

The YAC

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



December 2012

Upcoming Events:

January 18, 2013 (Johnston Public Library) and Saturday, January 19, 2013 (Waterloo Public Library) - **Performers' Showcases**

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

March 16 - **Freedom of Information Day**

April 29-30, 2013 - **Kids First**, Des Moines

Occasions for Special Displays/Program Themes to Plan for in February:

- 2 - Ground Hog Day
- 7 - Birthday of Charles Dickens & Laura Ingalls Wilder
- 10 - Chinese New Year (Year of the Snake; see <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/chinesenewyear/> for ideas)
- 11 - Birthday of Jane Yolen
- 12 - Birthday of Judy Blume
- 14 - Valentine's Day





One solution to dwindling attendance at conventional story hour programs is to consider a switch to quarterly or semi-annual *family* literacy events to be held in the evening or on weekends. Where do you begin to plan a family literacy event? Here are a few suggestions (gathered from articles and reports from libraries who have tried it) and some resources to help you plan an event yourself:

- First, decide on the **scope** of your event. Will you have a simple family story hour with a single craft or a more expansive event with many activities? You may wish to start small and expand as interest grows.
- Of course, you will need to set a **budget** for your event. Consider writing a grant or asking for donations. Think about partnering with local schools or social service agencies.
- Ask a group of parents to **help** plan and carry-out the event. You might start with parents who are loyal attendees at story hours and other children's programs.
- Pick a **theme**. You might tie your theme to a holiday or the Summer Library Program. Other themes suggestions are a library pajama party, birthday party for an author or character, pirates, dinosaurs, or the circus. The Idaho Reads! Program suggests the theme "Around the World in 80 Days" using "passports" as reading logs and displaying books set in several locations around the world. This program allowed participants 80 days to complete reading goals for prizes.
- Family literacy events often include several "**stations**" where participants do crafts, games and other activities. Assess your space and decide on the number of stations that you can handle and possible arrangements.
- Decide if you will have **snacks**.
- Arrange for a guest reader or **storyteller**. This may serve as the closing to your event with all participants gathered together.
- Prepare some early literacy and English Language Learning **materials to distribute**.
- **Displays** are another important feature of a family literacy event. Posters, book displays and collections will serve to occupy participants waiting for a turn at crafts, etc.
- Set a few **rules** for the event. Will you allow older children without a parent? Will food be limited to one area?



More Activities:

- Make simple reading journals.
- Decorate "Do Not Disturb, I'm Reading" door hangers.
- Have small groups do impromptu Reader's Theater performances of favorite stories for the younger non-readers. Supply a script and a few simple props. [*Library Sparks* magazine includes a script in many issues.]
- Assemble mini-books like those at <http://www.dltk-teach.com/minibooks/index.htm> or <http://www.kidzone.ws/kindergarten/learning-letters/books.htm>.
- Make family mobiles with each member of the family adding 1 or 2 items.
- Sorting activities are good for preschoolers. Use something simple such as colored balls with colored buckets. Include a few activities that show parents that early literacy skills grow from matching and sorting.

Useful websites:

- Family Literacy Events from the Idaho State Department of Education -- http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/vista/family_lit.htm -- includes planning checklists and theme ideas.
- Washington Learning Systems -- <http://www.wlearning.com/> -- has many printable literacy tip sheets in several languages.
- "How to Kit" for Family Literacy Night -- <http://www.nwt.literacy.ca/resources/familit/howtokit/activnt2/activnt2.pdf>.
- The Washington Reading Corps Tool Kit at <http://www.servicelearning.org/filemanager/download/126/Toolkit%20Module%204%20-%20Family%20Involvement.pdf> includes an event-planning check list (page 26).

