

All In For Kansas Kids



Strengthening Early Childhood in Kansas

WEBINAR AUGUST 12, 2026



WELCOME

- 2026 Webinar Series
 - Held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month
- Sign up to receive our All In For Kansas Kids e-Newsletter on the Children's Cabinet website – <http://www.kschildrenscabinet.gov/>
- Kansas Public Libraries Presentation; The Front Porch of Rural Communities: Partnering with Small Libraries to Help Children and Families Thrive
- Reminders & Next Steps

Agenda



2026 Webinar Schedule

January ~~OFF~~
February 11th
March 11th
April 8th
May 13th
June 10th
July 8th
August 12th
September 9th
October 14th
November 4th
December 9th

The **Front Porch** *of Rural Communities*



Partnering with Small Libraries to
Help Children and Families Thrive

Toronto Public Library Director:
Jessie Hoag
Moline Public Library Director:
Diane Cucar



In many rural Kansas communities, the library isn't just a place to borrow books—it's the front porch of the community. It's where children learn, families gather, neighbors connect, and partnerships begin."



Meet the

Moline Public Library



- Director, Diane Cucar
- started in October 2020
- City Population: 340
- Staff Hours: 20+
- Footprint: 2,000 sq Ft.
- Other Hats
- Fun Fact

Meet the

Toronto Public Library



- Director, Jessie Hoag
- started in April 2023
- City Population: 205
- Staff Hours: 25
- Footprint: 1,100 Sq Ft
- Other Hats
- Fun Fact

Why **Rural Libraries Matter**

Rural communities face unique challenges and libraries help bridge the gaps.

 Distance	 Limited Opportunities	 Food Access
Services may be miles away	Fewer childcare & enrichment options	Families may have limited food resources
 Digital Access	 Small Populations	 Places to Connect
Broadband & technology barriers	Fewer services can be supported locally	Limited free, welcoming gathering spaces

Continuing to Learn & Investing in Our Communities

To meet the needs of our communities,
we have to keep learning too.



LEARN

Professional
Development

- APPLE (APplied Public Library Education)
- C.E. Credits
- Workshops
- Family Place Libraries Cert.



GROW

Bring What
we learn home

- New Ideas
- New Skills
- New Resources



INVEST

Turning Learning
into impact

- Better Programs
- Better Spaces
- More opportunities

One place we're continually learning & growing...

FAMILY PLAY SPACES IN KANSAS LIBRARIES

FAMILY PLAY SPACES *in Kansas Libraries*

Learning Through Play • Connecting Through Play

CHILDREN

Learn • Explore • Create • Connect

Early literacy • Social skills •
Executive function • Confidence

CAREGIVERS

Connect • Learn • Share • Belong

Relationships • Parenting
confidence • Community •
Support

*Play isn't just something
children do.*

*It's how they learn and how families
connect.*



Family Play Spaces



Stay & Play

LEARNING AND CONNECTING
THROUGH PLAY!



INTENTIONAL PLAY

5 Learning Stations

Literacy • Fine Motor • Gross Motor
Sensory • Creative/Cognitive



COMMUNITY PARTNER

Partner joins the fun.

No presentation. No pressure.



FAMILIES TOGETHER

Stay • Play • Learn • Connect



Stay & Play

learning and connecting through play!



Programming for Every Stage of Life

Birth to 5

Storytime
Stay & Play
Process Art
Music & Movement
Sensory Play
Early Literacy
1,000 Books Before Kindergarten



Programming for Every Stage of Life

Childrens

Summer Reading
STEM
Greenbush programs
Crafts
Cooking
Robotics
Nature exploration
Makerspace



Programming for Every Stage of Life

Teens

Volunteer opportunities
Leadership
Social time
Community service
Technology
Career exploration



Programming for Every Stage of Life

Adults

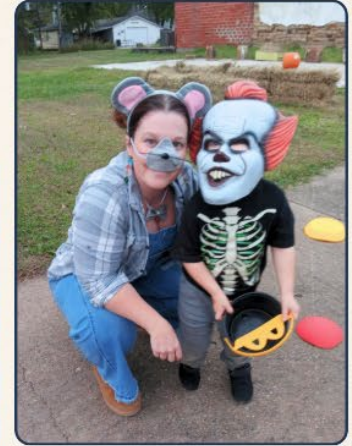
Book clubs
Arts & crafts
Technology help
Digital literacy
Workforce resources
Coffee & Conversation
Educational Programs
Health Programming
Interest groups



Programming for Every Stage of Life

Families

Family Game Nights
Holiday programs
StoryWalk
Pancake Making Brunches
Family STEM nights
Community celebrations
Cultural Enrichment Programs



One Library Card. Thousands of Possibilities.

