

Dec. 11, 1991 Daily Herald

K1



Mary Jo Wagner, head of the children's department at Dundee Township Library, helps Ed Niemiec of East Dundee find a book in the card catalog.

Daily Herald Photo/Bob Chwedyk

Library nurtures love of reading in children

BY MARYBETH BARWIG
Daily Herald Correspondent

There is one place in the Dundee Township Library where quiet is not the rule.

In fact, noise is often expected in the children's department.

"We encourage parents to bring infants into the library, and we don't care if they make noise or throw a tantrum," said Mary Jo Wagner, head of the children's department. "It is never too early to bring a child into a library. Besides, this is the children's department."

Besides books and magazines, the children's department has games and toys and occasional

"We encourage parents to bring infants into the library, and we don't care if they make noise. . . . It is never too early to bring a child into a library. Besides, this is the children's department."

—Mary Jo Wagner, head of the children's department at Dundee Township Library

Wagner has a master's degree in music and spent 10 years teaching preschool and mentally disturbed children

dren's story hours to help keep their interest and to add a twist to an otherwise ordinary story. Wagner says she loves working

their turn and stand in line."

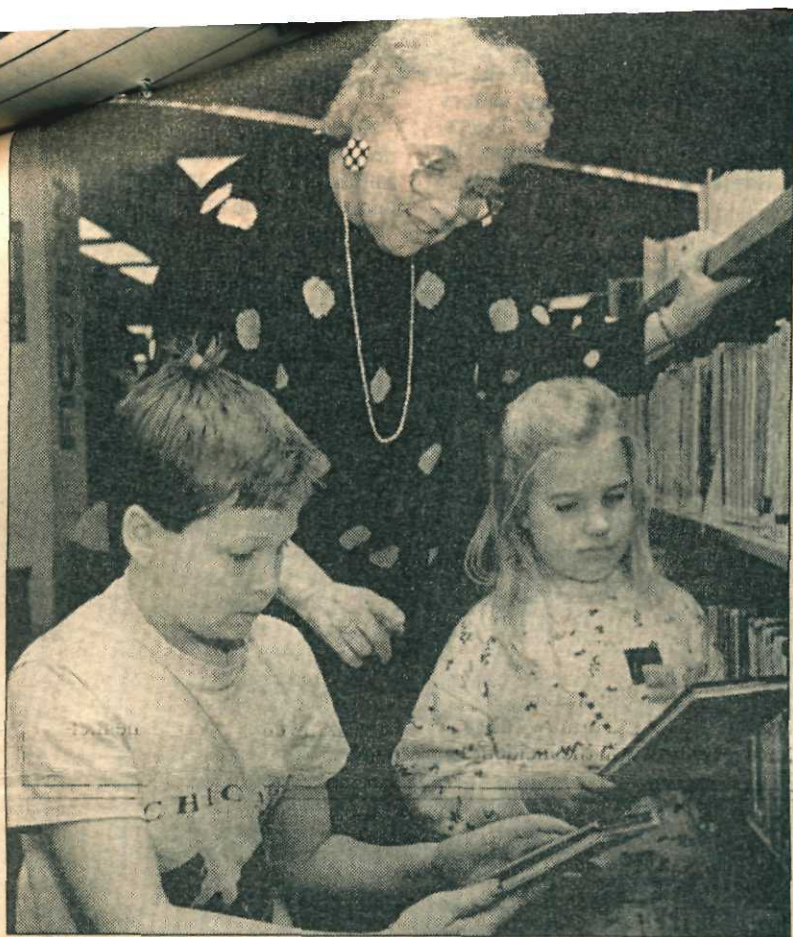
Besides the story hours, the library offers many activities that both kids and their parents can participate in. And the programs are free.

The staff, which is made up of one part-time and three full-time librarians in addition to a part-time staff artist, manages to participate in many programs.

One program is the Summer Reading Club.

The club's enrollment is 875 children, who sign up to read a set number of books and make a certain number of visits to the library.

When they complete that, they



Mary Jo Wagner, head of the Children's department at Dundee Township Library, helps Ed Niemiec of East Dundee and Breann Sportsman of Sleepy Hollow find books to their liking. Daily Herald

Photo/Bob Chwedyk

LIBRARY: Children's section fosters lifelong love of books

Continued from Page 1

Reading Club is the Winter Reading Club. This program is less stringent, but still keeps the children involved with the library during the school year.

Special events are also featured, such as short-story contests and guest appearances.

There are also two book clubs.

One of these is the Read-to-Me Club, which is geared toward preschoolers and first-graders.

In this program the child receives a free picture paperback when his parent reads the required number of books to him.

The other club is called PACT, or Parents and Children Together.

The guidelines for this club consist of the parent and child reading 10 books, each more than 80 pages, to-

gether.

Again, when this is completed, the child receives a free paperback.

Preschoolers are a big part of the programs that are developed.

Besides daytime and evening story hours, there are also times set aside for movies.

These programs, as well as others, keep the children quite active.

Wagner said getting a child involved in the program at an early age pays dividends throughout their school career.

"The children get to be our buddies," she said. "When they're working on a book report of some other kind of homework, they're not afraid to come up to us and ask questions."

The library is located at 555 Barrington Ave., East Dundee. For more information about the library's children's programs, call 428-3661.