

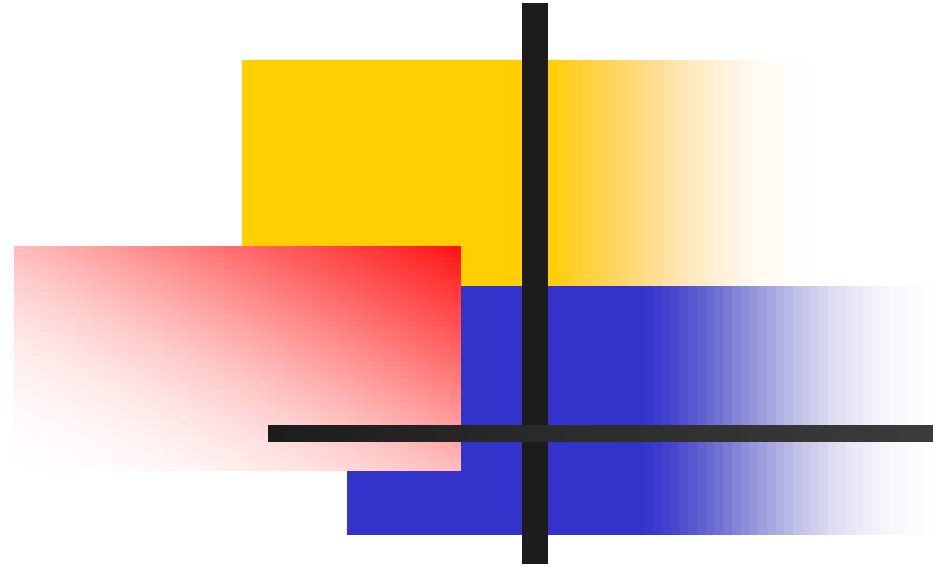
# DESIGNING TOMORROW'S LIBRARIES WITH CHILDREN'S VIEWS

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# Introduction



- Successful library service in the past was based on convenience.
- Basic components were:
  - Shelves
  - Tables
  - Books
  - Seats
  - Geographic location, etc.



# What happens when you add computers-media to this scene?

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- Designing a technologically-rich library for the new century means more than simply plugging in the equipment.
- Good facilities appear to be an important precondition for children's learning.



# Characteristics in library services design:

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- Interactivity
- Scalability
- Media – richness
- Granularity
- +Technical capacity



# Children participation provides

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- creating a participative environment
- social experiences
- fledgling hypothetical thinking abilities
- channels their enormous emotional and physical energies.
- creating a dynamic program



# Literature review:

## Accepted factors by the librarians

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- Building is a major determinant of use;
- The Library as a learning space has to be flexible, compact, accessible, extendible, varied, organized, managed, standardized, comfortable, functioned, ergonomic, electronically equipped, colors perceived, controlled, secure and economical;
- Motivation, reading habit, guidelines, users contribution are important.



## The Research:

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- Every school (57 837) has a school library and every public library(1096) has also children's library services in Turkey. This emphasized that the strengths are services, resources, location and equipment. Turkish school and children's library services are near to users.

# The Research:

## The Children's and School Library Services in Turkey

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- Generally, many facilities in the children's and school library services in Turkey are old, out-of-date, poorly maintained, uncomfortable. These problems and some needs have been great opportunity to positively affect children's point of view to ensure that they enhance design of libraries, while providing safe, healthy, and comfortable children and/or school library services.





