Using Non-Library Student Collaboration to Inform the Design of a Library Family Room

Faculty Researchers

Holt Zaugg   Curtis Child   Jeff Belliston

Student Researchers

Quincey McKeen	Sage Clark	Todd Shumway
Jeremiah Burr	Zina Card	Olivia Cornwall
Taryn Fox	Angela Gulisane	Thania Haskell
Nicole Hopkinson	Ben Hutchins	Andrew Lacanienta
Carly Landgrave	Easton Nelson	Kendra Peterson
Meghan Sheehan Dizon	Florencia Silveira	Hannah Smith
Michael Sowards	Daniel Taylor	Casey Truman
Maile Waite	Camille Wilding	Mandy Workman

Family Room Questions

1. Is there a need?

2. What design features should a family room have?

3. What policies should govern its use?

4. What are some potential designs?

   (Based on half of a basketball court)

Methods

- Survey
  - Determine percent students/faculty have children
  - Age of children using Family Room
- Focus Groups & Interviews
  - Student/Faculty volunteers from survey
  - In depth understanding of needs
- Site Visits
  - 2 Universities (UU & UVU) and 5 local public libraries
  - Includes observations & interviews
- Student Researcher data collection
  - Students talking with students

Findings: Needs

- Primary Users
  - Undergrads and their children
  - Faculty & Graduate students have older children & use virtual library
- 2/3 of all children are under 5 years old

Student Quote: Needs

My husband and I are both in school right now so we switch off with my daughter, a lot.

Sometimes I need to nurse on campus and it's hard to find a place that's close.

. . . having to print something and you didn't feel like you had to rush or that you were inconveniencing everyone around you.

Findings: Design

- **Safety & Cleanliness**
  - Sense of Safety from injury, illness, actions
  - High visibility, rounded furniture, no choking hazards, covered outlets, cords out of reach
- **Open Design**
  - Able to maneuver with child or stroller
  - Direct line of sight
- **Separate Sections**
  - Distinct areas for study, play, activities
  - Divided by floor patterns, half-walls, etc.
  - Media separate from main play area

Student Quote: Design

[I would like the room to be] A place where there's things to keep her busy

. . . . something there [that] can keep her distracted long enough for me to get something done

...if there's books...or a movie that she might want to watch or even other kids; it just helps to let them play together.

Findings: Design

- Environment Open to Family Needs
  - Food allowed & accepted
  - Noise (within limits) is acceptable
  - Allows children to play freely

- Self Contained
  - Advantages of library with convenience of home
  - Printer, microwave, refrigerator, etc.
- Publicity
  - Located near high traffic, easily accessible area
  - Well advertised

Findings: Features

- Media Use
  - Media area separate from other play areas
  - Parents need access to computer & Wifi

- Engaging Activities
  - Toys are creative, constructive, &/or educational
  - Not just recreational & large enough for no choking

- Comfortable & Functional Furniture
  - Sized for both children & adults
  - Comfortable & spacious
  - Carpeting is colorful & keeps children interested

Student Quotes:
Design and Features

. . . for moms with babies that are sleeping in their car seat to be able to . . . set them down by you and do homework . . . even babies when they're awake if you could just lay them down by you and they can just play . . . That'd be cool.

An interactive activity table, maybe a train table or magnets or blocks or things like that, something where they build something or play with something . . .

Findings: Features

- Kitchen Area
  - Allows parents to clean up messes, warm bottles, & prepare simple food
  - Sink, microwave, refrigerator

- Restroom / Changing Room
  - Family Restroom
  - Changing tables
  - Child & Adult size
  - Separate nursing room

Findings: Policies

- Parents responsible for own children at all times
  - Security called if child left alone
- Clean up after self & children
- Surfaces & Toys are cleaned daily
- Media kept at a reasonable noise level

Limitations

- Survey Response
  - 3667 surveys sent with 800 responses filtered down to 267 responses with children
  - Don't know actual numbers of students with children. Based on this survey estimates of 10 - 30% of students
- Based on participant perceptions via focus groups and interviews
  - No usability testing
- Did not consider unique or specialty issues
  - Trash removal
  - People/children with special needs

Thank you & Questions

Holt Zaugg

Assessment Librarian

Phone: 801-422-4178

Email: holt_zaugg@byu.edu

In God we trust. Everyone else needs to bring data!