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20 Owasso Reporter

Thursday, January 9, 2014 / COMMUNITY

## Child-friendly computers are new attraction at library

By Haylie Smart  
Staff Writer  
haylies@owassoreporter.com

The Owasso Public Library has been making new changes to better serve their members.

The library has added parent/child workshops, parenting books, a new children's area and two new computers specifically for children.

"We added the new computers a week before Christmas and the children always go straight to them now," said Youth Librarian, Jennifer McQuade.

The new computers feature hundreds of pre-loaded educational games, including Dora the Explorer, Diego, Peep, Jumpstart and the Magic School Bus, as well as art programs and books that can be read to the child or the child can read on their own.

"There is no Internet access to the computers, so the child doesn't have to deal with ads on commercial websites or have to search online for the games," she said.

The biggest benefit for the children is having a computer that has many games at their

fingertips and is kid friendly to use. Even the computer is not like most. It features a kid-sized mouse, a colorful keyboard and the monitor also is a touch screen.

"From the parents and librarians perspective, we love having a place where they can be entertained for awhile doing something educational. We have one of the computers right next to an adult computer so parent and child can sit together," McQuade said.

Children as young as preschool age are able to easily access the computers and play the games it offers. It does not require a library card and children can play in 1-hour sessions.

"In addition to these new computers, we also have a children's laptop that can be checked out and used anywhere in the library for two hours at a time. It offers the same games and activities and does require a library card," she said.

A coloring table also is offered near the adult computers so that child and parent can be close while the parent works online.



HAYLIE SMART/OWASSO REPORTER

"I think the children don't realize the computer is for them. They sometimes shy away from it, maybe thinking they'll break it," said Lorena Reyes de Mejia, Circulation Clerk at the library. She demonstrates how easy it is to use the touch screen system.

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Owasso Reporter - Owasso,  
Oklahoma  
**Phone number:** (918) 272-1155  
**E-mail:** [news@owassoreporter.com](mailto:news@owassoreporter.com)  
**Address:** 202 E. 2nd Ave. Suite  
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