# The Research: Aims and Sample

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## ■ **Aims**

- To make research with children
- To find out the main characteristics of libraries design, if children's were directors
- To receive the recommendations for future actions

## ■ **Sample**

- In Turkey
- Focus on 10 cities
- 350 Children aged between 7 – 11 years
- A total of 33 libraries
- Between November 2008 and May 2009



# Designing Tomorrow's Libraries with Children's Views

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- An ideal library design is an effective combination of many related functions. The library designing with children's views gives us a wide range of children's choices, and accommodates many different needs. These include:

**The most effective location for children's services is at the heart of the school and public libraries**



**The library has an intimate and welcoming atmosphere both inside and outside**



# Many children consider libraries to be welcoming institutions



**Comfortable, quiet, easily supervised, and adequately heated, cooled, and lighted study areas for long – term use**



**Computers and books distributed throughout the library, at the entrance, in the book stacks, near reading places, and at user service points**



**A variety of computer configurations:  
Ergonomically designed electronic workstations,  
stand up E panels in the stacks, embedded  
terminals, and wireless mobile lap top stations**





**A tea – juice – milk service area for casual meetings and book discussions is open during library hours**



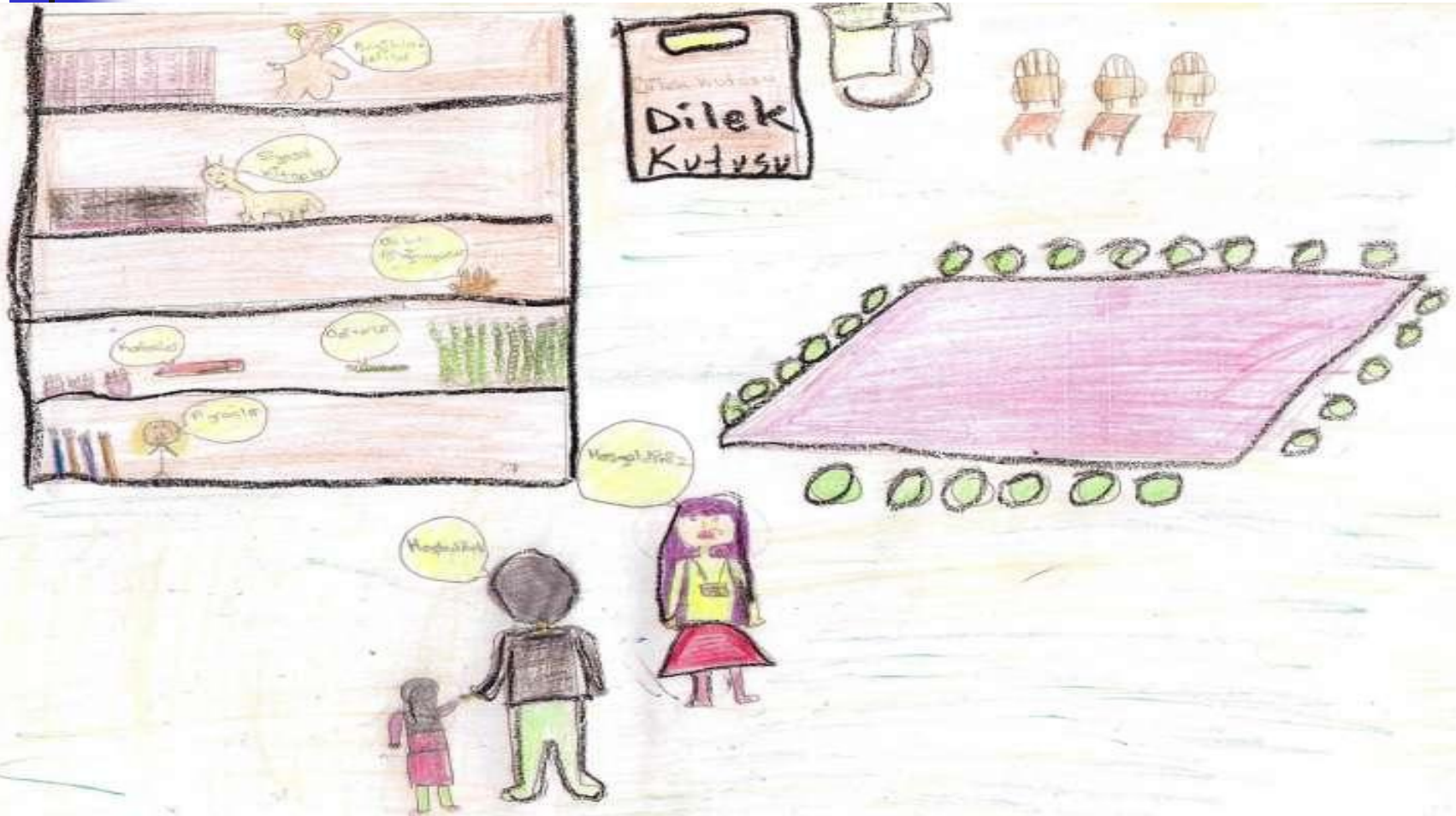
# A centralized reference desk staffed to monitor and service all topical areas



