Four County Library System
Summer Reading Program Session - Virtual/Self-Led/Grab-and-Go Programs
18 February 2021 – Via GoToMeeting

<u>Libraries represented</u>: AF, AN, BA, CV, DE, DI, ED, EN, MG, NI, NO, OT, OX, SH, SID, VE, WA, WO, WP

Virtual Programs
- Live programs
    o This offers more opportunity for your participants to interact with you in real time.
    o Will you want to do this on a public-facing platform, like Facebook or Instagram or YouTube?
    o Would you prefer to do it on a closed platform like Zoom, where people have to have a link to join in?
    o If possible, it would be great to have a second staff/volunteer logged into your live online program to help with the chat and deal with any potential problem participants.
    o Will you leave the session available to be viewed later?

- Pre-recorded programs
    o You will have more control over the finished product.
    o You can schedule this to be posted whenever you want—you don't have to be present.
    o This avoids the possibility of technical (or other) difficulties that might arise during a live session.

- Take-home component
    o You can have participants pick up supplies for an activity ahead of time, and they can do the project along with you.
    o This would work for both live and recorded types of programs.

- Copyright considerations
    o If you'll be reading from books, it's a good idea to be aware of the copyright guidelines from various publishers. While it may seem unlikely that a publisher would target a small library for copyright violations, it is still important to honor their wishes when it comes to sharing their works, as it protects the authors and illustrators that we love so much!
    o School Library Journal has a Google Doc with many publishers' guidelines listed: https://docs.google.com/document/d/113E-0ffElTRoI7zsvk6gjxrAgepeD-JGAD55-ftSfrc/edit It's not completely up to date—and some of the provisions seem to end in the first part of 2021—but some publishers don't have an end date for their provisions.

- "Ask a Lawyer" says that if you add enough to a book reading to create something new, it could be considered creating a work with independent meaning. Read more about that here: https://www.wnylrc.org/ask-the-lawyer/raqs/154
- Another option would be to retell a story in your own words, which can work really well with traditional tales and fairy tales. (However, if you read from and/or share illustrations from a published work of a traditional/fairy tale, copyright guidelines would still apply.)

- Hired performers
  - Last summer, 4CLS member libraries seemed to have mixed success with hired presenters who provided programming online. Some libraries saw an increase from their in-person numbers, and others were disappointed by the response.

Self-Led Programs
- Storywalk - https://www.kellogghubbard.org/storywalk
  - A Storywalk is an idea put together by a library in Vermont—the book is displayed, page by page along a path, and readers experience it as they go.
  - The website has a set of guidelines for creating a Storywalk—click on "Storywalk FAQs" at the bottom of the page.
  - If you use the term "Storywalk," it's important to give them credit somewhere— maybe at the beginning of the walk, where you introduce the story.
  - This is a great way to let families enjoy a story—and a little bit of physical activity—on their own time.
  - You can do this on library property, or you can partner with a park, or it could work to have story pages displayed in store windows so that people see them as they walk down a street.
  - It might be a good idea to have a guest book so that you get feedback from those who took advantage of the resource, and it can also give you an idea of how many people use it.
  - It could also be fun to add some activities for families to do along with the story.
  - It could be installed permanently, or it could be temporary/seasonal.
  - You'll want to think about how to keep the book pages from getting damaged by weather, and you will need at least two copies of the book to spread the story out. (Photocopying also goes against copyright guidelines.)
  - Several 4CLS libraries have already implemented Storywalks or something similar: Johnson City, Otego, Vestal, Walton, and maybe others, too!

- Scavenger hunt
  - This can be another good way to partner with local businesses, organizations, and/or parks.

- You can have families look for sights that are already located in town, or you can put pictures or objects in certain places around the community for families to find.
- Participants can submit photos to you, or you can give them a list to check off or fill out.
- You can offer a prize, especially if you want to encourage participants to visit the library.

Grab-and-Go Programs
- Crafts, STEM activities, etc. – Many things that you have done in the library can be translated to grab-and-go kits that participants can work on at home.

- Things to consider
  - What do you already have on hand? Maybe you can use up some of the things in your storage closet!
  - Do you want to do "first come, first served," or do you want people to sign up ahead of time?
  - Ages – Do you want to have the whole family participate together? Do you want something specific to certain age groups? Do you want to make similar activities for different skill/age levels so that a bunch of people can make similar projects?
  - Instructions – Will you provide written instructions or make an instructional video that participants can access online?
  - Supplies – Be careful not to assume that people have any given supply at home—even scissors or glue might not be available in some households.
  - Packaging – How will you package the kits? Can the packaging be used as part of the activity?
  - Will you ask participants to share photos of their projects with you?
  - It's a good idea to include book suggestions and/or information about other library services in the kits.

- Places to look for ideas
  - Programming Librarian - https://programminglibrarian.org/
  - Crafts by Amanda - https://craftsbyamanda.com/
  - Ontarian Librarian - https://ontarianlibrarian.com/library-program-ideas/
  - Project Learning Tree - https://www.plt.org/
  - Project Wet - https://www.projectwet.org/
  - Project Wild - https://www.fishwildlife.org/projectwild/project-wild-resources
  - Nature activities from the NY Dept of Environmental Conservation - https://www.dec.ny.gov/education/72444.html
  - NY Agriculture in the Classroom - https://ny.agclassroom.org/matrix/ (Search for the barnyard animal/topic that you'd like to find an activity for.)
  - "Tails and Tales" manual – Search for the word "Passive" to find activities that can be adjusted to fit a non-gathering type of program.

- o Facebook groups where you can find ideas and ask questions:
  - ▪ Programming Librarian Interest Group - www.facebook.com/groups/ProgrammingLibrarianInterestGroup
  - ▪ Teen Services Underground - www.facebook.com/groups/407834692712782
  - ▪ Storytime Underground - www.facebook.com/groups/storytimeunderground
  - ▪ CSLP's Official Summer Library Programming Group! - 2021 Tails & Tales - www.facebook.com/groups/cslp.planning

Other thoughts
- Shannon (OT) shared that the Penguin Random House and MacMillan publisher copyright guidelines were pretty easy to deal with, and they have a huge number of books in their catalog.
  - o Penguin Random House - www.penguinrandomhouse.com/penguin-random-house-temporary-open-license/
  - o MacMillan – us.macmillan.com/macmillan-content-use-guidelines/
- Jess (OX) shared that she's had a higher number of views on her storytimes when she's acted out the stories rather than just reading them.
- A question was raised about whether people had a better experience with an open platform like Facebook or a closed platform like Zoom. It was shared that Facebook seems to offer quicker access to a program, since it doesn't require a login or access code.
- A concern was expressed about putting a lot of work into an online storytime or a grab-and-go kit and having a smaller response than expected.
  - o A few libraries shared that they have noticed that sometimes things have taken a little while (a couple of months) to catch on, and then more people start participating.
  - o In terms of virtual programs, many kids are experiencing screen fatigue because of remote learning, so they may be reluctant to spend a lot of their free time in front of the computer.
  - o Jess (OX) shared that she attended a webinar about how to get your content viewed more often on Facebook without paying for ads. She will share her notes and let us know when she finds out about another one of these webinars.
- Pam (AN) shared that she's got a grant to build a bunch of grab-and-go kits with musical instruments, and she may have some to share! If you're interested in more information about the kits, you can contact her at an.ill@4cls.org.

Please feel free to get in touch with Sarah (sreid@4cls.org or 607-723-8236, ext. 350) if you have any questions or would like to talk something through. If she doesn't have the answer, she can point you in the direction of another person who has worked through a similar situation.