



Carnegie  
Library of  
Pittsburgh

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## For Immediate Release

### 1-2-3 Launch!

*Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's New Kids Web site lets kids learn, play and explore*

**(PITTSBURGH, PA – March 31, 2009)** Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's new Web site for kids, [www.carnegielibrary.org/kids](http://www.carnegielibrary.org/kids), is providing an exciting way for children to learn and have fun. Drawing on the expertise of staff members from the Library's Information Technology, Communications & Creative Services and Children's Services departments, the site provides original games, homework help, booklists and other tools to promote literacy and learning.

"With the only kids' library Web site in the country that is split into two age sets, library staff are able to tailor unique learning and literacy content to distinct ages," says Dr. Barbara K. Mistick, President and Director, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. "We want kids to be able to experience all that the site has to offer even before they are able to read. And we want to keep them engaged in literacy with new, dynamic content posted on a regular basis."

The first part of the Library's kids' Web site is designed for "Little Kids" who are just beginning to read and includes interactive components. Age-appropriate book lists and original games involving color recognition, memory skills and counting encourage discovery through random clicking and exploration. The site's "Big Kids" section focuses on the needs of older, school-age children (ages six to twelve) with live homework assistance, a research tool on numerous school subjects, monthly highlights of authors, topics and genres and events. The monthly "character spot" highlights popular children's book characters to encourage kids to explore reading.

Kids of all ages also have the freedom to create, print and share their own special stories at home through the exclusive interactive *my StoryMaker* feature. Developed by graduate students at Carnegie Mellon University's Entertainment Technology Corporation (ETC) exclusively for CLP, *my StoryMaker* is aimed at increasing literacy rates in children during their formative learning years. *my StoryMaker* uses artificial intelligence to form sentences in relation to how the child is interacting with the story. Since its debut in late 2007 more than 2,000 children have discovered *my StoryMaker* at the library. The addition of the Web component marks the first time the computer-based *my StoryMaker* is available outside of the Library's Children's Departments.

Parents, caregivers and educators are also encouraged to use the Library's Kids' Web site to find information about Internet safety, bookmark family-friendly events and locate bibliotherapy booklists to help the young children in their lives tackle difficult situations. Resources, including links to education, recreational opportunities, parenting advice and local organizations that offer services to families, are conveniently grouped in one location for easy reference.

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh staff will offer demonstrations of the site's features on April 25 at CLP – Main, 4400 Forbes Avenue. From 1-4 pm, librarians will help customers experience new technology during Technology Playground, a multi-dimensional, interactive event.

For more information, please visit [www.carnegielibrary.org/kids](http://www.carnegielibrary.org/kids).

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## **About Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh**

*To Engage our Community in Literacy and Learning*

Established as a public trust in 1895, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh serves the citizens of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County with a distinguished history of leadership among the country's great public libraries. Through its 19 neighborhood locations, including Main Library and the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh is the region's most visited asset, with 2.6 million visitors in 2008. Each year the Library provides valuable resources, programs, classes and training opportunities that engage the community in literacy, and life-long learning.

## **About Libraries *for* LIFE**

*Building Communities, Enriching Lives*

While Andrew Carnegie provided the seed money to build the library facilities; he did not leave an endowment for their ongoing operations and maintenance. Thanks to local, county and state governments, corporations, foundations and individuals, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's Libraries *for* LIFE Capital Campaign is renewing library buildings to meet the needs of today's library customer. In 2000 Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh embarked upon a \$55 million capital campaign, the first in the Library's history, to make neighborhood libraries accessible system-wide. Since the campaign began, the Library has renovated or relocated seven neighborhood libraries and completed a partial renovation of the Main Library, First Floor. CLP-Hill District is the seventh library to be completed in the system-wide renewal, and the city's first newly constructed library since 1980. To date, the Library's efforts have resulted in significant investment in Pittsburgh neighborhoods, providing a range of library services and programs for children, teens and adults and facilities that accommodate new collections and 21st century technology.