Helpful Print Resources:

- *Shake-It-Up Tales!* and others by Margaret Read MacDonald - for stories to tell.
- *Ready-to-Tell-Tales from Around the World* by David Holt and Bill Mooney - more stories for telling.
- "Noisy Stories: Family Storytime" from the February 2004 issue of *Library Sparks* magazine offers a plan for a fun, **interactive** storyhour for all ages. Books recommended are *Horace and Morris Join the Chorus* by James Howe; *My Truck Is Stuck!* by Keven Lewis and Daniel Kirk; *Old MacDonald Had a Woodshop* by Lisa Shulman; *Bark, George* by Jules Feiffer; and *It Could Always Be Worse* by Margot Zemach.
- *The Complete Learning Spaces Book for Infants and Toddlers*. Rebecca Isbell and Christy Isbell - ideas for learning stations.



Arranging Picture Books by Subject

Some libraries across the country have begun to arrange their picture book collection according to subject so that children (and caregivers) can easily find books of special interest to them. This system makes it easy for library staff to answer patron questions such as "Where are the robot books?" and it makes the books easy to re-shelve.

Suggested subject categories are: 1) transportation, 2) animals and nature, 3) celebrations (holiday-related), 4) folk tales, 5) rhymes and songs, 6) "all about me," 7) concept books (shapes, alphabet, etc.), 8) favorites/classics and 9) stories. Each section would be assigned a color and each book would have a colored sticker. It is possible to create subsections, too - such as a section for "trains" within the transportation section.

Interested? You might find these slideshare presentations from ALA 2012 helpful: Gretchen Caserotti's "Kid Lit ReOrg" at <http://www.slideshare.net/gcaserotti> and "I Want a ____ Book" at <http://www.slideshare.net/balaskaplan/i-want-a-truck-book-metis-presentation>.

A "Featured Author" Display

It is easy to create a library display centered on a popular children's author. First, choose an author that is well-represented in your collection (or purchase a few extra copies of that author's books). Second, provide some biographical materials and photos of the author. Most authors have websites that provide some background information. See Kay Vandergrift's listing at <http://comminfo.rutgers.edu/professional-development/childlit/AuthorSite/> or Jamie Boston's at <http://www.djUSD.k12.ca.us/harper/jboston/AuthorsandIllustratorsontheWeb.htm>. These materials could be posted on a bulletin board or propped on a small easel alongside the books. You may want to add some related materials such as non-fiction books, maps, and artifacts related to the countries or subjects the featured author writes about. Tying your author display to an event is especially effective - such as featuring Pam Muñoz Ryan during Hispanic Heritage Month or Ezra Jack Keats during Black History Month.



Odds & Ends

*Registration for "**Show and Tell," Iowa's Performers' Showcases**, is now open in the Iowa Library Services/State Library of Iowa continuing education catalog, at <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/cgi-bin/cecat/>.

The event number for this event, held in two locations, is YS-PSWin2013.

This year's Showcases will be held on Friday, January 18, 2013 at the Johnston Public Library, 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., and on Saturday, January 19, 2013, at the Waterloo Public Library, also from 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

This year's sessions are FREE. There will be no lunch provided this year. Feel free to "brown-bag it" to spend time with the performers and each other, or eat during the one-hour lunch break at nearby restaurants. Each entertainer is on stage for 15 minutes and is then available at a table space throughout the day. There will be a variety of acts perfect for summer reading programs and other special events.

Four hours of CE credit will be awarded to attendees.

*"Tomás and the Library Lady" will be the featured play at the Rose Theater in Omaha between January 25 and February 10. For detailed information, see the website at <http://www.rosetheater.org/>.

*Information about the Iowa High School Battle of the Books competition is posted at <https://sites.google.com/site/ihsbobooks/home>. Public librarians may act as team sponsors.

*Mem Fox's "Ten Read-Aloud Commandments" -- <http://www.memfox.com/ten-read-aloud-commandments.html>.

*Here's a project for the winter months - a milk jug igloo! See <http://www.squidoo.com/milk-jug-igloo> or <http://www.littlegiraffes.com/igloo.html?105,45>.

*Books for the College Bound - four reading lists for teens on their way to college are posted on the AdLit website at http://www.adlit.org/ready_for_college/.

*Make the YAC better! We would love to include more news and ideas from Iowa libraries. Please tell us about a successful event, suggest craft ideas for coming months, recount funny things kids say at storytime, and so on. Photos are welcomed, too. Email sue.gruber@lib.state.ia.us with your contributions.

