



Kid Program Fun

Hands-On Programs

DramaRama – have kids put on a play based on a children’s book (Where the Wild Things Are; Very Hungry Caterpillar; Wise Monkey Tale; Anansi and the moss Covered Rock) – you narrate, they do the parts. Costumes unnecessary!

Podcasting Fun – download Audacity and let the kids podcast. They can create book reviews or other content that can be mounted on your webpage.

Science Magic - easy optical illusions/body tricks/science experiments that can be demonstrated and tried with kids. Make sure exploding rockets are part of the fun.

Book Bingo - A "get-outta-town" hit. Make up a bingo sheets of 16 blocks in publisher & rearrange characters & copy. Booktalk the books of the characters & then play for small prizes. The kids enjoy it way beyond belief.

TV Turn-Off Week – Keep in contact with schools, PTO’s and community organizations that sponsor TV Turn-off weeks. Organize events at the library and feature give-away bookmarks or bookbags.

On-going Clubs – try knitting; chess; scrapbooking; puppetry; lego; geneology; gaming (not just electronic but board games as well). Let them go 3 weeks, 6 weeks; or whatever the interest is

Stuffed Animal Sleepover - Ask kids to bring a favorite animal to spend an overnight at the library. Tell bedtime stories, tuck them in and the sleepover begins. Once kids are gone, take digital photos of their animals making mischief (and reading) around the library and print a few up to give each child the next day when they pick up their fuzzy friend.

Mardi Gras for Kids

Laissez le bon temps roulez! A fun child’s oriented version of the party in New Orleans. Make masks, decorate carts, have a parade around the library, eat King’s cake and more.

Book Character Parties - Dr. Seuss! Wimpy Kid! Dork Diaries! Very Hungry Caterpillar! If You Give a Mouse a Cookie! Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! Preschool and school age children and their families love the fun and it is a perfect way to let literacy and fun shine through.

Happy Birthday Books! - You get a birthday; I get a birthday but those poor books never get a birthday! A perfect way to party down for Children’s Book Week with those things that make libraries magical- books and their characters!

Stealth (or Passive) Programs



Programs that take some initial program planning and set-up but, once in place, are able to be administered easily with little ongoing time devoted to them. Stealth programs encourage people to return often to the library.

Summer Reading Program – yes, our traditional reading incentive program is a perfect example of a stealth program. We all do it, but did we know what amazing things we are supporting with total numbers of kids not usually seen at any “hands-on” program?

Tech Free Family Nights – Spread out board games, a few activity sheets, a reading corner stocked with books. & comfy chairs and let parents and kids enjoy the time together.

***1000 Books Before Kindergarten** - a multiyear take-home program that encourages reading aloud to birth-5 kids to prepare them for school and encourage use of the library. Families return to the library often to turn in sheets with names of books recorded. Kids add dots to a mural for each 1000 books read. A perfect marriage of early literacy support and library fun.

***Free-quent Reader Club** - Children receive a “Free-quent Reader” membership card for this two month club. When children check out books, they will get their membership card stamped (kids receive double stamps if they also attend a program). Kids with eight stamps by the end of the club receive a free book of their choice.

***Rubber Ducky Club** – A summer reading program for the littlest kids. Based on encouraging parents to practice pre-literacy skills with their babies and tots, children who participate receive a rubber ducky and a book.

*** Story Action Pods** – a way to engage children of all ages in book-extending activities, these do-it-yourself creative centers allow kids to creatively interact with favorite books and characters. We ask kids to hand in their sheets and then make them into a “book” in binders to share with them.

***this denotes program samples and PDFs that can be found at the Winding Rovers Library System website <http://www.wrlsweb.org/member-services/youth-services/> under “Passive Programming”**

Visit my blog Tiny Tips for Library Fun <http://tinytipsforlibraryfun.blogspot.com/>
for more program tips and trips!

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