



Thanks to a generous donation from **Students Offering Smiles**, Davidson Library is proud to offer a children's sensory play area designed to welcome and support young patrons of every ability and sensory need.

This space features a color-changing bubble wall that invites calm, focused engagement; an interactive light table that encourages hands-on exploration and creativity; tactile puzzles and fidget tools that build fine motor skills while offering soothing sensory input; noise-cancelling headphones for children who need a quieter, more manageable environment; and early literacy toys that introduce letters and numbers through playful, multi-sensory learning.

Since its installation, the sensory play area has become one of the most frequently enjoyed spaces in the branch. Families with neurodivergent children and children with sensory processing needs now have a dedicated place they can visit in the library. Caregivers have shared that the space is a beloved destination for their families and children return again and again, drawn to the tactile and visual elements that make learning feel like play. There are dozens of families who visit nearly daily to use the space to transition from busy preschool to their quieter afternoons. Library staff regularly overhear parents engaging with their children, sharing self-regulation activities or learning moments. Even activities as simple as assembling a puzzle or coloring a picture introduce early literacy and fine motor skills necessary for educational success.

Beyond serving children with specific sensory needs, the area has become a magnet for the whole community. Younger siblings, curious toddlers, and children simply looking for a hands-on break from screens gather at the light table and bubble wall daily, making early literacy and sensory exploration a shared, joyful experience.

This gift from **Students Offering Smiles** reflects a shared belief that libraries should be spaces of genuine inclusion — where every child, regardless of how they experience the world, can find a place to learn, play, and belong. On behalf of our young patrons and their families, we are deeply grateful for this investment in accessible early childhood development and community connection.

Marie Harris

Davidson Library Branch Manager

**CHARLOTTE
MECKLENBURG
LIBRARY**