

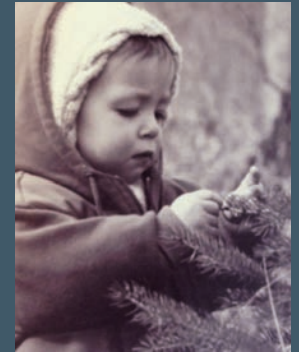
Products to delight and  
engage the curious mind



TMC LearnPLAY



# How it began...



“We started TMCkids out of our house. Our daughter, in many ways, was a major inspiration to us, offering up opinions and ideas on the products we were developing. As our company grew, our staff’s children would join in, conjuring stick-and-grass soups, building forts in the woods, and chasing butterflies with abandon. All of these experiences as parents, genuinely loving children and marveling at their free and creative spirit helped shape this line we call LearnPLAY.”

—Sherri and Blake Ratcliffe



**We are educators artists, designers,  
woodworkers and engineers.**



### **About Us**

We are a dedicated group of artists, woodworkers and engineers who are passionate about making products that are strong in design and craft. From backgrounds in the fine arts—painting—illustration writing—to theater design and education, our team is an eclectic mix of talent and passion. We are loyal to the basic tenants of good design which starts where pencil meets paper in a sketchbook. We value quality craftsmanship and innovation. Our factory is located in Grand Rapids and includes second and third generation woodworkers. Creativity, curiosity and imagination is constant. We see life-long learning as a way of being. We have a deep respect for nurturing this in children. Nature is a huge inspiration. We are members of USGBC and BIFMA.

**Made in Michigan**

**BIFMA**



How many times has a child asked you a question?  
Never enough.

How many times have you asked a child a question?  
Never enough.



Our LearnPLAY product line is born out of the our inherent interest in and passion for creating a strong foundation of life-long learning in children.

**We incorporate ECRR, Montessori and Reggio Emilia educational principles into our product design and spaces.**



Nurturing curiosity and the love of learning.



“Perhaps the true path to literacy is not procedural skills that stand out in the crowd, but the knowledge of content and concepts that underlie its foundation.

In this case, our efforts would be to get children to think, grapple with ideas, to experience the ‘ah-ha,’ the ‘flow’ that comes when we achieve something meaningful against resistance.

In this scenario, knowledge is the headline star with conventional literacy skills, the supporting cast members.”

**-Dr. Susan B. Neuman**



## Building character and expression

# Let's PLAY!



Everyone knows the kitchen is the place for conversation and always bustles with activity. Our kitchen is built for the most rambunctious of cooks and built to last.

Whether on a boat or tractor, children can imagine sailing the high seas or plowing through cornfields. A child's growth stems from having space to imagine and play with other children. This is also important. When they have to find and create their own fun, imaginative ideas emerge.





## From small spaces to large. From one standard piece to a fully designed custom space.

**Our process involves a unique combination of client/community assessment and engagement, collaboration, vision and inspiration.**

Libraries represent the civic pride of the communities that support them and which they serve. Like libraries, TMCKids also understands and respects the importance of community and individuality. When we are asked to design an early learning space, we begin by listening and absorbing the uniqueness and sense of place from the library, its citizens, architects and designers. We believe that in any space we help create, there should be a relevance to the children in their community to give them a perfect place to start their imaginative journey to curiosity and literacy.





**Our thoughtful approach, creating meaningful interactive experiences within them, to engage the whole family and encourage the joy of being present together.**
























How do you spark curiosity? Blur the lines between spaces and imagination.



Product Offerings

 <p>FARMSTAND</p>	 <p>APPLIQUES</p>	 <p>MURALS</p>	 <p>PLANTING BOX WITH PLANTING AND FARM PADDLES</p>	 <p>GOOSE MOBILE</p>	
 <p>LEARNING PANELS AND APPLIQUES</p>	 <p>PORTALS</p>	 <p>TAMPA CLOUD MOBILES</p>	 <p>LEARNING DESKS</p>	 <p>WHITEBOARD TABLE</p>	 <p>ALPHABET TABLE</p>
 <p>KITCHEN WITH HOUSE PANEL</p>	 <p>LEARNING CORNER — TREE</p>	 <p>SAILBOAT</p>	 <p>TRACTOR &amp; HAYWAGON</p>	 <p>9-BIN UNIT</p>	 <p>BIRDHOUSE</p>

