

LOCAL NEWS

# MIRAMAR City's branch library opens

■ Miramar's new library opened last week with a celebration attended by bigwigs and little kids.

BY EILEEN SOLER  
Special to The Miami Herald

Even before opening day ceremonies, moms were eyeing hundreds of colorful books in the sun-drenched children's section of the new Miramar Branch Library.

"We were so excited that we put today on the calendar for a MOMS play group," said



PHOTOS BY EILEEN SOLER/FOR THE MIAMI HERALD

**CRAFTS:** Adrian Hori, left, Jessica Abou, Hannah Abou, 3, Pascale Taddeo, Thomas Taddeo, 2, Broward Libraries Publications Specialist Steve Vinik and Jonathan Hori, 4, create origami crafts on opening day.

Pascale Taddeo of the Miramar Moms Offering Moms Support club.

Taddeo brought son Thomas, 2, and Jessica Abou brought daughter Hannah, 3, to hear speeches by govern-

ment and education leaders and witness the long-awaited library's ceremonial ribbon cutting.

The moms marked the historical day with pictures: Hannah's first library card,

Thomas scanning borrowed books, stolen moments of the two making origami figures at a kiddie table, playing puppet show at a curtained stage and reading books on an overstuffed sofa.

"This is our neighborhood library and we want the kids to have a sense of ownership. They were here for the very first day and they will grow up here," Abou said.

That's what the city ordered.

Housed in a three-story, \$16 million building called the Miramar Library and Education Center, the 31,000-square-foot library takes up the first floor, Broward College is on the second floor and Nova Southeastern University on the third.

"Education is a key to having a first-class city be a meeting place to share ideas and a place for South Broward residents to come together and celebrate cultures. ... Nova and Broward College make the whole package complete," Mayor Lori Moseley said.

So far, 60,000 books line shelves and 79 computers are available for public use.

Children's Librarian Carmen Wonsang of Miramar said programs for children will begin with Toddler Time from 11 to 11:30 a.m. Nov. 3.

Evelyn Bloom, who heads the 32-chapter Friends of the Library, said anyone can help make the new library success-



**STORY TIME:**  
Margaret Maynard of Coral Springs reads to son Conner, 4, in the sun-drenched children's section of the new Miramar Branch Library.



**CHECKOUT:** Miramar Mayor Lori Moseley checks out a book after opening-day ceremonies at the new library.

ful by joining the Friends of the Miramar Library group.

Last year, Friends groups raised \$400,000 to support Broward branch library programs with supplies and services not allocated by the county.

The Miramar Branch Library, 2050 Civic Center Place in Miramar Town Center, is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Wednesday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. Call 954-437-1800.

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