

Text chat transcript for Feb 11, 2014: Beyond the Rhymes, Part 2

Beth Saxton: This is a really great point, actually had better reactions from non-parent adults after they saw me doing storytime, they saw me doing something besides sitting at computer or checking out books

Ken CCCLib: Hi fr Contra Costa

Nancy V: Nancy from Solano County

Janet Parr: Hello from Rapid City, SD!

Kate: Hi from Ithaca, NY

Tracy Dodge: so do you not to registrations for your storytimes?

Chrissy Deffendall: My former library branch had Storytime in the meeting room, but we left the door open. Let me just say, EVERYONE heard me! (my kids tease me about working in a library, when I'm such a loud person.)

Tamara Palmer: Oh! we use those paw prints for Reading Buddies, the reading to animals program.

Karen: Karen in Fresno here.

Lydia B. Williams: Lydia: from Hampton, Va here

Michelle: Hello from Newport News, VA ^ _ ^

Karen: We have a white board reminding patrons story time is right HERE. JOIN IN!

Karen: Love the PAW PRINTS!

Rick Samuelson: While auditing, make sure to pay attention to the space and how it works for kids with sensory issues

megan bond: hello from riverside, ca

Deb Ehret: @Tracy, we don't do registration for Storytime

Angelica Trummell: We hold storytimes mostly in our story theaters. We use poster / signs outside the story theater door and children's desks - as well as giving announcements over our intercom advertising storytime is happening.

Stanley Strauss: We used to have both registration and open storytimes to accommodate the crowds.

Lettycia Terrones: do you do critical literacy types of storytimes to open up storytime discussions about social justice issues with school-age children? i wonder if storytime spaces would be good spaces for doing this type of discussion.

Vicki: We have people fighting to get in and always turn people away. We have just begun having a reservation system where you can have a guaranteed spot once each 2 weeks. BTW, this is a Mother Goose program we have twice a week, and are allowed 50 in the room each time. Help!

Angelica Trummell: Ditto Stanley - we offer a combo. 18 weekly programs - some registered, some walk in.

Carolyn Brooks: If you have a small space, and too many people, we have held the same program back to back on the same day. This allows everyone to attend one of the time slots, but disallows the same people attending twice...

Kathleen: All of our storytimes are open to all ages; when you don't have enough room for everyone, that's probably a good indicator that you may need to offer additional story time hours

Tamara Palmer:Universal Design!!!

Tamara Palmer:Design that works for all.

Michelle:We have done some on-site registration in our smaller space. So when the slots would fill up, we would know that we would need to do another storytime right after the first. Sometimes, we would end up doing three or four in a row to make sure everyone got it.

Kathleen:I know not all libraries will have that capability/staff, but if possible, adding more programs is a good answer for crowd control

Ken CCCLib:What are your ideas for seating options, especially when chairs/stools/matts are limited, space is limited and yet you may had toddlers, infants, elems & adults at any one Storytime event?

Karen:Just finished several sessions on brain development and story times; also creating soft toys out of socks and so on, shakers, sensory toys, etc.

Sarah Dentan:We do back-to-back storytimes in locations where demand warrants it. When we are still seeing overflow crowds, we do a ticketing system, so we hand out [capacity number] tickets as folks walk in, and when we run out, we start handing out tickets for second session.

Kathleen:@Ken, we purchased some vinyl placemats as “spots” for little ones to sit on. They were really cheap at the dollar store

Karen:It would be great to present these toys to all children as “Inclusion”; I tell parents story time is story time and all are welcome and then sometimes I have to quickly change my plan but it’s all about inclusion, having fun, learning, and learning!

Kathleen:We did away with carpet squares for the same reason. The placemats are the right size for little bottoms. We have chairs around the perimeter and more in back for parents, if they want to sit on a chair

Karen:and reading! (I’m typing too fast...).

Vicki:How do you feel about grandparents taking up a space that could be used for children, when you are limited in space, and having to turn people away?

Nora:Lakeshore has some fabulous A, B, C and 1, 2, 3 carpet mats...

Tracy Dodge:@Vicki, my library limits one adult/child for ticketed programs

Nora:I’ve done two children per one adult, with exceptions for families with twins, etc.

Ken CCCLib:For Storytime Facilitators who are county system substitutes, it would be very helpful to post physical space details and seating, musical, puppet materials at each location.? Perhaps on the system’s branch-specific web page resource?

Debbie Arenas:We have a large storytime carpet we lay down, which defines where the children sit. We encourage caregivers to join them as well.

Beth Saxton:Remember that grandparent is also a caregiver and will benefit from storytime, it’s not just the children

Mary Ramsey:We have limited access but don’t limit the adults attending with the child.

Carolyn Brooks:Entire family engagement is awesome!

Vicki:Sorry, I meant grandparents in addition to the parent with the child. We have a lot of this

Margaret:Hello from San Luis Obispo - We have a small room and a small staff, but we do have open storytimes and we just ask people to make room for kids on the floor and keep chairs in the back.