## Product Offerings

### Unconstrained Learning Reading Comprehension and Life-long Learning

Dr. Susan B. Neuman states “because comprehension of text—the very purpose of reading—depends not only on a small set of procedural skills, but on a great infusion of knowledge: Knowledge of words and their meanings, the concepts that connect them, and the ability to think critically about what one reads. Serving as a foundation for literacy learning, it is knowledge, not the learning of the letter ‘n,’ that accelerates children’s achievement.”<sup>2</sup> Even in infancy, these important connections form: in language, in the understanding of our surroundings. The connections that are formed provide rich, contextual foundations that sustain us throughout our life. We are passionate about developing and cultivating learning areas where such fertile ground begins, develops and grows.



<sup>2</sup>Overcoming the Knowledge Gap: The Case for Content-rich Instruction Dr. Susan B. Neuman



OVER 80 LEARNING PANELS—Nature • Storytelling • Shapes+Colors • Mathematical Literacy • Lakes, Oceans and Rivers • Time • Weather • Transportation • Where Do You Live? • Agriculture+Gardening • For the wee ones • Hinged Door Style-Sensory

“I think these Learning Panels are beautifully done, both aesthetically pleasing and engaging for children. They represent a perfect compliment to activities that emphasize informational text in libraries and early literacy settings. I believe they will offer hours of fun and interactions among children and their friends and adult companions, and will be very helpful in extending children’s natural instinct to learn about their world.”

—Dr. Susan B. Neuman



Product Offerings



PERIMETER PLAY TABLE - TRUCK



PERIMETER PLAY TABLE - FIRE TRUCK



PERIMETER PLAY TABLE - TRAIN



PERIMETER PLAY TABLES TOP



SPACE DIVISION - COW



FREE STANDING TREES



PLAY TABLES - DUPLO, TRAIN, LOOSE PARTS PLAY, MAP



SEED PACKET AND BOX



FISHING ROD AND TACKLE BOX



GROVE TREE APPLIQUES



VARIATIONS OF THE POTTING SHED



ANIMAL WORLD TABLE



**Product Offerings**

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CANOPY TREE



## Product Offerings



Singing nursery rhymes together slows down language and increases vocabulary. Having rhymes and grocery lists present helps letter recognition which builds the foundation for reading and writing. Caregivers who participate in the play with their little ones can point and talk about everything that they see and touch – making a meaningful connection between the word and the object itself.



Learning Tablets

# Services

We provide space planning to create a dynamic early learning space. We collaborate with you on envisioning your space. Are there aspects in your community you would like to highlight or be relevant in your space?

## Small Space Design

Show us your space and let us help it come to life. We love to brainstorm with clients on themes and local community influence to create custom pieces that connect with end users, while keeping your project budget in mind.

## Large-Scale Space Design

Who doesn't love when a whole room comes together? When we do large-scale space design, we do it right. These projects usually have a desire for extremely unique pieces throughout a space with a cohesive theme, and one where the budget reflects the vision. We work closely with you every step of the way to execute that vision. In many cases, we will research the history of the town, talk with library directors or prominent citizens, or even make multiple visits to research the community and fully understand the impact of the space. These projects tend to be complicated and overwhelming, so let us help simplify that for you.





## Case Study Cecil County Public Library | North East Branch Library — Our Town Early Literacy Center



## Case Study Cecil County Public Library | North East Branch Library — Our Town Early Literacy Center



It begins with a sense of place...in a child... a family...a community

An exciting early learning experience that begins with a sense of place... Our Town.

Intentionally designed for children, birth through age 5, to explore, interact, and play with their parents, caregivers, family and friends. A place designed to be dynamic and flexible. Whether baking a cake, building a boat, or putting on a show...the possibilities will be endless. Walk with us through Our Town Early Literacy Center and see the vision of bringing community, children, and families together to sow the seeds for creating life-long learners.



