

"I encourage my kids to read so that they'll be more academically inclined," said Robert Smythe of Huntington Beach as he balanced Shannon, 3, and Kyle, 1 1/2, on his knees. "Reading is more entertaining to them than watching TV."

Lounging on a yellow cushion propped up against the Toddler Discovery Boat, Jourdan Gallemore, 11, paused for a break. "This place is really nice. I'm going to read my favorite fiction author, Lane Smith, and play games in the computer center."

Graphic:
MAP

Caption:
Map: Site of new Central Library in Huntington Beach.
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