



# IDEAS TO ACTION FUND

BRINGING YOUR IDEAS TO LIFE

## Libraries for Everyone: Supervised Visitations @ Your Library

Final Report - Ideas to Action 2023

*By Jamie Mercer, W.J. Niederkorn Library, June 2024*

**Number of people involved in or impacted by the project since Ideas to Action funding:**

80 so far

**Do you anticipate that your project will continue after Ideas to Action funding?**

Yes

**Did your project encourage partnerships and collaborations with any community partners or other WiLS members? Who did you connect with during this process and how might you sustain those connections?**

Yes, it encouraged us to meet the director of the Ozaukee county department of human services and talk with case workers to establish what the needs are and what we are able to provide with our limited space and staff. As more case workers begin to utilize for various types of meetings we make our selves available to listen to their needs and identify what we are able to address at this time.

**Thinking about your project, what was the most innovative part? What can you, or your community, do now that it couldn't before?**

I think what was really innovative is that we are helping remove the stigma associated with supervised visitations, inviting people to use our space and to ask about our accommodations as well as inviting a discussion with staff about acceptable guidelines, accommodating needs such as an area for a family meal (instead of frowning on or discouraging this), removing barriers to our collections by opting not to circulate materials (which also ensured privacy), and the toys/activities are being used by the whole community (whether they are being chose from the Toy Menu or rotated out monthly)

**How do you think other WiLS members could use what you learned and accomplished at their own organizations?**

Perhaps WiLS members can use our guidelines and toy menu as a model for what they can implement in their library.

**Project product(s):**

**Welcome!**

Our vibrant and welcoming library is a natural place for children and their families to spend time together learning, engaging, and having fun. We are glad that you're here! We encourage you to get to know our library staff who can offer a wealth of information to assist you.

If you are a caseworker who regularly provides supervised visits, our staff can share the times of week when the youth services area tends to be quietest for your convenience. Our community room may also be available for use. (Please ask at the Children's Desk for available times to use the room for your supervised visit. Planning ahead makes for a much more pleasant library experience.)

**Here are a few of the things we might be able to offer:**

**Private areas:**  
There may be space in areas of the library to meet privately. These spaces are limited and available on a first come first serve basis. Please ask a library staff member if there is an available space.

**Toy Menu Check-Out:**  
Our Children's Desk has a variety of toys and puzzles that may be checked out in an activity bag for in-house use, for caregivers and the children to play together. Please ask a library staff member at the Children's Desk for assistance.

**Seasonal Flyer:**  
Our staff would be happy to give you a Youth Seasonal Flyer of activities you and your child could attend.

**Food Friendly Areas:**  
Food and drinks are allowed in the library except at our computer stations. Please see our guidelines for food and drinks as listed in this brochure.

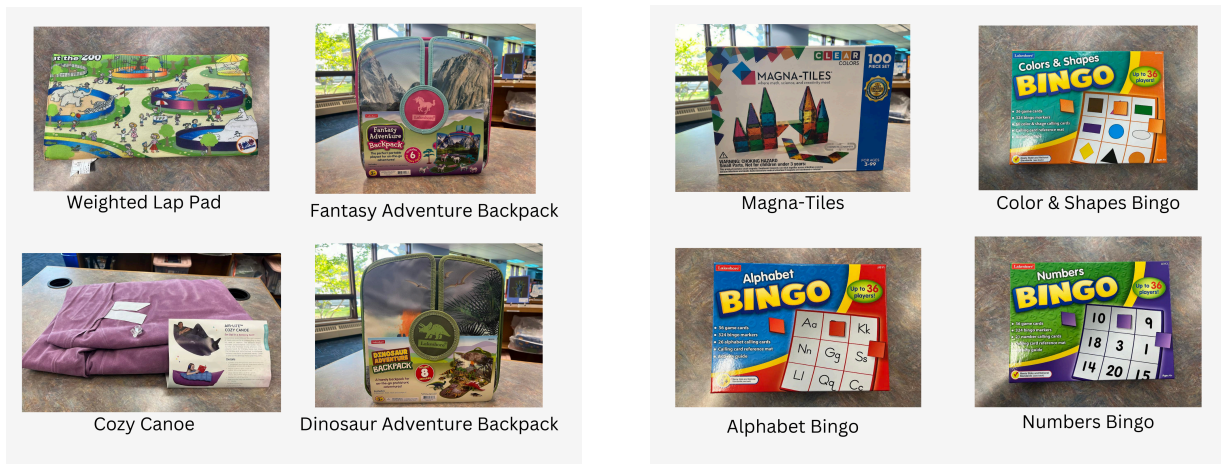
**Supervised Visitation Guide**

**W.J. NIEDERKORN LIBRARY**  
PORT WASHINGTON, WI

**Hours:**  
Monday- Thursday  
9:00am-8:00pm  
Friday  
9:00am-6:00pm  
Saturday  
9:00am-1:00pm

2024

[Supervised Visitation Guide \(pdf\)](#)





Noise Reduction Headphones



Noise Reduction Headphones (Baby)



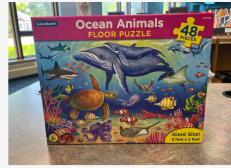
Portable Train Set



Toddler Sensory Bags



Busy Bugs Floor Puzzle



Ocean Animals Floor Puzzle



Sensory Seat Wedge (big)



Sensory Seat Wedge (small)



Chunky Puzzle Set



Shape Sorter



Weighted Teddy



Fidget Blanket



Alphabet Alligators



Unicorn Fidgets



Bugs Building Game



Jungle Blocks



Alphabet Blocks



[Mid-Point Blog Post \(June 2024\)](#)