## Case Study Cecil County Public Library | North East Branch Library — Our Town Early Literacy Center

### Using the town for inspiration



Downtown Buildings



Old Town Hall



Turkey Point Lighthouse



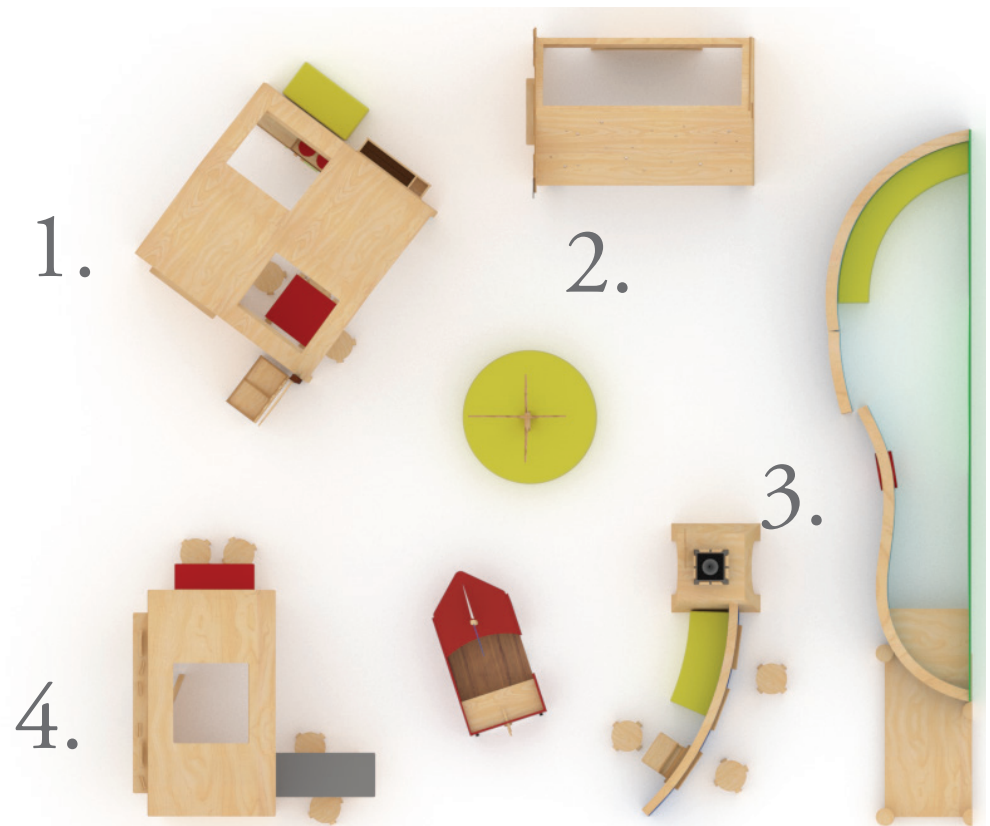
Chesapeake Bay Upper Bay Museum



Our Town  
Early Literacy Center

Each area will have 360° of activity

1. The HOUSE
2. The CIVIC BUILDING
3. The BAY, LIGHTHOUSE + BABY GARDEN
4. The WORKSHOP

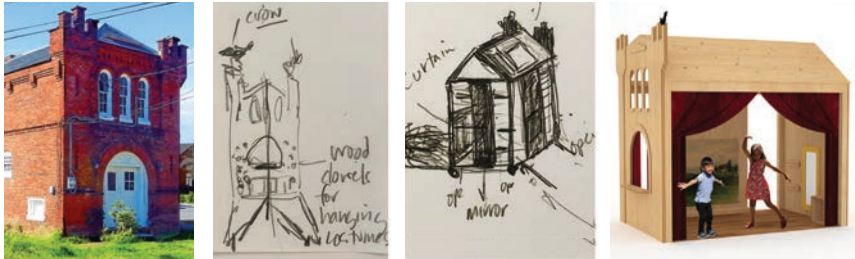


# 360° of PLAY+Exploration



# Case Study Cecil County Public Library | North East Branch Library — Our Town Early Literacy Center

## The Creative Process. Sketching. Imagining.



## From Concept to Actual

For the town jail, known as the “Lock Up”, we created a space that is transformative in nature. We started with sketches and conceptual drawings, and what evolved was a structure that could be a puppet theater, a theatrical stage or a bank. We added perforated stars in the theater roof but left the roof open so children can understand its beam construction. The interior has a display case which holds 4 scenery backdrop panels for acting. When the structure is a bank, the display case also holds an abacus. On the back exterior there is a magnetic board for blocks and building magnets that teach architectural terms. The process flows from sketching, to renderings, to engineering and shop drawings, to the final fabrication on our shop floor.



