

Nancy Marshall - RE: Sick Kids Reading Room

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**From:** "Valerie McDonald"  
**To:** <chair@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** February 8, 2010 10:43:09 am  
**Subject:** RE: Sick Kids Reading Room  
**CC:** "'Bailey, Anne'" <abailey@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, <childrens.council@sickkids.ca>, <jonathan , "'Marshall, Nancy'" <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>

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Dear Mr. Church,

Thank you very much for your thoughtful reply to my concerns about the cuts to service at the Sick Kids reading room. I'm glad to hear that the library is committed to continuing to support the program with training for volunteers, a deposit collection and regularly scheduled programs by TPL staff. While I agree that Sick Kids has a very strong volunteer program, I don't believe that volunteers can ever replace the services of on-site, trained staff who have the expertise, experience and perspective to adjust programming to meet the changing needs of a very challenging population. In addition, the proposed changes do not address my concern that the TDSB does not have a mandate to serve pre-school children in the way that TPL does. Those very young children represent a very significant proportion of patients at Sick Kids. However, I do appreciate that you are faced with difficult financial constraints.

Sincerely,

Valerie McDonald