



# TMC LearnPLAY

## Case Study

Indian Creek Library  
Olathe, Kansas



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Indian Creek Library Manager: Bob Miller  
Design + Fabrication: TMC The Makers Creative

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Our initial meeting with Indian Creek Library's manager Bob Miller and staff, included a presentation they had prepared for us on what makes Indian Creek and Olathe unique. They were all very passionate not only about their community, but also creating a special place for their young patrons and families. Some background we learned from our meeting:

Olathe was known for its deep history, beginning with serving as a stagecoach stop on the Oregon Trail, the California Trail and the Sante Fe Trail. It was also a place where the famous Hyer Cowboy boots got their start. The Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm Historic Site is another familiar landmark in the town of note. This historical site is a museum that teaches farming, blacksmithing and what it was like to live on the Mahaffie farm in the 1860s.

The library was also interested in a fairytale theme with a castle being a familiar motif in children's stories. This case study is a compilation of ideas, collaboration, rough concept sketches, renderings and to the final space design and fabrication. It is an example of our process, how we absorb, interpret, and collaborate with the library. This space was designed to resonate and create an active early learning, play environment in the library.



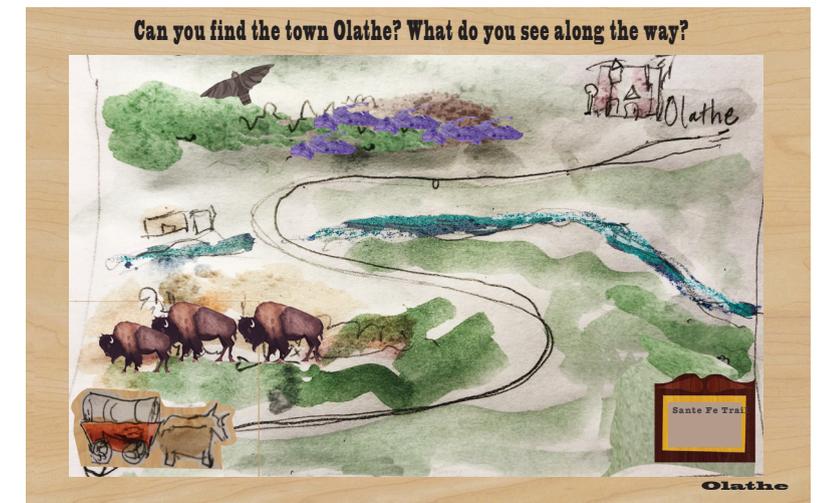
## History—The Farm, Stagecoach

Concepts showing the play structure as part castle and part barn with a stagecoach wagon for the children and families to sit. On the back of the wagon is a slider Learning Panel of the Sante Fe Trail (see right).



Renderings made from concept sketches

ROUGH COMP — A wagon slider style Learning Panel specific to Olathe. A wagon traverses the open prairie to the town, prompting a child to take the journey asking, "What do you see along the way?" Buffalo, fields of Verbena, hawks to name a few. Old Trail Marker perhaps suggesting north, south, east west.





A castle like table extending out from structure.

The Library decided to focus more on the fairytale elements and requested instead of a stagecoach if we could make a dragon where children and parents can sit and read or dream about adventures to far away places.

They also requested the castle be its own structure and remove the barn. To address the historical Mahaffie Farm connection, the library asked if we could we modify our Potting Shed into a blacksmith shop. Pictures show how we added a hay colored roof and architectural details to the exterior to represent a blacksmith shop.

When the basic structures were in place we added Early Learning content: Kitchen, Magnetic Boards, Workbench, and interchangeable Learning Panels.





# Castle

Hovering above the castle are our Cloud, Moon and Star Mobiles to offer fairytale enchantment but also a way-finding solution. Our children's Lottie chairs and Plover Tables also pictured were specified in the children's room. We were able to tie in the finish colors to the LearnPLAY space with the furniture, carpet and paint to achieve visual continuity.



Our Kitchen was placed on the outside of the Castle, near the Blacksmith Shop, which could easily be changed to a Farm Stand with fruits and vegetables, then carried over to the Kitchen for cooking.



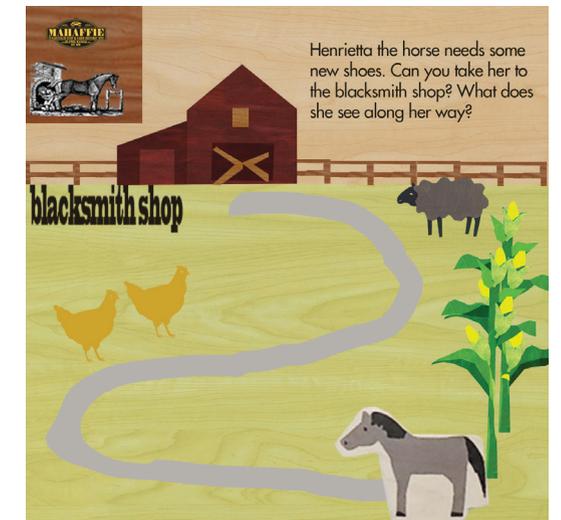
Learning Panels that relate to gardening and baking a cake were added to the exterior wall of the Castle. These panels can be swapped out for new literacy content. Inside the Castle the library requested large magnetic boards. These are perfect for telling stories using magnets or other activities.



# Blacksmith Shop



The Blacksmith Shop offers many play opportunities. Equipped with our Workbench to store tools, blocks, books or other items, this structure could also be a Market Stand, or Puppet Theater to name a few. To salute the Mahaffie Farm we created a custom slider Learning Panel using their logo and reference to the blacksmith shop and Henrietta the horse. Below is a rough comp.





## From the Library:

TMC Team,

I want to thank you for doing such a wonderful job with our new play structure. It's a great addition to our library, creating a festive and inspirational space for Olathe's children and will be enjoyed for years to come. You should all be proud of the work you do.

Thanks so much,

Bob Miller  
Manager

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