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# Noise not reason to deprive children of library storytime

Dear Editor:

I recently discovered a wonderful place to take my 2-year old son on Wednesday mornings. It's a place where he can meet other children his age. This is great, because there are no toddlers in our neighborhood. It's a place where I can meet other stay-at-home moms. This is good because like most people in the area, our family is transplanted from another part of the country. The best part of our Wednesday morning outing is that my son is learning. He is learning that books are wonderful things. The place is P.D. Brown Memorial Library in Waldorf.

On these mornings for a half-hour, the children sit on the floor and two very nice ladies read stories, sing songs and act out the songs with puppets. This may not sound like a big deal, unless you are caring for a 2-year old. This is the only program that allows two-year olds to participate. Other programs, such as the Charles County Parks and Recreation, require the children to be 3 years old.

My son loves his time at the library. We also check out several books to read during the week. Today the mothers were told that due to the success of the storytime program, the number of children will be limited to 20 and that also

the day would be changed from Wednesday to Tuesday. I have no problem with these changes. I do have a problem with what we were told next.

We were told that due to the noise level storytime would be moved to a small conference room and mothers would not be allowed in the room! I am very upset by this. Two-year-old children look for a familiar face for support when confronted with a strange situation. The definition of a strange situation for a 2-year-old is anything he or she hasn't been exposed to in the past two days. In my opinion and the opinion of the other mothers present, the new policy would prove disastrous. We feel that instead of providing a happy learning environment, we would have a lot of crying 2-year-olds having separation anxiety attacks.

If noise is the reason for the move to the conference room, this is not a solution. I am also upset because I would not be able to share storytime with my son. I chose to stay home with him so that I can enhance his early learning experiences with patience, love and repetition. By not being allowed in the room I would not be able to learn the songs that are sung so we could sing them at home. Nor would I know which

books he showed interest in so we could read them at home.

We were told that these changes were necessary because of complaints of noise by other people using the library. I have yet to see more than one or two adults using the library at 9:30 a.m. But, I have seen many smiling little faces enjoying their time at the library.

We were also told that if a solution to the noise problem was not found that storytime would be canceled altogether. This would be a shame as I feel that a cancellation would not solve the noise problem because parents will continue to bring their small children to the library to borrow books. I don't feel that I should need to debate the benefit of a child's early interest in books with library personnel. If adults find the childrens' singing a distraction, maybe they should alter their schedules so that they would not need to be in the library during the one morning a week when storytime is held.

P.D. Brown Memorial Library is a public library and children are a part of the public. They should not be deprived of a valuable learning experience.

Charlene Falken  
Waldorf

## Letters Policy

The Maryland Independent welcomes letters to the editor. All letters must be signed with complete name accompanied by an address and telephone number for verification purposes only. Only the name and hometown will be printed. The paper reserves the right to edit letters for style, length or libel. All letters will be verified.

Maryland

Independent

## Development will spoil 'Ar

The writer has asked the Independent to publish this letter sent to the Charles County Planning Commission in La Plata.

Almost 35 years ago my wife and I came to Charles County from Washington, D.C. looking for

When we moved to Indian Head, it meant a lot of traveling for me to get to work and back, as I worked in construction and had to travel all over the metropolitan area. But I knew on my return every evening I was assured the peace and tranquility of my country home.

convince us that somehow "improvement" high-density promises that Although they tain the beauty of the rural enjoy, in reality "product" and

## Credit union ma

Dear Editor:

This letter is being written with praise to Mr. Allan Hicks, branch manager of the Educational Employees Credit Union in Waldorf.

My wife and I have been mem-

bers of the credit union for approximately eight years. We always had our accounts with a professional and efficient staff. We must say that the credit union stands up for hi

