

The YAC

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



April 2014

Upcoming Events:

April 5-12 - Money Smart Week (<http://www.moneysmartweek.org/>)

April 12 - D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read) Day
(<http://www.dropeverythingandread.com/NationalDEARday.html>)

April 13-19 - National Library Week

April 22 - Earth Day

April 25 - Arbor Day

April 30 - El día de los niños/día de los libros (Children's Day/Book Day)
(<http://www.patmora.com/whats-dia/>)

May 1-7 - Choose Privacy Week (<http://chooseprivacyweek.org/>)

May 12-18 - Children's Book Week (<http://www.bookweekonline.com/> -- Voting for Children's Choice Book Awards ends May 12th)

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

Plan Ahead for these Special Events:

- September is Library Card Sign-Up Month (see article below)
- Banned Books Week is September 21-27: <http://www.bannedbooksweek.org/>
- Teen Read Week is October 12-18: <http://teenreadweek.ning.com/>
- November is Picture Book Month: <http://picturebookmonth.com/>
- International Games Day is November 15: <http://igd.ala.org/>

Occasions for Special Displays/Program Themes for June:

- June 2 - Birthday of Helen Oxenbury
- June 14 - Flag Day
- June 15 - Benjamin Franklin flew his kite with a key during a storm in 1752
- June 16 - The Alaska Gold Rush began in 1897
- June 18 - Birthday of Chris Van Allsburg
- June 19 - Garfield made his debut in 1978
- June 21 - Summer Solstice
- June 25 - Birthday of Eric Carle
- June 30 - Birthday of David McPhail

Better Storytimes - Movement!

The ALSC early literacy initiative, "Every Child Ready to Read," focuses on five practices for developing early literacy skills: Talking, Singing, Reading, Writing, and Playing. Often "playing" is left for time outside of storyhour. Children do not make a distinction between mental and physical activities, but large, full-body movement is important to learning. Whether it is dancing to music, chasing bubbles, or tossing soft balls, you can incorporate movement into your storytimes.



Here are a few simple ideas:

- Concepts like over, under, and beside are easier to learn when acted out. Give each child a bean bag or similar item to place over their head, under their toes, and so on as you lead them.
- Have children twirl "scarves" (long strips of cloth) to act out the concepts high/low or fast/slow.

- Be “puddle jumpers” by hopping over paper puddles (or carpet squares, etc.) that are lined up around the room. Should the children jump *in* the puddles or *over* them?
- Carpet squares are also a good way to indicate each child's own space. When each child has his own space, the leader can indicate which activities should be done “in your own spot.”
- Play hopscotch! You can use masking tape and construction paper indoors or chalk on the sidewalk. Children will practice numbers as well as developing motor skills.
- Practice balance by drawing handprints and footprints on large sheets of construction paper placed in a line around the room. Children should place the indicated body part in place and count to 3 before moving on. Do several combinations with right foot and left hand, both feet, both knees (circles), etc. Depending on the age group, you might add elbows (smaller circles) or more difficult combinations.
- Toss bean bags into buckets or boxes. If you are in a creative mood, you can decorate your containers in a special way (make the opening look like a monster's mouth, the center of a large flower, or whatever fits your theme).

You can learn more about this topic by attending the free webinar on April 9: “Get up and move! Why movement is part of early literacy skills development” with Dr. Allison Kaplan.



In this webinar, participants will learn about the important role moving, playing instruments, and pretending have in helping children ages 0-4 develop early literacy skills and how to incorporate those into storytime programming.

Register: <http://www.slis.wisc.edu/2014webinars.htm>

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month

Plan ahead for this promotion sponsored by ALA. You have an entire month to encourage young people to sign up for a library card and to promote resources that are available at the library and at home using the card.

Your [District Office](#) can help with some lettering for bulletin boards such as those pictured below. Add your own clip art, photos, confetti, and so on!

Here are a few other themes you might like:

- Get Carded @ your library
- KEEP CALM AND CARRY ONE

- Your Freedom Card
- The World in Your Pocket with a Library Card
- Having Fun Isn't Hard When You Have a Library Card



For more ideas, including "60 Ways to Use Your Library Card," (scroll down to the bottom of the page): <http://www.ala.org/conferencesevents/celebrationweeks/card>

Weather Storytime

April is the perfect time to do a storytime or program about weather!

Suggested Read-Alouds:

- *Little Cloud* by Eric Carle
- *The Bears in the Bed and the Great Big Storm* by Paul Bright

- *Totally Polar* by Marty Crisp (Peter worries that it will snow so much that he won't be able to open the door and he will have to burn his homework to keep warm. The joke is that it is actually June and Peter end up going to the beach wearing long johns and mukluks.)
- "It's Raining Pigs and Noodles" by Jack Prelutsky from the book by the same title.
- *Raindrop, Plop!* by Wendy Cheyette Lewison
- *Windblown* by Édouard Manceau

Easy Crafts/Activities:



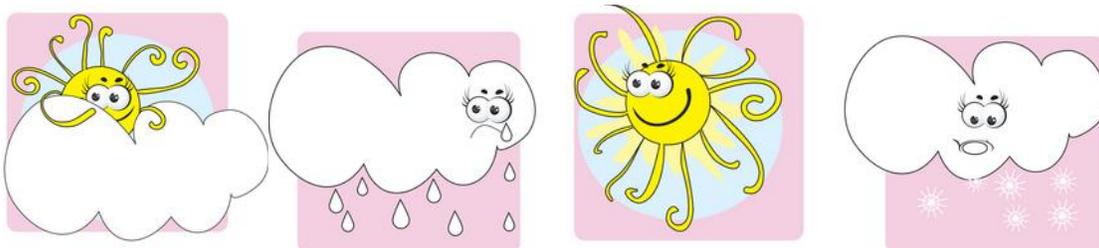
- **Make clouds** by folding a sheet of blue construction paper in half and dripping white paint on one half. When you have several blobs of various sizes, fold the paper again. Unfold to see your inkblot-style clouds.