# A quiet place in the library to read a book or study reference materials



# Clear space is vital to the proper functioning of a facility



**It is required to avoid designing anything that encourages young children to run, jump, or climb**



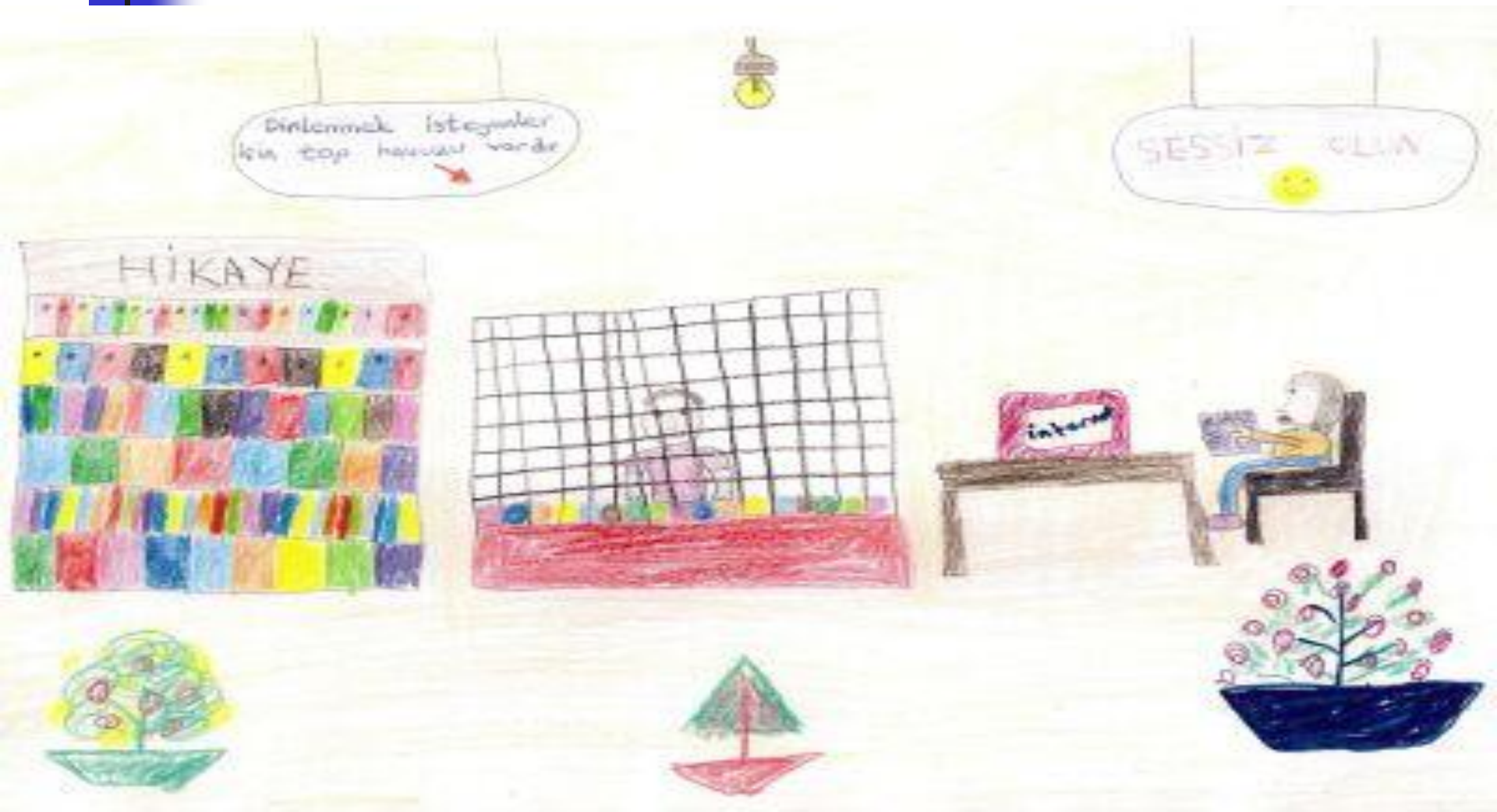
**The planning of furniture includes form, shape and color, in relation to use, as well as durability and flexibility.**