Nora:Agreed as far as entire family involvement is concerned. Our grandparents, aunties, etc., are usually just visiting, so it's not an ongoing space problem. I would not turn them away.

Caitlin Tormey:I have the opposite predicament, I am in a large library in downtown Sacramento. We have space but the library is tough to get to for many families (ie parking). How can I draw more families to this kind of library space?

megan bond:for bad parking we offer parking tokens to our storytime parents on storytime days

Karen:Can story time move outside for more room that day; do branches have blankets handy to do this? Spring, summer and Fall, of course! Possible?

Margaret:Can you validate parking if they show library cards? We have parking garage parking only but they offer an hour of parking free.

Chrissy Deffendall:Vicki, maybe encourage extra adults in the family group to sit in chairs around the perimeter of the room.

Ken CCCLib:Para transit business in Sacto could donate van & driver to run Storytime Shuttle from parking lot to library.

Debbie Arenas:Sensory exploration afterwards is an option.

Ken CCCLib:Or make that a grant objective.

Carolyn Brooks:I would love to see us change the word from craft to activity...we need to be process based, not product based...

Barbara Chung:Hi, Karen - yes, we do story time outside during the summer!

Caitlin Tormey:Sadly we cannot validate parking. storytime shuttle would be SO COOL

Karen:How fun! Where are you?

Carolyn Brooks:Developmentally appropriate activities can be as simple as putting out hands-on materials for exploration

Barbara Chung:We're in Carlsbad, CA (so, we could probably do story time outside 10 months out of the year. . .)

Beverly Wrigglesworth:100+ degree days make outdoor story times impossible in San Antonio during the summer.

Karen:I hear ya!

Nora:I have a stay and play after my baby and toddler program. The kids LOVE it. Very simple manipulatives, scarves, capes, crawl through tunnel, plastic mirrors...

Karen:Wonderful, Nora!

Tamara Palmer:Nora, our Toddler stay-n-play is now super crowded. It's in the smaller room, and harder to fit 60-70 people. Have you been getting larger crowds?

Nora:I actually just bought another crawl through tunnel, because it's a HOT item!

Rick Samuelson:Any advice for how to connect storytime programs with school readiness outcomes (connected with actual school data)?

Cyndi Barron-Harris:Nora, do you have an area for the stay and play that is apart from the storytime. I've tried doing the same thing, but the kids run in and go straight for the toys. They don't want to listen to the stories, just play with the toys!

Karen:There is a library that concludes story time with tiny inside bubbles blowing magically above the children.

Nora:My groups are relatively small so far. Also, our community meeting room opens (on one side) to the children's picture book area, so there's comfortable movement back and forth. I don't put the toys out until story time is over. They're in the room, but not accessible. The parents help me with this.

Kate:Cyndi, we do stay & play here but we roll out the toys on a cart after storytime so they don't distract kids during the stories

Deb Ehret:@Cyndi, I have the toys I'm using for Stay n Play chosen for that day's activity, but I don't bring them out until after the storytime. They're on a table behind me

Nora:Also, at the end of Stay and Play, ALL of the toddlers help me put stuff away. They LOVE it.

Cyndi Barron-Harris:We have been doing a "sensory" storytime where we have sand tables with beans and things like that. I've just found it difficult to keep attention to the stories and off the tables. We are currently expanding our children's area which may solve this problem, hopefully.

Angelica Trummell:We play Barney's "Clean up song" and everyone helps stack toys (which we then clean after the program).

Karen:We also have the Master Gardener story times. A subject. Books. Activity. Today was "Compost", complete with dirt, seeds, growing pots made of newspaper, and ohhhhhh....worms!

Barbara Chung:Hi, Angelica: Speaking of cleaning toys, how do you do this? We're hoping to start bringing out toys after our baby story time.

Rick Samuelson:In my experience, many of the families who come to storytimes are not the ones who really need early literacy help.

Margaret:We do a lot of outreach with Head Start and California State preschools. This is an easy partnership and often results in families coming back to the library!

Josie:I'm in a fairly small town...I do outreach to head start and other preschools, but we don't have public spaces where children congregate (like a mall, park). I know there are a lot of people I'm not reaching, though. Any more ideas on how to get to them?

Angelica Trummell:We use different cleaners depending on the product. We choose toys first on proper age, learning outcome - then cleanability / durability ...

Nora:Rick, yes, but we also do extensive outreach to Head Start and the local school and city-based preschool programs. I actually start visiting with Early Head Start with the babies.

Barbara Chung:Thanks, Angelica!

Tracy Dodge:how are you defining outreach?

Cyndi Barron-Harris:Barbars, I use Clorox wipes periodically for the toys. Also, we have a "icky bucket" where dirty toys can be dropped immediately for cleaning afterwards.

Carolyn Brooks:We have converted our Bookmobile into a playmobile, and take it out everywhere in the community...we are reaching families we have never reached before...

Margaret:Josie - Do you have a flea market or farmer's markets? These are good places for outreach. Also doing storytimes with Parks and Rec at the parks is great!

