

June 2023

More STEM To Go & Storytime Kits!



We're so thrilled with the response to the kits - we created more!

New Storytime Kits include:

- **Alphabet Mats Kit** with ABC-themed stories, an ABC Wiggle Worm game and ABC Foam Puzzle Mats.
- **Parachute Play Kit** with parachute, props, stories, and activities.
- **Camping Storytime Kit** with a portable play tent and a pretend campfire set!
- **Color Tiles Storytime Kit** with Little Mouse, Little Mouse Color Game and 10 giant liquid floor color tiles (Dimensions are 19.5" x 19.5")!

For **STEM To Go Kits** - we have **two Sunspotter telescopes and two solar telescopes** (complete with stories and activities), courtesy of STAR-Net just in time for the eclipse season in 2023 and 2024! If you check out the telescopes - check out the State Library's KERNEL video to learn about more solar eclipses.

Remember, our checkout period is 5 weeks with no renewals. Questions? [Contact Janeé.](#)

[View the Solar Eclipse Activities for Libraries Kernel Video](#)

[Check Out Our STEM and Storytime Kits](#)



Summer Reading Check-In

We loved seeing pictures of your Summer Reading Program fun last year! We'll ask for more at the end of the season as part of the Summer Reading survey, so remember to take pics as the summer goes on! Please ensure any individuals that could be identified have given permission for your library to take and share their image.

Janeé Hits the Road!

Janeé would love to visit your library this summer to see your programs in action, including as a guest storytime reader, if you like! Feel free to extend an invitation to Janeé at Janee.Jackson-Doering@iowa.gov.

All Iowa Reads Author Webinars This Month!

Register Today!

Bring your teens and kids and join us in a few weeks for our All Iowa Reads author webinars.

Attendees can hear from the authors and ask questions!

Wednesday, June 14, 2:00-3:00 p.m. with Niki Smith, author of the 2023 kids title *The Golden Hour*.

Thursday, June 15, 4:00-5:00 p.m. with Angeline Bouley, author of the 2023 teen title *Firekeeper's Daughter*.

Both events will be moderated by the 2023 Iowa Student Poet Ambassador Lola Nakashima-Brooke. Lola is a junior from Davenport Central High School. Special thanks to Beaverdale Books for their generous donation to fund this year's virtual author visit from Niki Smith.

[Register for the All Iowa Reads Webinars](#)



Opportunity to Participate in Creating a Digital Game for Young Innovators

Dr. Ruth Small at the School of Information Studies, Syracuse University is co-PI on an IMLS National Leadership Grant entitled "Librarians & Children as Design Team Partners: Creating a Digital Game for Young Innovators." The focus of this grant is to develop a digital story-game for young children (ages 7-10) that teaches the player the invention process in order to solve a problem in their home, school or community. In addition, a number of information literacy skills are taught or reinforced as the player proceeds through the story-game experience.

The team is creating a 15-member Librarians' Design Team (LDT) to help advise a team of artists, designers, and programmers about the design of the story and game, its characters, settings, storyline, and games. Iowa has been selected as one of the nine from which the team is recruiting.

Participant Expectations

Each member of the LDT will be asked to commit to a 12-month participation period in which they must: (1) attend two meetings and 10 focus group sessions, (2) create a program or unit of instruction that spans at least two days' time in which they share the story-game with a group of at least 15 children, (3) evaluate their program/unit and (4) share what they have learned in a brief best practices document, which will be published on our website. All tasks have a related compensation. The story-game and all related deliverables will be made available to librarians world-wide through our well-known and freely-available youth innovation website at <https://theinnovationdestination.net>

If you are interested in participating, please contact Dr. Small at drruth@syr.edu.

New Youth Services Endorsement Courses

Updated with New Content!

If you haven't gone through the Youth Services Endorsement, now is a good time to start!

We've refreshed the six modules of the Youth Services Course with new faces and new content. If you're currently enrolled in that Endorsement, you'll see the new content on your IA Learns dashboard when next you log in.



If you've already completed the endorsement, but want to review the updated version, please feel free to audit the courses in IA Learns, [or on our YouTube Channel](#).

If you're new to the Youth Services Endorsement, review the Endorsement Program and apply on the State Library's Website.

[About the Endorsement Program](#)

Brainfuse Online Summer Skills Camp

Need some boredom busters to keep kids engaged? Don't let what kids learned in school fade away this summer!

Keep their skills engaged and prevent the Summer Slide by visiting Brainfuse's Online Summer Skills Camp.

Brainfuse Help Now has activated their Summer Skills Camp of their database for Iowa libraries! It has printable worksheets in all kinds of subjects for free. This is a great resource for caregivers too!

#BrainfuseCommunity #SummerSkills #BrainExercises #OnlineSummerSkillsCamp #LearnNewSkills

Access the Summer Skills Camp from your library's Brainfuse Help Now website under "Skill Surfer."



Upcoming Youth Services CE Opportunities



Check It Out Book Talk Series

Tuesday, June 27, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Join us for our webinar spotlighting the best new books for ages 0-18. Janeé will share book talks on the latest titles - including book suggestions for Storytime! There's a prize giveaway, too! Check It Out! shares collection development tips, publishing trends, and more!

[Register for Check It Out](#)

Resource of the Month

STEM Activity Clearinghouse

Did you know that the STEM Activity Clearinghouse has **more than 600 STEM activities** and lessons that librarians can download and use for **FREE**?

The clearinghouse is managed by the Science Space Institute. Activities on this site are tried, tested and reviewed by other librarians! Educators can search their database by topic, age or grade.

[More About STEM Activity Clearinghouse](#)



State Library of Iowa Youth Services

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