**The ease of cleaning furniture, traffic flow, and ways of storing tables and chairs are also important.**



**A place for children where they can listen to stories, look at puppet shows, play games, and conduct research on the Internet.**





# Comfortable area to do homework



# Comfortable area to do group project



# Libraries for children cover multipurpose rooms



# Libraries for children cover community meeting rooms, conference rooms, and supporting services



# Study space in which noise is tolerated and welcomed



# Computer workstations with Internet access are welcomed



# Space to display art; and separate magazine, CD, video, and DVD collections



# 21<sup>st</sup> Century library design: Comfortable places, meeting and study rooms, teen friendly areas, technology, sustainable environment







# Evaluations

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- This research provides results about children's experiments and suggestions for managing children's services. The children's propositions can provide a starting point for thinking about the potential future of library design in school and children's libraries.



# Evaluations : Planned Actions

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## **Planned actions**

### **when the child was the director**

- Selecting materials
- Designing spaces
- Planning new facilities
- Managing services
- Others
- Nothing



# Evaluations : Design Criteria

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## **Design Criteria for Ideal Library**

- Aesthetics and appearance
- Comfortable, flexible furniture
- Sufficient technology and Internet access
- Library size and shape
- Lighting and climate control
- Indoor air quality
- Traffic flow
- Safety and security
- Building functionality and Places for social interaction

