What is Learning Spaces?

Learning Spaces is an early learning initiative designed for caregivers, childcare providers and children birth to five years old. Through collaboration with local libraries and early childhood professionals, it has been developed to be a preschool program in non-traditional spaces. The program raises awareness about the role of child’s first teacher and provides meaningful engagement with caregivers.

Benefits for Children and Families

- Social interaction for children and families
- Quality, formal preschool experiences
- Age-appropriate play
- Healthy snacks
- Safe and nurturing environment
- Pertinent information on school readiness
- Coaching support while learning about being a child’s first teacher
- Quality time with children
- Year-round schedule keeps children and family engaged

An added benefit - helpful tips for parents!

Bright by Text is a nationwide text messaging platform that supports parents and caregivers of children -- from prenatal to age eight -- to help them make the most of everyday interactions. The service is free for Georgia parents and caregivers of children from prenatal to age eight and offered through a partnership between Georgia Public Broadcasting and United Way of Greater Atlanta.

Parents and caregivers can sign up by simply texting the word “GPB” to 274448 or by going to this link: bbtxt.org/2XUMDa6.

Since launching in 2016, children & families have been engaged in over 8,000 experiences of meaningful play at Learning Spaces

"The program has made a huge impact on my child and myself. We look forward to attending the program each week. It has been a great way to meet others and share helpful information. The instructors are very knowledgeable and their interaction with the children is remarkable. I hope that the program will stay around for years to come so that others can reap its benefits.” – Learning Spaces participant
Literacy Pop-Ups: In-person & Virtual

Since COVID-19, our Learning Spaces in-person sites have been limited or remained closed (please check your local Learning Spaces site). During this time, Learning Spaces partners have created 130+ videos, of interactive learning activities; these videos are on the YouTube United Way of Greater Atlanta’s channel.

Learning Spaces partners have continued to host Literacy Pop-ups, designed to keep children and families engaged in language rich discussions and materials while learning at home. Parents or caregivers can drive by a convenient location to pick up resources for children to supplement online learning opportunities. Bags are provided to children (birth to 5) – inside they will find a colorful engaging storybook with an extension guide packed with developmentally appropriate activities, other resources, a healthy snack and water. Families can sign up for Learning Spaces partner resources including Ferst Readers or Bright by Text at each literacy event. Each Literacy Pop-up takes place from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. or 3 p.m. - 5 p.m..

For more information, contact learningspaces@unitedwayatlanta.org or visit unitedwayatlanta.org/program/learning-spaces.

Locations

Clayton County
Northwest Library: 4812 West Street; Forest Park, GA 30297
Forest Park Library: 4812 West Street; Forest Park, GA 30297
Headquarters Library: 865 Battle Creek Road; Jonesboro, GA 30236
Riverdale Library: 420 Valley Hill Road SW; Riverdale, GA 30274

Fulton County
Allen Temple AME Church: 1625 Joseph E. Boone Blvd. NW; Atlanta, GA 30314
Families First: 80 J. E. Lowery Blvd. NW; Atlanta, GA 30318
Metropolitan Library: 1332 Metropolitan Pkwy.; Atlanta, GA 30310
Northwest Library: 2489 Perry Boulevard; Atlanta, GA 30318
South Fulton Library: 4055 Flat Shoals Road; Union City, GA 30291
Wolf Creek Library: 3100 Enon Road; Atlanta, GA 30349

DeKalb County
Peace Baptist Church: 4000 Covington Highway; Decatur, GA 30032

Cobb County
South Cobb Library: 805 Clay Road; Mableton, GA 30126
Sweetwater Library: 5000 Austell Powder Springs Road, Suite 123 Austell, GA 30106

Douglas County
Douglasville Library: 6810 Selman Drive; Douglasville, GA 30134; 770.920.7125