## Case Study Cecil County Public Library | North East Branch Library — Our Town Early Literacy Center

### Imagination and Capturing the Essence.



The Workshop was inspired by a museum focused on boat building, skiffs and carving decoys. We transformed the space into a tinkerer's workshop with all sorts of learning components ranging from duck identification to sitting and sketching from a long table, where a wood tablet asks the child to draw a bridge using a wood protractor that hangs from the tool rack. Ramps and a growth chart are other interactive parts too.



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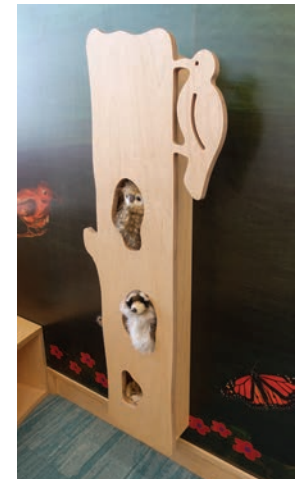
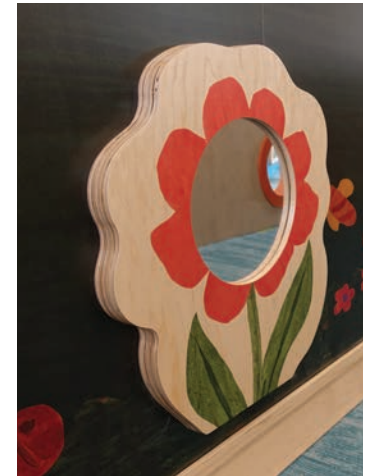


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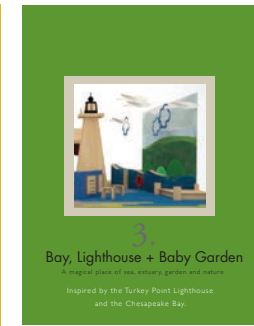
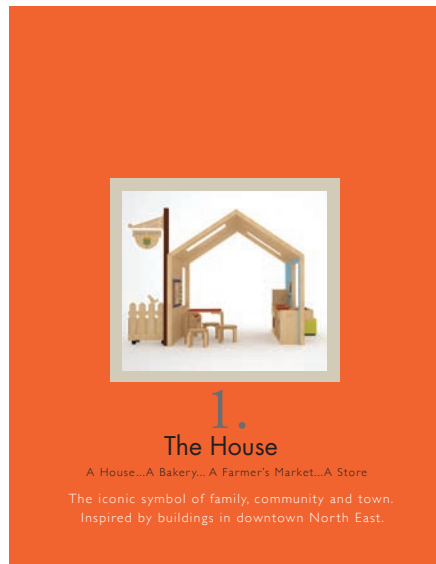
## Case Study Cecil County Public Library | North East Branch Library — Our Town Early Literacy Center



# Case Study Cecil County Public Library | North East Branch Library — Our Town Early Literacy Center

## Fundraising Efforts

The library also asked if we could assist in their fundraising/capital campaign efforts. Our team created a brochure that included our designs and renderings to talk about the overall mission as well as show the thought and learning attributes behind each structure, which provided project background and visuals for soliciting funds. They were very successful in garnering donations for this large scale early learning initiative.



## Case Study Oxford Lane Public Library — Oxford Ohio



The director requested we incorporate the Farmer's Market, as it is a popular venue in the town. Along with this broad, conceptual assignment, we were given a plan view of the space from the architect. We "went to town" so to speak and began designing and laying out the vignette flow. As one enters the Lane Library Early Learning Space, they are greeted by the familiar sights of the town's large clock and Farmer's Market.



