

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces: Child Care Program's Resource & Referral Library Remodeled

Preschool teachers and licensed home providers can now borrow toys and books from the Child Care Resource & Referral (R&R) Library with the touch of a computer. Looking for something on "farm animals" or "spring"? The newly computerized library system can bring up lists of toys, books, kits and resource materials in seconds. It also tells providers where the item is located and its code number.

"We had someone come in who wanted to look up "curriculum" and "dinosaurs," said Stefania Ryan, an R&R Specialist. "She was so excited when three books popped up!" The new system is all part of a total remodel that was completed in December. The remodel also provided room for staff working on a Prop 10 grant that will recruit, train and offer support for child care providers. "People are impressed with the way the library looks and how specifically we can find items," said Stefania, who began inputting bar codes and Dewey Decimal numbers a year ago.

In the past, items were checked out on cards and providers had to look through all the shelves to see what was available. Now everything is divided into three sections: infant/toddler, preschool and school age. As Stefania and her helper input items, they list book subjects and song titles, so if a teacher is looking for something specific, it will come up in the computer. For books, you can search by author, publisher, title or subject. Stefania also came up with her own system to input toys, since the computer system only had

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a way to track books. "Eventually we will have a search screen so providers can look up the items themselves," said Stefania. "And we're putting together a catalog for big equipment and toys (which are housed elsewhere because of space limitations) so people will know what they look like."

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