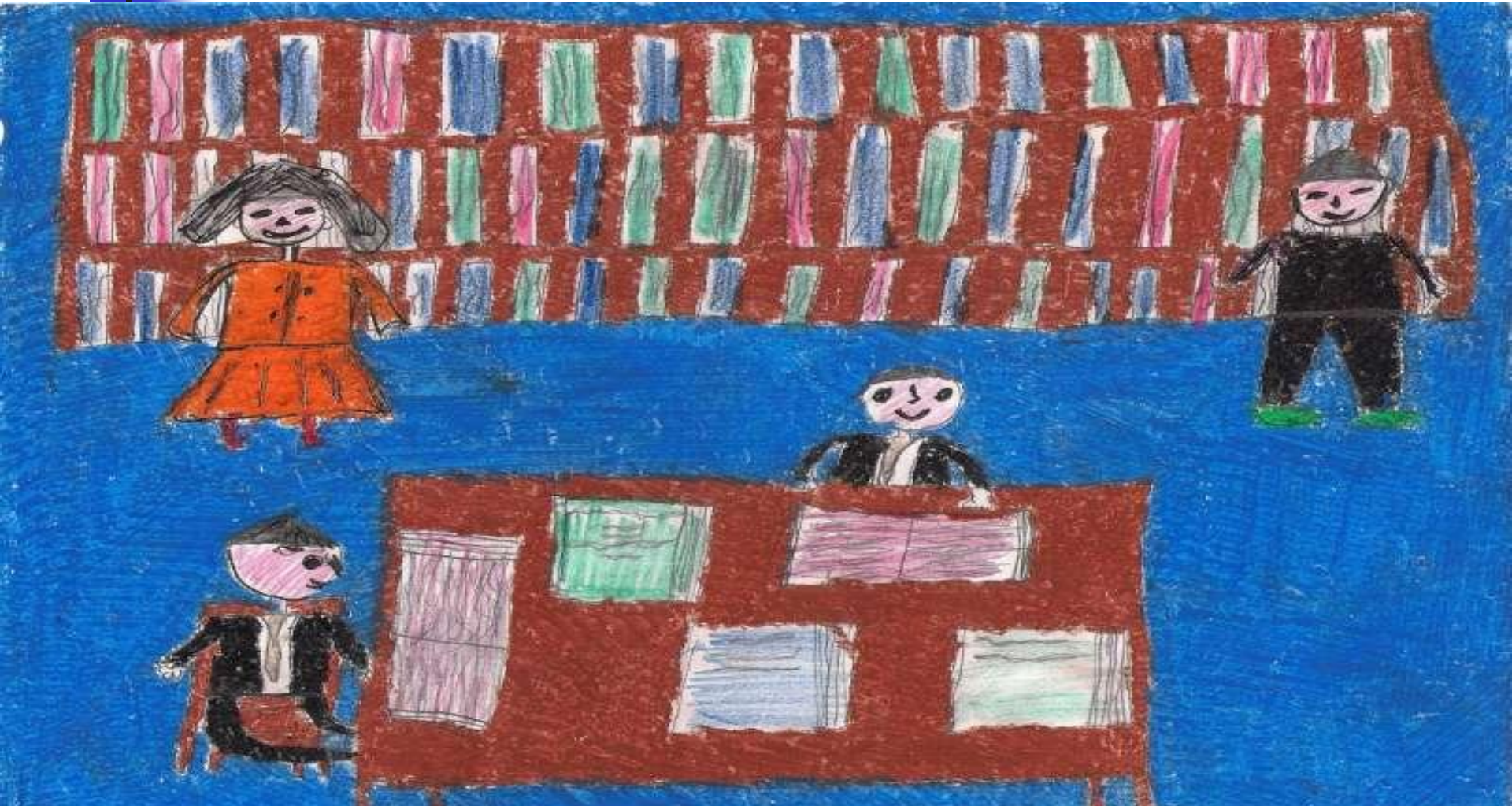


# Findings

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- **The results of this research lead to the following findings:**

