

Program-a-Rama ALA Midwinter 2016 Notes

Lead by Amy Seto Forrester (Denver Public Library) and Danielle Jones (Multnomah County Library)

Introductions

Participants shared favorite programs. These included:

- A passive animal science program with stations and a clue sheet for kids to figure out which animal science each librarian is studying.
- DIY tween program where kids decide on the crafts and activities.
- Comics club for 4th and 5th graders.
- Stuffed animal pet show with stations, a runway show, and awards.
- Cardboard Creation Day- based on Kane's Arcade idea. Saved lots of cardboard boxes, filled a room, and provided scissors and \$20 worth of duct tape. Tip: Tell kids in advance that they can't take their creations home to avoid upsets!
- Preschool drive in movie - Made cars with cardboard boxes (copy paper boxes are great). Used plates for wheels. Provided other decorations (streamers, markers, etc.). Watched a short picture book video.
- Egg drop in partnership with the community. Saved recyclables for kids to package their eggs and then dropped them from a cherry picker. Only two rules: egg must be raw (not hard boiled) and materials must be shared. Targeted 3rd-5th graders.
- Star Wars Jedi Training Academy. Stations included Agility Training (jumping between "rocks"), printable mazes, and make your own lightsaber with toilet paper rolls and long balloons. Graduation certificate when all stations were completed. Served "Yoda Soda" and "Wookie Cookies." All ages, but mostly prek - 3rd graders.
- Frozen Singalong Movie. Registration required, 200+ spots filled in 4 hours! They did this program on a Tuesday at 2pm during winter break. They've also The Incredibles and all the librarians dressed up as superheroes. Another library did Finding Nemo and had an under the sea photo booth, as well as Monsters, Inc. with a monster photo booth. They did their movies on Fridays at 6:30 or 7pm. Another library does theirs Saturdays at 2pm.
- The Snowy Day Storybook Walk based on the book by Ezra Jack Keats. Crunch through newspaper like Peter crunches through the snow, throw a bean bag through a hoop.

Brainstorm ideas

Ideas for a Winnie-the-Pooh, 100-Acre-Wood event:

- Guess the number of bees in the honey pot with yellow and black jelly beans.
- A black raincloud game
- Rabbit's Hole-bean bag toss
- Pin the bee on the beehive with felt bees
- Draw Winnie's family portrait with his friends
- Vegetable snack for the Rabbit station

- Is this animal a marsupial - game with Kanga and Roo
- Teddy Bear picnic/teddy bear dance party
- Bounce like Tigger through an obstacle course
- Do the exercises Pooh does with music - up, down, touch the ground
- Make pop-up card (Roo in his pouch)
- Pin the tail on Eeyore
- Something with rain clouds or the weather
- Decorate a honey pot
- Hunt for a hidden Pooh
- Move like...Stretch like Pooh, bounce like Tigger, jump like rabbit, run like Piglet
- Some kind of honey treats
- Make an Owl mask, glasses or puppet

Ideas for pairings of non-fiction titles and STEM activities:

- Water is Water with ice and steam experiments
- Bubbles Float, Bubbles Pop with bubble wrap painting
- Water Everywhere with shaving cream and food coloring for "rain"
- Inventor's Secret with lights or invention activities
- Earmuffs for Everyone and making earmuffs
- A book about wind and making pinwheels
- Energy Island with pinwheels
- Gravity with dropping stuff to see how fast it falls
- Wilma Rudolph bio with "training camp" with activities
- Create a nature bottle. Walk around and fill up an empty water bottle with objects (like a 3D collage)
- Living Color with art made with one color
- Red, Green, Blue with finger painting
- Gingerbread for Liberty
- Queen of the Diamond with designing a baseball stadium
- An airplane book and then test which paper airplane designs work best
- Tricky Vic with DIY disguises
- Books on plants with garden in a glove
- How to Swallow a Pig and do a "recipe" with pictures
- One Beam of Light (Einstein bio) with light experiments
- A musician bio and then draw/paint to their music
- A weather book with tornado in a bottle
- A solar system book and then act out the planets and their rotation

Bookworm Club with "fine art" activities and crafts for 4-7 (ex. given was paper on the wall for kids to draw on with a book about cave art and paper taped under a chair for kids to draw on with a book pairing on the Sistine Chapel)

- Gravity pairing-tape paper vertically to table and let water colors drip down
- Sand art with glue

- Rip up paper to do collages Eric Carle style
- Paint with tennis balls in a big box
- Snowy Day - draw your house and neighborhood in the snow - decorate with cotton balls.
- Mix It Up - paint in a bag
- Looks Like Spilled Milk - paint with cotton balls instead of paint brush
- Snowflake Bentley - Ice cube painting with food coloring and water
- Universe in a plastic bottle - squeeze paint into bottle and shake
- Race track and cars with paint to drive
- Fruit and veggie prints
- Dot art - use pencil eraser, stamp ink or bingo markers - pair with *Press Here*
- Tea painting, or place tea bags on paper and spray with water
- Light painting
- Shadow puppets
- Trashy truck with recycled art
- All you need for a snowman - group drawing as you read
- Straw and clay sculptures
- Optical illusion
- Book The String - use stickerpaper. Give each kid a piece of string and have them arrange on the sticky then cover string and paper with foil. Press down around the string. Can color the foil with sharpies.
- Book The Dumpster Diver - make things out of recycled stuff.

Drop in projects for Pre-K through Middle Schoolers

- Sock snowmen with beans - simple for younger, older can sew on buttons and decorate more
- Mask decorating
- Clay play - set out salt dough for younger, air dry for older, can give out sculpture challenges for older kids
- Draw like a famous artist - i.e. Picasso style (show examples)
- Paper bag puppets
- Design a board game (or just color a checker board)
- Big puzzle - kids decorate a blank puzzle piece and put together in the end.
- Paper plate masks
- Collage making
- Bubble wrap painting
- Rubber stamps and blank little books
- Vegetable prints
- Duct tape
- Diorama boxes with different themes
- Create a family crest
- Making your own rubber stamp
- Make your own scratch art paper

- Make own book
- Put out recycled stuff
- Make recycled paper
- Design a maze
- sock puppets
- Suncatcher - put torn tissue paper in between contact paper

We finished up our session by discussing some of the programming challenges encountered and possible solutions.

Challenge: What do you do when you run out of stuff and more kids show up?

Possible solutions:

- Make more than you need, and use any leftovers for another program.
- Save extras in files and label.
- Put it in your calendar the date you want to reuse them for a tour, storytime, etc.

Challenge: What do you do when your program is meant for a specific age group, but a different age group shows up.

Possible solutions:

- Require registration.
- Plan and prep for a multi-age program.
- Have another activity available for the other age group.