

Four County Library System
Summer Reading Program Session – Children’s Program Sharing
22 February 2021 – Via GoToMeeting

Libraries represented: BA, DI, OT, SH, SID, VE, WA, WO

A couple of considerations to think about

- Will you do in-person programs this summer or stick with virtual and grab-and-go types of programs?
 - o What will make your staff and your patrons feel safe?
 - o Your space may dictate some of these decisions. If you have an outdoor space (or a large indoor space), you’ll have some more flexibility and room to host more people in a socially distant setup.
 - o Colleen (SH) shared that they held programs in person outdoors last summer. Families picked up a craft to go, and the library had an activity that they could carry out onsite as a family unit without requiring interaction with other households. As they moved storytime indoors, they now require advance registration and limit the number of families that can participate at one time. They arrange the room so that each family has its own socially distant area.
- Consider planning programs that will be able to pivot easily—plan it for in person and be ready to switch to virtual/grab-and-go if conditions change (or vice versa).

Resources available at 4CLS

- Die cuts – There aren’t a ton of animal die cut shapes at 4CLS, but there are a few, and they can be borrowed (along with the die cut machine).
- Storytime kits – Some storytime kits are theme-related, with several books, activities, and/or props, and some kits have only one book with a related prop. (They can be found by searching *Storytime Kit* as a General search in Workflows.)
- Big Books – There are a bunch of animal-related Big Books, which can work well for in-person or virtual storytimes.
- Felt board sets – Some are collections on a theme (e.g. dinosaurs, jungle animals, etc.), and some are related
- Puppets – Starr LaTronica (Sarah’s predecessor at 4CLS) built an amazing collection of beautiful puppets—most of them animals—that are tucked away and waiting to be borrowed by member library staff!
- Lists of these resources can be found on the Youth Services page of the 4CLS Intranet (https://intranet.4cls.org/?page_id=56), and you can request to borrow items by getting in touch with Sarah (sreid@4cls.org or 607-723-8236, ext. 350). They are available all year long (not just during the summer), so please take advantage of these resources!

Idea sharing

- Sarah (4CLS) came across an incentive system for the SRP called “Read and Bead.” Participants receive a bead holder (necklace, pin, bookmark, etc.) at the beginning of the summer, and as they complete reading/activity goals, they earn beads to add to

their collection. Michael (SH) shared that Boy Scouts and summer camps often use this same idea, so some children may already be familiar with the concept. Shannon (OT) shared that she had seen some decorative metal bookmarks that could have a string attached to make the same idea appealing to adults/teens. If you're looking to move away from the small plastic prizes, this might be a good way to transition people to something new. (Keep in mind, though, that this wouldn't be appropriate for kids 3 and under because of the choking hazard issue.) Here's a link to more information: <http://readinthecorner.blogspot.com/p/read-bead.html>

- Michael and Colleen (SH) shared the following ideas:
 - o Connecting with the Future Farmers of America and agriculture programs at the local school
 - o Wolf Mountain, a local nature center with wolves, coyotes, and Arctic foxes, will present a program. (They are able to do in-person or virtual, depending on what's needed at the time.)
 - o Dan the Snake Man is presenting an in-person program on July 14. (If another library wants to hire him for that day, they can get a group rate.)
 - o Using animal costumes!
 - o Maybe having the police canine unit.
 - Erin (BA) said that she had worked with the NY State Troopers canine unit in the past, and she had connected with the education/outreach staff to set that up.
- Amber (WA) is planning to have these activities:
 - o Nan Hoffman will be sharing a musical program on July 31. (If another library wants to hire her for that day, they can get a group rate.)
 - o Outdoor movies with animal themes on Friday evenings in July.
- Susan (DI) shared that they have a new Youth Services librarian starting in March!
- Erin (BA) is planning on more grab-and-go types of programs, due to limited space at the library:
 - o Take-and-make kits
 - o Book bundles
 - o A Story Walk in town in coordination with the local Garden Club

Some places to find more ideas

- "Tails and Tales" Summer Reading Program Manual
 - o On the USB version of the manual, visit the "Programming Manual" folder and then the "Programming Manual by Age Group" folder to find sections broken down by age: babies, toddlers, preschool, children.
 - o There are book lists, rhymes, activities, etc., for each age level.
 - o 4CLS has two copies of the print version of the manual that can be borrowed.
- Cornell Cooperative Extension
 - o Reach out to your local chapter
 - 4H Educators may be able to help with (or offer) programming.

- CCE can help make connections with farmers (virtual tours, animal appearances, etc.)
 - 4H youth may have a need for presentation opportunities, especially if there's no fair this summer.
 - 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.)
- Suggestions from the Department of Environmental Conservation
 - 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>
 - Reach out to local parks or state parks – if you need a contact at a NY State Park, get in touch with Sarah (sreid@4cls.org), and she can connect with the contact at DEC to get the right information.
- Librarian pages
 - Programming Librarian - <https://programminglibrarian.org/>
 - Ontarian Librarian - <https://ontarianlibrarian.com/library-program-ideas/>
 - Storytime Katie - <https://storytimekatie.com/>
 - Jbrary - <https://jbrary.com/>
- Facebook groups
 - Storytime Underground - www.facebook.com/groups/storytimeunderground
 - CSLP's Official Summer Library Programming Group! - 2021 Tails & Tales - www.facebook.com/groups/cslp.planning