

# The YAC

*A Newsletter for Iowa Library Staff Who Work with Youth and Children  
Brought to You by Iowa Library Services*



## March 2013

### Upcoming Events:

March 1-19 - "Early Literacy in the Public Library" workshops (see below for details)\*

March 10-16 - Teen Tech Week (<http://teentechweek.ning.com/>)

March 16 - Freedom of Information Day

April 14-20 - National Library Week

April 21-27 - Money Smart Week @ your library

April 22 - Earth Day

April 29-30, 2013 - Kids First, Des Moines (see below!)\*

April 30 - El día de los niños/el día de los libros

\*See the Continuing Education Catalog at <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/cgi-bin/cecat/> for registration information.

### Occasions for Special Displays/Program Themes to Plan for in May:

- 5 - Cinco de Mayo & birthday of Leo Lionni
- 13-19 - Children's Book Week: [www.bookweekonline.com](http://www.bookweekonline.com)
- 17 - Birthday of Gary Paulsen
- 24 - Birthday of Mo Willems

## Early Literacy Workshops in March

### Early Literacy in the Public Library: *Serving Children aged Birth to Three Years and Their Parents and Caregivers*



The important role of the public youth services librarian in infants' and toddlers' development of early literacy skills will be addressed in this workshop. Dena Goplerud, Early Literacy Specialist, and Merri Monks, Youth Services Consultant with Iowa Library Services, will present six day-long workshops, one in each library district. Topics to be covered will include role modeling for parents, introducing new vocabulary, book handling behaviors, infant and toddler development, planning and selecting library activities for infants and toddlers, resources for parents, collection development, and much more!

Dena Goplerud is a member of Iowa's Every Child Reads state team and editor of "Every Child Reads: Birth to Three", a recently published training manual for child care providers published by the Iowa Department of Education. She co-wrote and edited "Every Child Reads: 3-5" and several early literacy training modules for parents of children birth to 5 years old. She has a degree in elementary education and social work from the University of Iowa and a master's degree in special education from the University of Kansas. For several years, she was the coordinator of the Parent-Educator Connection Project at the Iowa Department of Education. She also was the Ready to Learn coordinator for IPTV which included creating and implementing book clubs for families and child care providers.

Registration opens at 8:30 am at all locations except Mason City, which opens at 9:30. The workshop will run from 9:30 am - 4:00 pm, except Mason City, which will be 10:30 am to 4:30 pm. Mason City will have a 45-minute lunch break; all other locations will have 60 minutes. Attendees will be awarded 5.5 hours of CE credit for this workshop.

The dates and locations of this workshop are:

- March 1: Coralville Public Library
- March 7: Mason City Public Library
- March 8: Waterloo Public Library
- March 14: Atlantic Public Library
- March 15: Sioux Center Public Library
- March 19: Kirkendall Public Library, Ankeny

Registration for this event is through the Iowa Library Services Continuing Education Catalog, at <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/cgi-bin/cecat/>. The event number is: YS-ELPMar2013.

## Sensory Storytimes - by Judy Dirkse

Rose sat quietly while bubbles danced around her. During storytime she sat on her grandma's lap and when we moved our bodies to the rhythm of the songs or action rhymes she smiled, but didn't join in the activity. At the sensory centers she sat in the middle of the cotton balls we had scattered on the floor as snow and smiled at everyone. She didn't say a word. It was her first week at Sensory Storytime.

On Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, we launched a new program at our library, Sensory Storytime, an interactive literacy-based program with activities that support gross and fine motor skill development. It is especially designed for children with sensory integration challenges but can be enjoyed by all children. Our program includes books, songs, rhymes and active movement activities that stimulate all of the five senses and promote learning. Although the program is geared to children 4-7 years, we welcome families with children of all ages. We require that each child be accompanied by an adult who is willing to participate in the activities.



When they enter the story room, the children will find bubbles blowing from a bubble machine, wooden puzzles and building materials on the floor, and off to the side of the room, a balance beam, stepping stones, tunnel, jumping balls and a trampoline. While music plays softly the children are given time for active movement to prepare them for a quiet storytime.

We begin our storytime by introducing the theme for the day and reviewing the schedule which is posted on a flannel board. Interactive books, puppets, and flannel boards are used to tell stories and the children are encouraged to participate in the story telling and active rhymes. Between stories the children engage in large movement activities to prepare them to sit quietly for the next book.

