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Brie Carmer, far left, and Linda White from the Glenwood Springs Center for the Arts sit down with about 10 kids to paint butterflies for the first session of Painting Pages. The free monthly series, which takes place at 4 p.m. every second Tuesday at the Glenwood Springs Library, allows kids to hear a story and make related art.

JESSICA CABE / POST INDEPENDENT

Painting Pages event for kids debuts at Glenwood Library

Every second Tuesday, kids can hear a story at the library, complete a related art project

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About 10 children sat on bean bag chairs or cross-legged on the floor of the Glenwood Springs Library's community room Tuesday afternoon for the first session of Painting Pages.

The new monthly series is a collaboration between the Glenwood Springs Center for the Arts and the library. On the second Tuesday of every month, kids are able to hear a story then work on an art project.

"There used to be a collaboration with the Pitkin County Library and Aspen Art Museum, and it was just great," said Christina Brusig, executive director of the Center for the Arts. "They brought people together

to read stories and then make art. So we thought we could make our own version of that."

This week, the kids were treated to a reading of "Nile in Denial," a book by local artist Jessica Meath about a stubborn caterpillar who is forced to confront his aversion to change when he transforms into a butterfly. After the kids heard the story, Linda White, from the Center for the Arts, asked them to close their eyes and picture a string of scenes she described: Nile the caterpillar, a garden full of red roses, trout jumping out of a river and more.

"Did you see all that?" White asked them.

"Yeah," they said in unison.

"Yeah, of course you did," she said.

"So we're going to go paint pictures now."

In keeping with the theme of "Nile in Denial," the kids traced and colored butterflies.

"We're kind of thinking of using themes," Brusig said. "So whatever book we read, we'll theme our art

around that. We're not sure what next month will be, but we're open to ideas at the moment."

Kirsten Michel took her 6-year-old son to Painting Pages, his first activity at the library.

"I was just looking for fun things for him to do after school and just hoping to keep him excited and interested about the world," she said. "He likes painting, and he loves to read, and he likes making up stories."

Michel said she was excited to see a wide range of ages among the kids who showed up, and she's glad to be taking advantage of the new library.

"I'm excited to see them trying new things at the library," she said. "I hope that this isn't the only thing that we'll find. We spent so much money on this new library, and I just want to see people using it."

Brusig said Painting Pages will last at least through May, but she's playing it by ear after that.

"Hopefully, if it's a big success, we'll continue it for as many Tuesdays as there are years left," she said.

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