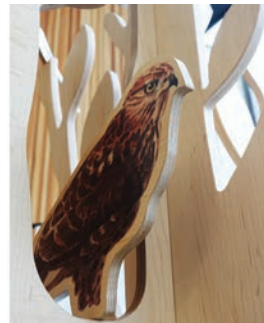
## Case Study Billie Jean King Public Library — Long Beach, California



Pictured here is a project we designed and fabricated for the Billie Jean King Public Library in Long Beach, California. The library wanted an early learning space that was inspired by the ocean—an integral part of their community. We created the artistic and early literacy content in the entire children's space to encourage learning and exploration of creatures that live along the coast, continental shelf and in the ocean. Also included was a submarine with a steering wheel to ride the deep sea and a sailboat for imaginary voyages. A flock of large seagulls fly overhead, heading towards the LearnPLAY area. For full room cohesiveness, our tables, chairs, soft seating and custom sail tables for computers are integral to the children's space.

## Case Study Pioneer Library System — Norman, Oklahoma

### Norman East



### Norman Central



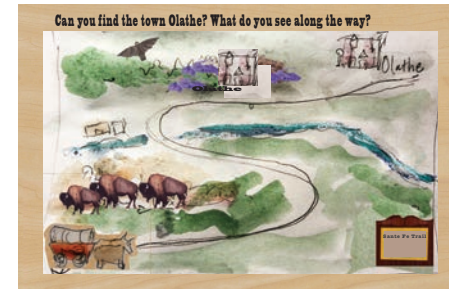
Pictured are two projects for the Pioneer Library System. Norman East wanted a nature-focused space while Central requested our Kitchen and Duplo and Magnetic Block Walls.



## Case Study Olathe Public Library — Indian Creek Branch - Olathe, Kansas

Our initial meeting with the library director and staff included a presentation they prepared for us on what makes Indian Creek and Olathe unique and other ideas. There was interest in the historical aspect of Olathe, serving as a stop on the Oregon Trail, the California Trail and the Santa Fe Trail. Olathe was also famous for the Hoyer Cowboy boots. An old farm Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm Historic Site was another familiar landmark in the town.

The library was also interested in a fairytale theme with a castle as a familiar motif in children's stories. Pictured are rough concept sketches and how we interpreted and collaborated from sketch to renderings to the final space.





## Case Study Olathe Public Library — Indian Creek Branch - Olathe, Kansas





## Case Study Olathe Public Library — Indian Creek Branch - Olathe, Kansas



## Case Study Henrico County Public Library — Fairfield Parent + Child Carrel

**Goes viral with 586K likes, plus 1,000,000 more on social media**

**Resounding worldwide praise began with a single twitter post by Ari Faruk and spread like wildfire.**



**Featured in:**

New York Times • Washington Post •  
Good Morning America • Newsweek •  
Buzzfeed • Black Enterprise • Fox News  
• The Independent • The Times of  
London • Irish Times • Good House-  
keeping • CBS Morning Motherly •  
Fatherly • LA Times • NY Magazine/  
Curbed



Family Workstation is another option with lower panels, more open sight lines and a lower price point.



The Fairfield Parent+Child Carrel design was based on insightful challenges from the staff of Henrico County Public Library for their Fairfield Area Library. The staff noticed that parents with toddlers or infants in strollers had no easy way to use the library's adult reading room computer workstations. Further, their young children might disrupt the work of others using the library workstations. The library director, Barbara Weedman, and her staff wondered if Quinn Evans could help them find a solution. The team at Quinn Evans, led by Senior Interior Designer Shannon Wray, researched the problem and found nothing readily available on the market to fit the bill. Quinn Evans called on TMC. Collaborators at TMC, Quinn Evans and Henrico exchanged sketches and shared notes. The workstation, which features a desk with privacy panels and a close by engaging play area for the baby or toddler.