Children are very much interested in being a director



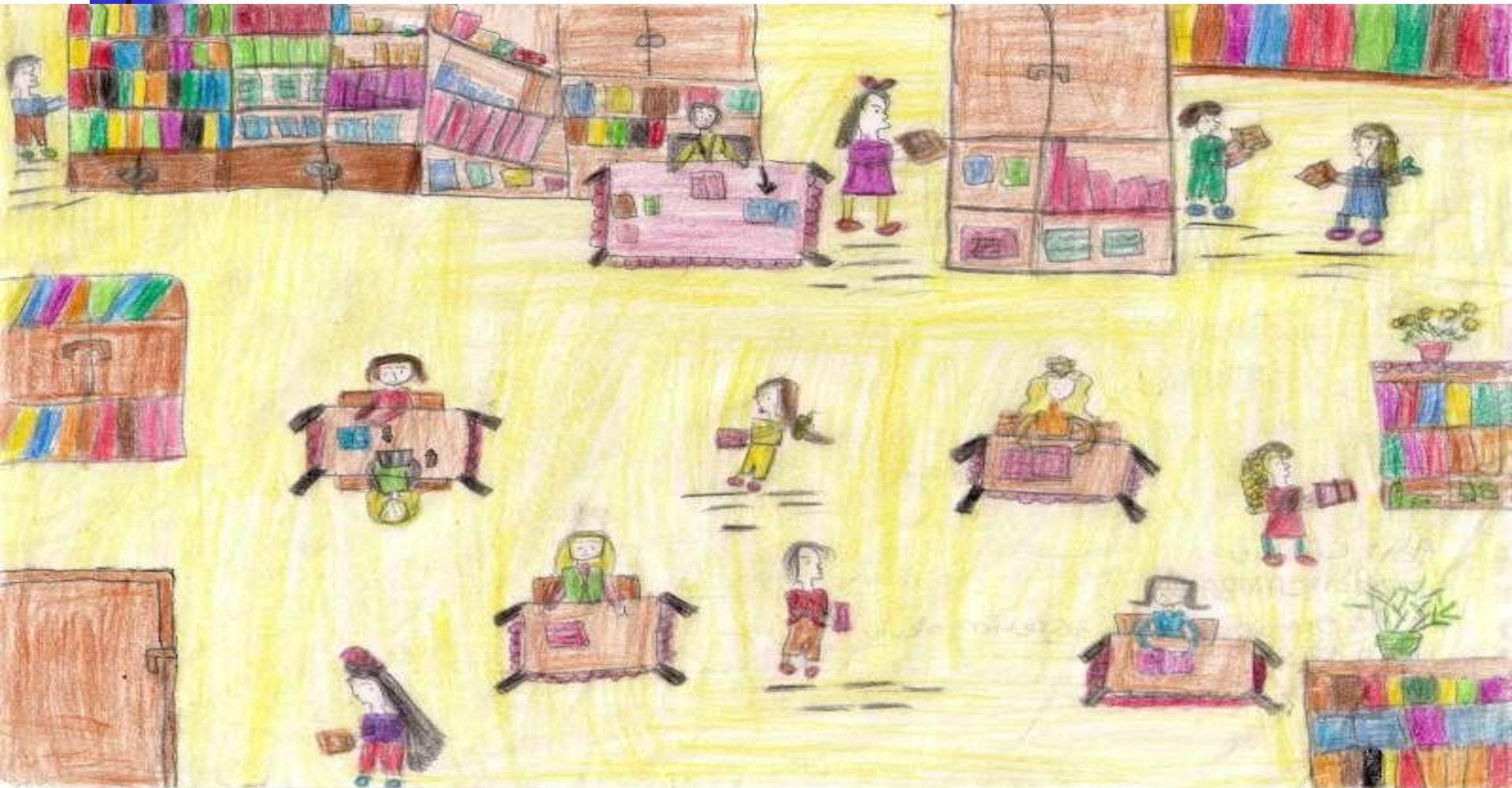
# Children want to provide for the other child attracting library environments



