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PRESS RELEASE

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ALL NEW & JUST FOR YOU! www.CincinnatiLibrary.org/kidspace **Public Library's Redesigned KIDSPACE Offers More Online**

The Public Library recently launched a new and improved version of KIDSPACE—its widely used web page for children up to grade six. Greatly enhanced and greatly expanded, KIDSPACE takes kids as far as their imaginations can go. Plus it offers plenty of helpful ideas to parents, caregivers, and teachers for keeping kids engaged in the learning process.

Its bright, bold, colorful, retro design was selected with the assistance of kids. Not only is it easier to navigate, it provides substantially more information to explore. It's more current, more engaging, and more multidimensional, yet it's more user-friendly.

KIDSPACE has interactive features, too. Kids share their thoughts about books they're reading or read reviews written by other kids in **Write On!**. As kids browse the site, there are plenty of other ways for them to interact by participating in fun polls as well. Kids can also take part in the future development of KIDSPACE by sharing their suggestions and comments to help shape the site in **Talk Back!**.

Homework Help, one of the most popular areas of the web page, has been expanded significantly with hundreds of useful web sites that have been carefully selected by librarians on staff. Many more links connecting kids with answers to questions on a multitude of topics have been added. Its easy-to-use design makes doing homework assignments less monotonous and more enjoyable.

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Another great feature, **Books & Reading**, introduces kids to current reading choices in a variety of fun ways. Kids can link to sites about their favorite books as well as the authors and illustrators who create them. They can read through biographies, link to magazines, and access the sites of well-known authors, even write to them. Within this category, click on *Shooting Stars* to find out about exciting new books for kids in the Library's collection. There are also many well-researched booklists from among the endless possibilities that librarians have identified as the best books.

Check out **What's Hot?** to find out what's current in the Library, close to home, or across the world through continuously updated kid-friendly news month after month. And, because there's more to life than school, kids can enjoy **Fun & Games** in a variety of imaginative ways by conveniently linking to a wide variety of the most popular sites.

On almost any given day there is at least one free program at one of the Library's 42 locations. To help parents and teachers stay informed about the latest happenings and events occurring, they can access **Programs**. This convenient feature provides information on regularly scheduled programs and any special events occurring at the Main Library, a specific branch, or programs like Summer Reading Club that occur throughout the entire library system.

Ideas on things to do around town are also just a click away in **Cincinnati Stuff**. Here relevant news, information on local parks and recreation, even weather predictions can be easily accessed. Designed especially for adults, **Parents & Teachers** points out fun field trips, how to arrange library tours, information on schools in the area, resources and informative sites for homeschoolers, and plenty of ways to keep children engaged.

"We've worked hard to rebuild a web page for kids that provides lots of information yet is easy to use while giving them the opportunity to contribute content and ideas," said Library Internet Coordinator Sandy Bolek. "To keep on top of the most wanted and most useful informational needs of children and parents, KIDSPACE will be constantly evolving with fresh new ideas incorporated along the way," she concluded.