- Kansas Library System
- Statewide Courier Service
- Shared Catalog
- Interlibrary Loan



For Families:

Parenting collection
Child development resources
Early literacy kits
Health information
Library of Things
Games & Puzzles

For Child Care Providers:

Storytime puppets
Big books
STEM kits
Educational games
Activity guides

Classroom resources:

Robots
Microscopes
Cricut
3D printer
Technology
Learning kits
Special collections

If it supports learning, your library can probably provide it—or help you find it

Meeting Community Needs




ALPHA-GAL *Syndrome Panel*

13 October 2025 @ 2:00pm
 Moline Public Library

Join us for an informative and engaging panel discussion on Alpha-Gal Syndrome, a tick-borne condition that can cause severe allergic reactions to red meat and other animal products. Learn from healthcare and community wellness experts about prevention, testing, symptoms, and how to manage life with Alpha-Gal Syndrome.

Dr. Christopher Morrissey, DO, FACS William Morrissey Surgery & Service	
Melanie Hartley, APRN Provider at Central Community and Family Health Rural Health Clinic	
Emily Hein Rolling Prairie Family and Community Health Agent & Coordinator County & All Agent	

William Morrissey Hospital
 Rolling Prairie Extension District

Meeting Community Needs



Need Help with Food or Medical Assistance?
We can help you with the forms!



Wednesday, October 15, 10am - noon

Toronto Public Library

Appointment times are recommended, but not required

Bring these things:

- One kind of ID (Driver's License, State ID card, Social Security card)
- Rent receipt or contract
- Bank statement or paycheck stub
- Utility bill
- Social Security statement

If you don't have, or cannot find these things, please come anyway!
We may still be able to help you.



Community Partnerships



Stories of Impact



WHAT CAN YOUR LIBRARY DO FOR YOU?

Partner with us. We might surprise you.



We'd Love to Come to you!

Storytime Outreach • Classroom Visits • Other Programs!



BRING YOUR FAMILIES TO US

Amazing and Free Meeting Spaces



LET'S CREATE SOMETHING TOGETHER

Have an idea? Talk to us!

Bring us your program ideas, needs, challenges, or even your "Wouldn't it be great if..." ideas.

Your library doesn't have to already offer it..... **ASK!**

LIBRARIES ARE THE FRONT PORCH

of Rural Communities

Where children learn.

Where families connect.

Where partners come together.

Where communities grow stronger.

Come sit on the porch with us. ♡



LET'S CONNECT!



Jessie Hoag

Toronto Public Library
torlib215@gmail.com



Diane Cucar

Moline Public Library
moline_library@yahoo.com



All In For Kansas Kids



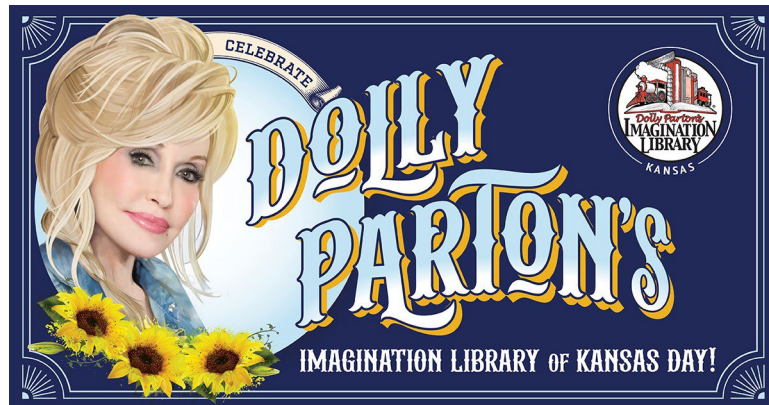
Early Childhood
Systems Updates



DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY OF KANSAS DAY: FRIDAY, AUGUST 14TH

We're celebrating the thousands of Kansas children currently receiving books! You can celebrate Dolly's vision and nurture a love of reading in all Kansas kids by doing any of the following:

- Read with a child.
- Talk to a friend, family member, or neighbor with a child under five who might not yet be enrolled.
- Visit a [Story Adventure trail](#). Embark on an outdoor journey through the magic of storytelling at four state parks in Kansas: Clinton, El Dorado, Milford, and Wilson.
- Visit the [Dolly Parton Imagination Library of Kansas webpage](#) to get involved!



EC Systems Updates



TELL US YOUR STORY

This survey is a partnership between Washburn University and the University of Kansas Center for Public Partnerships and Research (KU-CPPR).

- Take 5-10 minutes to tell us what it is like to navigate work, education, caregiving, and well-being across the lifespan in Kansas. Your perspectives and lived experiences may be used to help policymakers, students, and community leaders understand better what issues matter most to families across Kansas.

EC Systems Updates



REMINDERS AND NEXT STEPS

- **Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Community of Practice Meeting**

Friday, August 14th – 12-1:00 pm

- **Early Childhood Systems Building Webinar**

Wednesday, September 9th – 12-1:00 pm

- **Children's Cabinet Meeting**

Friday, October 2nd – 9 am-12 pm

You can find **all** these meetings and more on our Children's Cabinet YouTube channel!

Stay Connected!





Stay Up to Date



[ALL IN FOR KANSAS KIDS NEWSLETTER](#)



[KANSASCHILDRENSCABINET](#)



[ALL IN FOR KANSAS KIDS FACEBOOK](#)





Thanks!

