and more! I can play with the toys while I'm here, but they stay at the library so I can play with them again the next time I visit.



# My trip to the Yankee Clipper Branch



I walk past the kids' area and find computers where people can get on the internet. I walk to the back of the library and see a nice bright place with lots of windows where I can sit and read. I also see books, DVDs, CDs, and more for adults and teens.

I search for the bathrooms and find them by the desk where the librarians sit. The drinking fountain is there too.



On my way out I stop at a Check Out Station to borrow my books and I wave goodbye to the librarians. If I borrowed a Sensory Tool Kit I return it to the desk so I can use it on my next visit.

I hope I get to come back to the Yankee Clipper Branch soon!



# Library Locations

## **MAIN LIBRARY**

111 Library Street NE ■ 49503  
616.988.5400

## **MADISON SQUARE BRANCH**

1201 Madison SE ■ 49507  
616.988.5411

## **OTTAWA HILLS BRANCH**

1150 Giddings SE ■ 49506  
616.988.5412

## **SEYMOUR BRANCH**

2350 Eastern SE ■ 49507  
616.988.5413

## **VAN BELKUM BRANCH**

1563 Plainfield NE ■ 49505  
616.988.5410

## **WEST LEONARD BRANCH**

1017 Leonard NW ■ 49504  
616.988.5416

## **WEST SIDE BRANCH**

713 Bridge NW ■ 49504  
616.988.5414

## **YANKEE CLIPPER BRANCH**

2025 Leonard NE ■ 49505  
616.988.5415