Our theme for that first Sensory Storytime was snow. After a few active rhymes about snowmen and snowballs we had the children lay down on the floor and, while music played softly, we dropped tissues around the room and onto their bodies. When the music ended we had the children line up on either side of the carpet and participate in a "snowball" fight. Their faces lit up whenever they hit Miss Becky or Miss Judy with one of their snowballs. After storytime the children and parents were invited to the sensory centers where they could move freely around the room to make snowmen with glitter play-dough, sift their fingers through a bowl of cold Insta-snow, shovel cotton balls into pails, and draw, color or make a snowman craft.



We have a variety of centers planned for future Sensory Storytimes. For a baking theme, our centers will include gingerbread play-dough, a tub of salt with spices mixed in, along with measuring spoons, measuring cups, bowls, cookie sheets, plastic pots and pans and a stove top. For our Valentine's Day centers we plan

to have two sensory tubs, one with pink colored scented rice mixed with small hearts and other items, and a sensory tub with red, white, and pink pom-poms, beads, fabric flower petals, foam hearts and small valentines for each child. A mailbox center with index cards, colors and stickers will allow the children to make and mail valentines to family and friends. Later this year we plan to use colored noodles or green water beads along with green play-dough for a monster theme.

During center times, parents have an opportunity to meet and visit with other parents for encouragement and support. Materials on fine and gross motor skills and early childhood literacy development will be available along with lists of books that are appropriate for the development stage of their child.

Sensory Storytime takes a lot of effort, from planning, preparing, and setting up to implementing and clean up, but the rewards are fantastic. A mother of two active boys who both struggle with sensory integration challenges approached us with tears in her eyes.

She told us of an earlier experience she had with storytime when her sons were told frequently to sit down so others could see the book. She shared how thankful she is to find a place where her boys are accepted and encouraged.



Rose came back for the second storytime and this week she greeted us when she came into the story room. While other children were jumping on the stepping stones and jumpy balls, Rose was jumping in front of me with a smile on her face. I could tell she wanted me to jump with her and when I said no, she looked at me intently, grabbed both my knees tightly and said, "you". We jumped together, laughing at each other. Later, as Miss Becky was reading a book, Rose sat on my lap leaning her cheek tightly against mine. In the sensory centers, Rose participated in

several of the activities alongside the other children. She had found a safe place, a place where she could participate in her unique way.



To watch Rose find a place where she fits and to see tears in a mother's eyes when she describes her son's experience makes all the effort of planning and implementing Sensory Storytime worthwhile.

## Science at the library?

The Youth Services Roundtable on February 7<sup>th</sup> featured a discussion of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) at public libraries. The presenters' noted that libraries are including STEM education in many youth programs without realizing it. Counting, puzzles, sorting and observing all contribute to building STEM skills. Children learn about STEM by watching a gerbil carefully; by asking questions about what they see a goldfish do; by using materials like play dough in creative ways; by solving a problem using two small LEGOS in place of one large one; by separating plastic lids by color and size.

Here are a few simple ideas to help you get started:

- Tangrams: The websites at [http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/tangram\\_puzzles.htm](http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/tangram_puzzles.htm) and <http://www.makinglearningfun.com/themepages/MathTangrams.htm> offer some tangram templates to print out. You can use the patterns to cut your tangrams from fun foam or stiff felt, too. For smaller children, it helps to print out sheets with full-size diagrams so that they can place their tangram pieces on top of the paper. The Iowa Library Services District Offices have dies for cutting tangrams in 2 sizes (4 X 4" or 8 x 8"). Just contact your District Office about ordering a few sets.
- Start a LEGO club. [See the Read! Build! Play! website at <http://www.readbuildplay.com/> for lots of ideas from LEGO.]
- Offer "experiments" in place of crafts.
  - Magic Potions and Fizzing Formulas — <http://notjustcute.com/2011/06/06/magic-potions-and-fizzing-formulas-getting-kids-attention-with-chemistry-3/>
  - Painting with Water: Use larger paint brushes and buckets of water to paint sidewalks, benches, etc. Sponges or small paint rollers might be fun as well. Notice how the water brightens/darkens colors. Where does the water go? Discuss evaporation.
  - Elephant Toothpaste — <http://preschoolpowolpackets.blogspot.com/2012/01/science-experiment-elephant-toothpaste.html>
  - Tornado in a Jar — <http://www.inlieuofpreschool.com/2012/03/tornado-in-bottle-easiest-science.html>
- Make a STEM "center" simply by putting out items that encourage experimentation. For example, magnifying glasses, colored sheets of mylar, "fun house" mirrors and other things that distort or change vision would be fun for preschoolers to experiment with. Do you have an old postal scale to weigh things? Check out "Discover Bottles" at <http://pre-schoolplay.blogspot.com/2011/09/discovery-bottles.html>.

