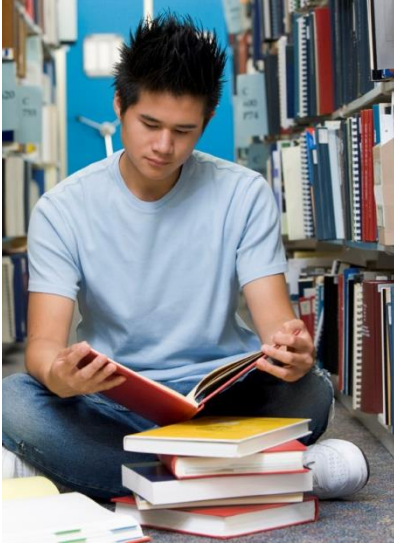


The YAC



A Newsletter for Iowa Library Staff Who Work with Youth and Children

Upcoming Events:

- [Read Across America Day](#) - March 2
- [Teen Tech Week](#) - March 5-11
- [International Women's Day](#) - March 8
- [World Poetry Day](#) - March 21
- [Tolkien Reading Day](#) - March 25
- [National Library Week](#) - April 9-15, 2017.
- [Money Smart Week](#) - April 22-29, 2017.
- [Children's Day/Book Day - El día de los niños/El día de los libros \(Día\)](#) - April 30th.
- [Kids First Conference](#) - May 1-3
- [Children's Book Week](#) is May 1-7, 2017.
- Solar Eclipse - August 21
<http://www.starnetlibraries.org/2017eclipse/>
<https://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/SEgoogle/SEgoogle2001/SE2017Aug21Tgoogle.html>

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



Occasions for Special Displays/Program Themes in May:

- May is "Get Caught Reading" Month
<http://www.getcaughtreading.org/>
- 4 - The 19th Amendment to the Constitution was passed in 1920 - giving women the right to vote.
- 5 - Leo Lionni's Birthday
- 7-13 - Teacher Appreciation Week
<http://www.pta.org/thankateacher>
- 22 - *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* premiered in 1967 & Birthday of Arnold Lobel
- 27 - Masking Tape was patented in 1930
Make masking tape art! For example: <http://theimaginationtree.com/2012/03/tape-resist-art.html>

Occasions for Special Displays/Program Themes in June:

- June is GLBT Book Month
<http://www.ala.org/glbtrt/glb-book-month>
- 3 - First U.S. Space Walk in 1965
- 8 - Ice Cream was first sold commercially in the U.S. in 1786
- 9 - Donald Duck was "born" in 1934
- 11 - Birthday of Robert Munsch
- 24 - Birthday of Jean Marzollo
- 28 - Paul Bunyan Day
- 29 - Read David Wiesner's book *June 29, 1999*

Creative Programming



App Time - This idea comes from the Plano (Texas) Public Library: Every storytime introduces a new concept (numbers, animal sounds, etc.) using traditional flannel boards and books. Then the leader recommends 2 related apps to the parents & caregivers.




Another fun idea comes from the Lindenhurst Memorial Library in New York: Their "**Tech Take Apart Day**" is a popular program involving teen volunteers. Children in elementary grades (along with their caregivers) take apart electronic devices - broken computers, telephones and small appliances to find out about their component parts.




Have a retirement home near your library? Shawn Hinger, a school librarian in Athens, Georgia recently began a program called "**Open Books, Open Doors**" to recruit residents of a nearby retirement community to help struggling readers.

Hinger also plans Maker space activities that teach sustainability: Planting an herb garden and beginning a compost pile.

 **Anji Play** is an early childhood curriculum from Anji County, China. Based on the principles of Love, Risk, Joy, Engagement and Reflection, this curriculum is quickly becoming popular worldwide and libraries are incorporating the principles into their programming.

Also called "True Play," the curriculum allows children to play as they choose with a variety of basic materials such as blocks or sand in environments that have minimal structure. Natural surroundings are preferred. Adults simply observe and support without directing the activities. At the end of each session, children reflect on what they've created and experienced verbally or through drawing.

See <http://www.anjiply.com/> for more information.

 **Create Your Own Holiday:** What young person doesn't like a celebration? Ask your group of teens or tweens what they would like to celebrate -- they might wish to celebrate a favorite author's birthday, the anniversary of an important event, or an appreciation of some common invention. Have participants do some background research and present the case for their suggestions - including ideas for decorations and activities. Vote on the most exciting and feasible idea to carry out.

Celebrating Día on April 30

El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Día) or Children's Day/Book Day is held annually on April 30. In 1996, author Pat Mora proposed linking the Mexican celebration of Children's Day (El Día Del Niño) with literacy awareness to found El día de los niños/El día de los libros. Of course, literacy awareness continues all year, so you can choose any day to celebrate!

