

## Meet Marie Boleman

*Head of Children & Family  
Outreach Services  
Oshkosh Public Library*

During her 12 years as the director of two small Wisconsin libraries, Marie Boleman has helped people in all stages of life to connect with information, books, and services they need. So what appeals to Marie in her new position as Oshkosh Public Library's Head of Children's & Family Outreach?



"Children wear their curiosity and love of learning on their sleeves," she explains. "In my role at OPL, I can invest my own passion for life-long learning into supporting kids and families and help them to nurture that love of learning and "can-do" approach to life, so they carry it into adulthood."

Marie appreciates OPL's strong tradition of quality children's programming – from traditional storytimes and book-themed special events to the newer High Hopes early literacy program, which shows parents easy activities that help their babies, toddlers and preschoolers to develop important pre-reading skills. She is excited to build on that foundation and expand the focus to programs for emerging readers in the six- to eight-year-old range.

"I want to encourage families to make regular library visits and family reading an enjoyable tradition they look forward to," she explains. "Stay tuned for exciting events and programs related to this initiative."

Reaching out to the community and forging partnerships with other organizations that serve families is another important focus for Marie. "We want to reach families who may not be aware of the goldmine of resources the library offers to support their child's learning," she says. "We want to work with parents and teachers to nurture a love of learning beyond the classroom. That's the stuff that creates happier, stronger adults and builds productive citizens."

Marie earned her degree in library science at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, completing her field experience in the archives at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh's Polk Library.

Marie is proud of the work that public libraries do to help people of all ages discover and realize their potential throughout their lives. Reading and actively seeking out information offers perspective, broadens a person's base of experiences and helps them to develop empathy.

"Humans are meant to imagine, learn and grow," she says. "I am gratified to see that look of relief, accomplishment, discovery, gratitude or hope register on the face of a person who experiences the power of the services offered to them at their library."