- **"Weave a little sunshine"** with a bit of yarn and cardboard sun cut-outs:

<http://www.teachpreschool.org/2012/03/weaving-up-a-little-sunshine/>

- Illustrations of **trees through the seasons** is one way to start a discussion of the corresponding weather changes with preschoolers. Fruit Loop trees would be a fun craft and discussion combination. See: <http://kelloggsfrootloops.tumblr.com/post/59700077193/help-your-kids-learn-about-seasons-with-this>
- Paper dolls with **seasonal clothing** make great flannel board pieces. Try one of these:
 - 1) "Making Friends": http://www.makingfriends.com/friends/f_seasonal.htm
 - 2) Family Crafts: <http://familycrafts.about.com/od/paperdolls/tp/paperdolls.htm>
 - 3) "Colour Clothes and Dress Up Paper Doll": <http://saraseflresources.blogspot.com/2012/12/colour-clothes-and-dress-up-paper-dolls.html#.Uz3IkFcVAQI>

(These will be even better if you are able to enlarge them using your copier!)



Weather-Related **Die Cut Shapes** Available through Your District Office:

- Sun
- Raindrops
- Clouds
- Snowflake
- Lightning
- Umbrella
- Wind

*See all of the die cuts shapes available from Iowa Library Services:

<http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/ld/c-d/diecuts>

Tippie Joins the Robey Memorial Library

Local artist Val Miller, of Steel Cow gallery, painted this mural of Tippie the Cow for the newly renovated library in Waukon. Patrons, young and old, think Tippie is awesome and appreciate the artists' contribution to the library.



Thanks to Ellen (Ellie) Krousie, Library Aide and Children's Programming Coordinator for sharing these photos.

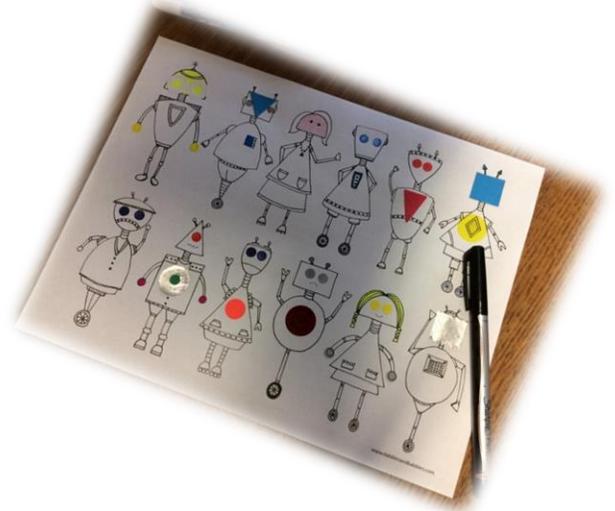
Odds & Ends

°Add features and other elements to the robots on this coloring page for a **quick Summer Library**

Program activity:

<http://dabblesandbabbles.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Robots.pdf>

By providing some small stickers and shapes, you can make this a more creative activity. (I didn't have the time to color everything, but you get the idea.)



°Create simple **mini-posters or signs** with your **own message** at: <http://recitethis.com/>

°Activities for toddlers using **recycled foam trays**: <http://creativewithkids.com/5-engaging-toddler-activities-from-the-recycle-bin/>

°Split a swimming pool noodle in half lengthwise to make a **simple race track** for marbles! See: <http://spoonful.com/family-fun/marble-launch>

°Have a **carrot hunt** (in place of an egg hunt). Use the printable carrot template at: <http://www.silkysteps.com/pages-home-setting-communication-ideas/carrot-search-spring-time-activity-alternative-to-egg-hunt.html>

° Dollar General Youth Literacy applications are due May 22nd. Take a look at the website to see if you have a program that might qualify: http://www2.dollargeneral.com/dgliteracy/Pages/grant_programs.aspx#ylg

°Now that so many parents are entertaining young children with tablets, here are some **free online games** for preschoolers and parents that you can suggest when they visit the library:

- Build Your Wild Self: www.buildyourwildself.com
- ABC Games (PBS Kids): <http://pbskids.org/games/abc/>
- Fungooms: <http://fungooms.com/>
- Peep and the Big Wild World: <http://www.peepandthebigwideworld.com/>

°If you missed the webinar "**Many Children, Many Cultures: Incorporating Dia into Your Library's Programming**" on April 2nd, a recording is available on the Iowa Library Services website at: <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/ld/c-d/continuing-ed/conted-ials/archives-webinar>