•Add STEM websites to your list of recommended sites for kids. If your website suggests good sites for kids or if you post a "site-of-the-day" near your computers, include some that feature science and technology. Some examples:

- Scale of the Universe — <http://htwins.net/scale2/>
- Vsauce — <http://www.youtube.com/user/Vsauce>
- Vi Hart Blog — <http://vihart.com/>
- Science News for Kids — <http://www.sciencenewsforkids.org/>

•Add nonfiction picturebooks to story hour.

•Display books on STEM themes. Here are a few suggestions:

- *Snowflake Bentley* by Jacqueline Briggs Martin
- *What Makes Me Me?* by Robert Winston
- *It's Elementary: Putting the Crackle Into Chemistry* by Robert Winston
- *Crinkleroot's Guide to Knowing the Trees* and other books by Jim Arnosky
- *Iggy Peck, Architect* by Andrea Beaty
- *Animal Grossology: The Science of Creatures Gross and Disgusting* and *Hands-On Grossology* by Sylvia Branzei

Resources:

- Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council website — <http://www.iowastem.gov/>
- Lunar and Planetary Institute — <http://www.lpi.usra.edu/education/>
- Stem Resources from the Idaho Commission for Libraries — <http://libraries.idaho.gov/STEM-Resources>
- STEM Resources from YALSA — [http://wikis.ala.org/yalsa/index.php/STEM\\_Resources](http://wikis.ala.org/yalsa/index.php/STEM_Resources)

## Kids First Update

If you haven't registered for Kids First, you can do so using the form at <http://www.statelibraryofia.org/ld/t-z/youthservices/kidsfirst%202011/kids-first-2013>.

The conference begins with a casual get-together at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 28 at the Ramada Tropics Resort in Urbandale. The conference program continues with lots of great speakers on Monday and Tuesday.

Bring along an entry for the Altered Books contest in the "Maker Space" craft room - or bring a weeded book and start your altered book with materials we have on hand. *[Although it is not required, it would help us to know how many entries to expect - please email [sue.gruber@lib.state.ia.us](mailto:sue.gruber@lib.state.ia.us) if you plan to bring an altered book. There is no limit on the number*

*of entries per person or library. This might be a good project for your teen group!]* The craft room will feature several craft projects that you can make on the spot as well as displays of craft ideas. Die cut machines will be available, so bring along a bit of cardstock or construction paper and make a few cut-outs!

## Odds & Ends

"7 Reasons Why Young Adult Books Appeal to Adults" by Jacquelyn Mitchard — [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jacquelyn-mitchard/7-reasons-young-adult-book\\_b\\_2200105.html?ncid=edlinkusaolp00000003](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jacquelyn-mitchard/7-reasons-young-adult-book_b_2200105.html?ncid=edlinkusaolp00000003)

The Hub: Your Connection to Teen Reads (from YALSA) — <http://www.yalsa.ala.org/thehub/>

Dan Wardell's "Reading Road Trip" is coming to Iowa libraries listed on the blog at <http://blogs.ipvtv.org/blogs/dantastic/category/2013-reading-road-trip/>

Earth Day Crafts — <http://www.thecraftycrow.net/earth-day/>

Bookmaking With Kids — <http://www.bookmakingwithkids.com/> (lots of ideas to explore!)

"Teen Usability: Designing Teen-Targeted Websites" — *"Teens are (over)confident in their web abilities, but they perform worse than adults. Lower reading levels, impatience, and undeveloped research skills reduce teens' task success and require simple, relatable sites."* — <http://www.nngroup.com/articles/usability-of-websites-for-teenagers/> [Thanks to Roy Kenagy for this suggestion!]

An archive of the webinar "Designing Interactive Library Spaces" is available at [http://gla.georgialibraries.org/mediawiki/index.php/Carterette\\_Series\\_Webinars\\_Archive](http://gla.georgialibraries.org/mediawiki/index.php/Carterette_Series_Webinars_Archive). There are some interesting ideas there for youth services!

"so tomorrow: ideas for libraries & librarians" — a blog at <http://www.sotomorrowblog.com/>

"'STEAM' education gains momentum in schools: A growing number of experts say the arts should be included in STEM education initiatives," an article from *eSchool News* — <http://www.eschoolnews.com/2013/01/21/steam-education-gains-momentum-in-schools/>