TMC Furniture

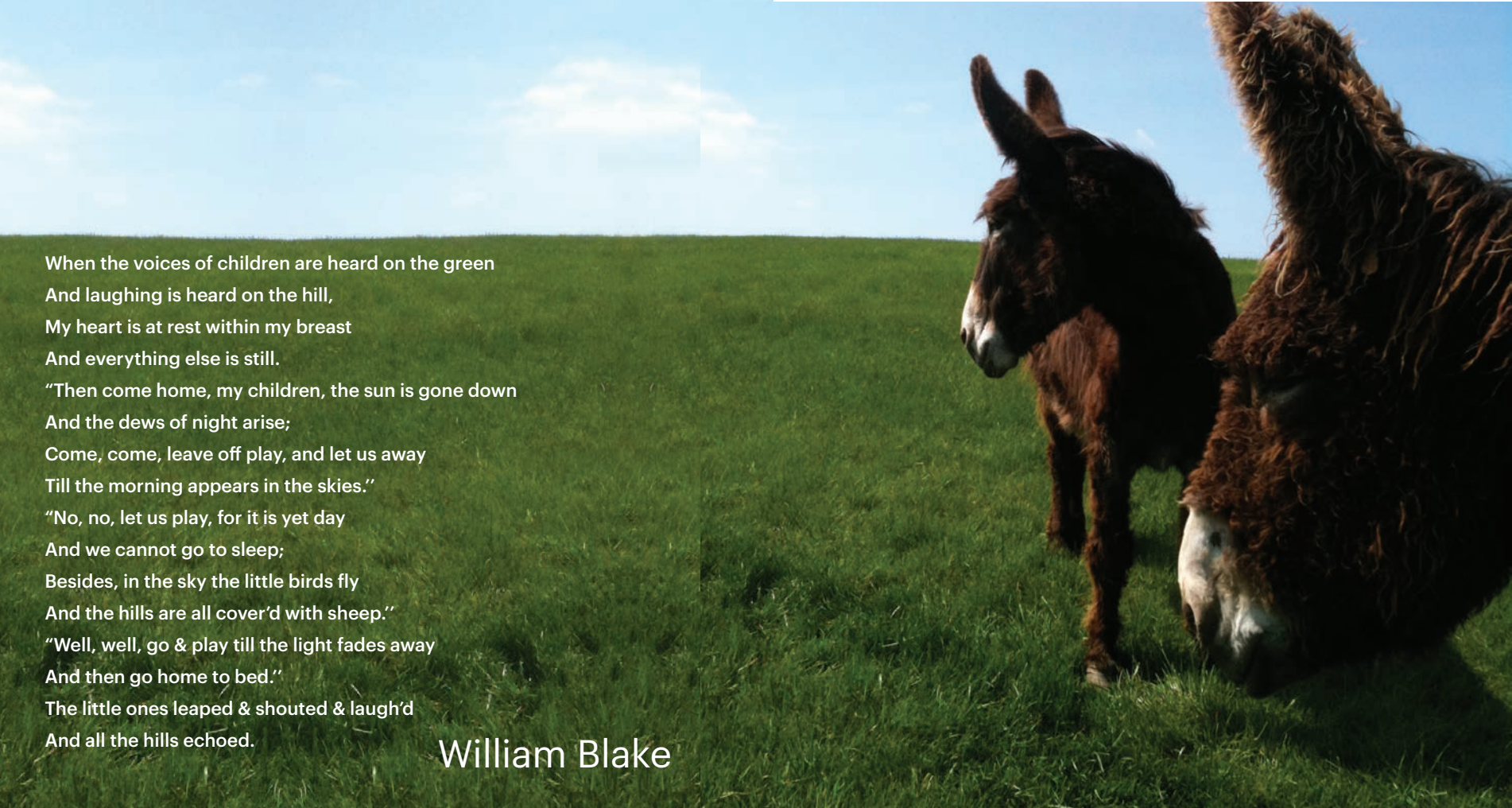
119 East Ann Street

Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105

734-622-0080

tmcfurniture.com

### THE MAKERS CREATIVE

A photograph of two brown donkeys in a lush green field under a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds. One donkey is in the foreground, looking towards the left, and the other is slightly behind it, also looking left. The grass is vibrant green and the sky is a deep blue.

When the voices of children are heard on the green  
And laughing is heard on the hill,  
My heart is at rest within my breast  
And everything else is still.  
"Then come home, my children, the sun is gone down  
And the dews of night arise;  
Come, come, leave off play, and let us away  
Till the morning appears in the skies."  
"No, no, let us play, for it is yet day  
And we cannot go to sleep;  
Besides, in the sky the little birds fly  
And the hills are all cover'd with sheep."  
"Well, well, go & play till the light fades away  
And then go home to bed."  
The little ones leaped & shouted & laugh'd  
And all the hills echoed.

William Blake