# Designed libraries and environments can support satisfaction, happiness, and effectiveness



**Not only librarians, but also teachers must be interested in promoting reading and positive attitudes**





# Effective cooperation between children's libraries and school libraries will be crucial



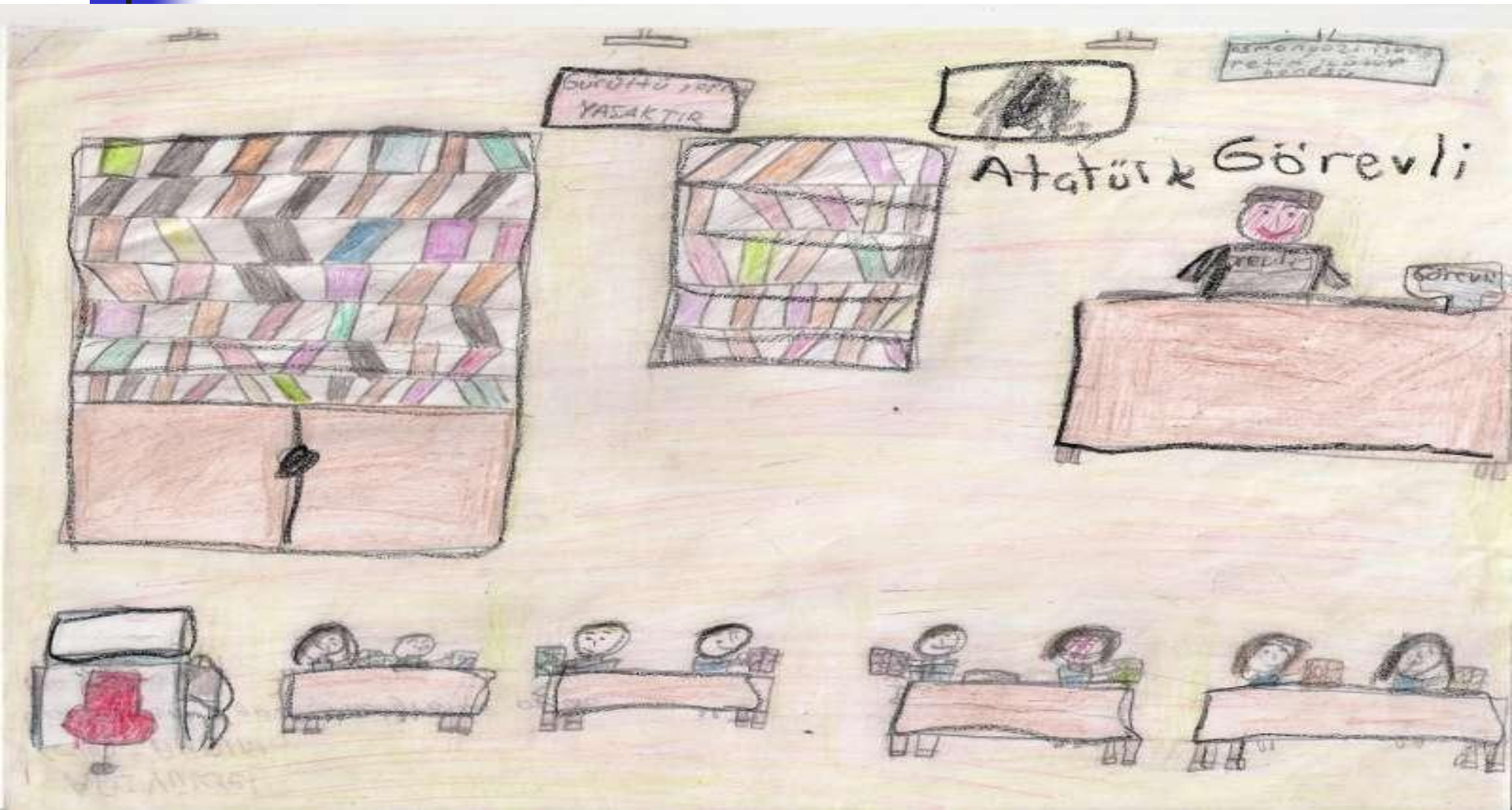
# Children's views are necessary in order to provide environments which support desired behaviours and attitudes



# Maximize use of the library is important



# Children need librarians who will consciously target services toward the child



# Children need children librarians



# Conclusion



- From a designer's point of view, in here children and students as a director, they are generally highly optimistic.
- The gaps identified by children provide us important agenda for research subjects.
- We urgently need is design guidelines included the development of user expectations.

# Conclusion



- **The design of library services for children and students must be based on a set of beliefs: beliefs about students, the school itself, the educational process, integration of technology, and the role of information in today's instructional process.**

# Conclusion

- It is hoped that by putting children's suggestions into practice, libraries will be able to develop their services with children's experiences and suggestions to cope with today's changing world.





# Your Conclusions:



- Please describe the best library design for children

# Please describe the best library design for children



- Correspondence should be sent to Dr Onal via e-mail at [onal@hacettepe.edu.tr](mailto:onal@hacettepe.edu.tr)



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