



I am the children's library supervisor here at the library. I get to wear a lot of different hats, which has been fantastic overall getting to oversee the day-to-day operations of the children's library. I get to do story times; I'll get to do outreach every now and then. So, that's been, part of my career so far getting to wear those many hats and getting to do all kinds of wonderful things.

Primarily, children's programs come from the brain trust of staff—folks will get an idea for something, such as the Pokémon club that we have. A good many of us enjoy Pokémon here. So, we thought, what if we made a club for that? It was during the Pokémon Club that another child approached us, and she asked if we could do something different.

She asked, what if we had a Barbie Club? And we thought, that's a great idea. What if we did? And so, we implemented a Barbie club as well. It really is a nice mix of employee and community input. We get to implement those suggested programs, which is so fantastic.

It's really fun to do.

The club activities are different from meeting to meeting. The craft club is another great example. They'll do all kinds of different art forms. They've worked with watercolors and crayon art. I think most recently, they took a hairdryer to some crayons and melted it and did really cool art that way.

The Pokémon Club loves to bring in their Pokémon cards and their games and battle each other. Pokémon Go is a huge component of that as well.

Barbie Club, they do a great job of planning and doing specific things for those as well. I know that they've done a Barbie fashion show before that's been super successful. They've designed their own clothes for that as well. So, it's a good range of things.

Every club can be a little different depending on the mood that day. But we do plan different

activities, and they'll either follow it or come up with their own things, too. We work hard to make sure we are creating a safe environment for kids to interact with each other, express themselves, and just be kids.

I also run a DND club, and one of the biggest things for me with that is creating a space for interaction, because these are teenagers that we're trying to engage with. It's usually something new and fun with DND, and they get to express themselves in a different format. They're continually learning and working together. What's special about our teen DND Club is that it's just teens interacting with one another. We are very driven to give teens the opportunity to express themselves in the way that they see best, to learn and to grow.

If I could say one thing about our library and services, in essence, it would be something along the lines of, don't be afraid to try it.

Oftentimes we get afraid to try new things. Some people maybe think it's not the right fit for them, but it's a free program, so why not come and try everything that we offer here?

Our services and programs are free. I cannot harp on that enough! People ask us if there's a charge, and there isn't. So, just come try it and so give it a shot, because I guarantee you, with the amount of talent that our staff have, you're going to have a good time.

Give us a shot. Come, have fun with us, come grow with us, come learn with us. And together we'll continually build something so amazing.

- Caleb Gainey, Children's Library Supervisor