Links:

- Día: Diversity in Action -- <http://dia.ala.org/>
- ALSC Resource Book for Día -- <http://dia.ala.org/sites/default/files/resources/DiaResourceGuide.pdf>
- Día Press Kit (watch for updates!) -- <http://www.ala.org/news/mediapresscenter/presskits/diapk>
- Pat Mora's Día planning booklet -- <http://www.patmora.com/dia-planning-booklet/>
- Recorded webinar from the State Library of Iowa -- <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/ld/c-d/continuing-ed/conted-ials/archives-webinar/many-child-dia>

For crafts and activities, you might borrow ideas from Cinco de Mayo, Day of the Dead, and Hispanic Heritage Month that you find online. Here are just a few suggestions:

- Castanet from paper plate and buttons -- http://www.firstpalette.com/Craft_themes/Music/castanets/castanets.html
- Maracas made from plastic eggs taped between two spoons (and more!): <http://www.njfamily.com/Great-Cinco-De-Mayo-Crafts-for-Kids/>
- Serape bookmarks (example at right) - All you need are strips of stiff paper, straight edges (rulers, etc.) and markers. Tip: Add the black accent lines last!



Kids First

This year's Kids First Conference will be held on May 1 & 2 with a post-conference on May 3. The location is the Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport at 6111 Fleur Drive in Des Moines. You can reserve your hotel rooms at the \$95 conference rate by calling 515-287-2400 or 800-248-4013. Just ask for the Kids First rate. Rooms are available for Sunday, Monday and Tuesday nights.

Featured speakers include "Miss Carole" Stephens of Macaroni Soup, Linda Braun of Librarians & Educators Online, author Candace Fleming, and Newbery Award-winning author Kelly Barnhill.

As in recent years, we plan to have a Crafts room including an altered books contest. So, start working on your altered book entry and watch for details!

The post-conference is a training called "Askable Adults Matter" with Council Bluffs Public Library Teen Services Manager Anna Hartmann. The registration form and details about the Conference are posted on the State Library website at <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/ld/t-z/youthservices/kidsfirst%202011/kids-first-2017>.

Dialogic Reading and Storytime

Dialogic Reading simply means having a conversation with your young listeners as you read aloud to them. This includes allowing them to interrupt when something in the story reminds them of real events in their lives. It also means asking thoughtful questions that help them think about the story - not so much questions to prove that they are listening or to test their knowledge of letters or vocabulary. Open-ended questions -- like "What do you think will happen to the little puppy?" or "What is Billy doing in this next picture?" -- are better than question with one-word answers.

Sometimes reading the same book at several storytimes allows the children to be the storytellers and the adult to become the listener.

Sequence is important as children retell a story. Flannel board pieces or other visual aids may help the children keep story events in order.

As always, the goal is to inspire a love of reading. Children will love reading if they can connect stories with their own lives, if reading time is relaxed, and if they have a chance to talk about what they read or what is read to them.



Odds & Ends

▪ Turn Down the Background Noise!

A new study indicates that background speech from television, radio or several people talking simultaneously may affect toddlers' language learning. The results demonstrate that word recognition is made more difficult with such auditory interference. Previous studies have shown that the average young child is exposed to nearly 4 hours each day of background noise from television. It is suggested that this practice reduces interaction between the child and caregiver, interferes with the child's concentration and lowers the child's performance on tasks that require thinking.

The following links provide more detailed information:

- <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/cdev.12559/abstract>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3757288/>
- <http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2012/10/01/162097132/researchers-say-kids-are-exposed-to-startling-amounts-of-background-tv>

▪ Learning to Talk on the Playground

Studies suggest that there is a 30-million-word gap between low- and upper-income children. That is, poor children hear, understand, and use many fewer words. A campaign in Oakland, California is bringing this message to area parks. Along with standard playground equipment, the park features white panels with cute illustrations and phrases like "let's talk about feelings" and "let's talk about food." The hope is that the panels will encourage caregivers and older siblings to start conversations with young children as they play. This seems like an idea that might be adapted to any area where children are playing - including the library!

Read more about it (and see photos of the panels) at:

<http://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2016/12/the-playground-where-babies-learn-to-talk/509420/>

- **Two Free Webinars from the University of Wisconsin-Madison**

April 4 at 12 p.m. CST: **Cheap and Easy: An Introduction to Passive Programming**
Emily Wichman ('02), Manager, Williamsburg Branch, Clermont County (OH) Public Library

April 25 at 12 p.m. CST: **More than Storytime: Outreach to Childcare Centers and Preschools**

Amy Commers ('08), Youth Services Librarian at the City of South St. Paul (MN) Public Library

Read full descriptions: <https://slis.wisc.edu/continuing-education/free-webinars/>

- **Little Golden Books** (a division of Random House) launched on October 1, 1942 - making this year the 75th anniversary of their publication. The website at <http://www.littlegoldenbooks.com> has lots of interesting history (and opportunities to reminisce) along with some printable activities for the children.

- **Great printable infographic on "How to Spot Fake News"** -- <http://blogs.ifla.org/lpa/files/2017/01/How-to-Spot-Fake-News.pdf>

- **March Early Literacy Activity Calendar (and more) from Upstart:** <http://ideas.demco.com/blog/>

- **The Ezra Jack Keats Foundation has created Mini-Grants** of up to \$500 for public schools and public libraries to fund projects that foster creative expression, working together and interaction with a diverse community. For more detailed information, see <http://www.ezra-jack-keats.org/section/ezra-jack-keats-mini-grant-program-for-public-libraries-public-schools/>. The deadline is March 31st.

- **Easy Melted Snowman Craft for Spring**



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