

# MLS Library Space Consultation Summary

Melrose Public Library, Children's Room – December 2025

MLS Consultant: Christi Farrar

Contacts: [christif@masslibsystem.org](mailto:christif@masslibsystem.org)

## Goals:

Based on our conversation and tour, the main goals of this space consultation were:

- Analyze library space to find opportunities for improved patron and staff experience
- Evaluate the play areas for ways to better meet community need and requests

## Overall Impressions

The Melrose Public Library serves the City of Melrose, which has a population of about 30,000. The library recently reopened after construction of an expansion and renovation that created a large and bright Children's Room on the top floor. With less than a year in the new building, staff and community members are still getting settled in the space, and this is especially true in the Children's Room.

The entrance to the Children's Room is bright and welcoming and the colorful furniture is inviting. Overall, the space feels cheery, though it is hard to tell where things are without asking a staff member. Tall shelving units block the view of the play area and seating and make wayfinding through the space challenging.

## Recommendation Summary

- Add more play elements to the Children's Room, aimed at a variety of ages.
  - o I recommend adding at least one main constructive play item (allows for building/design play) and one main imaginative play item (play that lets children make sense of their world), with additional smaller toys of various types in bins.
- Improve sight lines and navigation by opening up space in, and between, shelving units and adding visual wayfinding elements like signs. Consider creating a map/floorplan to help patrons navigate through the Children's Room.
- Choose some bright decor elements to help community members connect to the space. Items such as these also can improve wayfinding.