Angelica Trummell:7th generation makes a good a natural cleaner. We have used clorox anywhere spray - but we do try to avoid). Some toys can be cleaned in dishwasher.

Nora:For me, outreach means, literally, LEAVING the building to go somewhere else to offer a program.

Josie:Hm we do have a small flea market, but no farmers market. THat's an interesting thought!

Angelica Trummell:Watchout for toys with small holes (collect cleaner / water). Wood does not hold up as long as plastic.

Tamara Palmer:The 7th generation is also, specifically, safe for children's toys. The Clorox doesn't note that on the label.

Robin:We call ourselves "Librarians on the Loose" when we go to preschools, school assemblies and community events.

Deb Ehret:@Josie, asking your current parents may yield some clues, too. We use FB a lot, and our parents repost...

Nora:I love Librarians on the Loose!

Karen:What a great idea Carolyn! Where are you? I used to be a bookmobile librarian/driver. I work in stationary branches now so I've been able to experience both.

Carolyn Brooks:El Dorado County, N. CA

Rick Samuelson:Storytimes at apartment complexes (section 8 housing location) are fantastic ways of reaching families who we might be missing

Nora:Rick, agreed.

Josie:Deb and Margaret, thank you!

Karen:Oh...true!

Ken CCCLib:Josie: Outdoor Storytimes held during fair weather. Hand leaflets out in parks, kids clubs beforehand.

Stanley Strauss:Today's presentation, including the chat, will be archived at:
<https://infopeople.org/civicism/event/info?reset=1&id=372>

esther suarez:Collaboratoin between library literacy programs and children's programming helps to reach the diversity of audience needed.

Carolyn Brooks:The Playmobile can visit any park or parking lot...churches, schools, shopping centers, apartment complexes, farmer's market...big van attracts the attention

Karen:It sure does Carolyn. Do you have a YouTube so I can see it?

Rick Samuelson:I wish we had a bookmobile. Bookmobile storytimes are the best thing since sliced bread.. they can take storytime anywhere!!

Josie:@Rick, agreed!!!! (On the bookmobile front)

Karen:Lots of bookmobiles out there!

Angelica Trummell:Carolyn - does your book bookmobile run on deisel?

Nuvia:wish we still had our bookmobile :(

Vicki:is the census data based on the 2010 census?

Karen:I'm sorry Nuvia.... :(

Carolyn Brooks:We do not yet, but what a great idea! We will work on it...

Karen::-)

Josie:Census can be challenging to work with if you serve unincorporated areas.

Carolyn Brooks:Yes, it does run on diesel...

Stanley Strauss:American Factfinder: <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>

Angelica Trummell:Thanks CB!

Carolyn Brooks:We bring several pop up tents and rugs to define our space, and set up an outdoor developmentally appropriate play center, and our county health department comes with us, and department of ed. specialists

Carolyn Brooks:First 5 comes, too

Deb Ehret:Great idea, Carolyn! Love the tents idea! How fun for kids...

Stanley Strauss:American FactFinder webinars from Infopeople available at:
<https://infopeople.org/civicism/event/info?reset=1&id=68>

Carolyn Brooks:The families love it, and we will be posting it on the early learning libraries pinterest site later this spring

Karen:Great!

Carolyn Brooks:I love that quote!!!

Kelly:carolyn do you have a link to your pinterest account I can check out?

Karen:Me too Hadn't thought of it that way.

Carolyn Brooks:You can google it...early learning libraries Pinterest

Karen:I'm so glad we're focusing on these things these days!

Kelly:k thanks

Ken CCCLib:Learning thru Play: Waggin' Tales (read to dog) programs. Shy readers can read stories to service dogs. Incorporate books and music as follow-up.

beth felton:I use center based play that begins after my storytime. Music, Book Nook, and craft area.

Rick Samuelson:Early learning is getting into the political conversation.. that means there will be more requirements for statistical data (i.e., standardized testing) in the pre-K environment. We are already seeing this happening in Oregon. Making the case for play cannot be understated.

Carolyn Brooks:the Pinterest site is the CA state library's...

suzanne.flint@library.ca.gov:<http://www.pinterest.com/ELF2Libraries/>

Karen:Ken, you are so right! TWT is a wonderful program!

Carolyn Brooks:Thanks Suzanne!

suzanne.flint@library.ca.gov:Carolyn, we're a tag team!

Carolyn Brooks::)

Kelly:thanks for the link

beth felton:Yay for play!!

Karen:Yay!!!

Kristine:Hopefully standardized testing never gets into Pre-K

Karen:Helps me tap into my own childhood need for play!

Ken CCCLib:What about having the first 10 Storytime arrivals choosing from a selection of books (Perhaps unified by theme) and then at least part of attendees have real interest in a few books read in the program.

Karen:tap

Nora:I've seen homework given at Head Start...

Tracy Dodge:how do you engage an audience with a 1:200 ratio??

Deb Ehret:DO you try to incorporate more movement in storytimes? Just through songs? Other?

Krystal Pederson:@Kristine - no kidding. That would be a bit over the top. Test the parents/caregivers, maybe :)

Vicki:I'm having a hard time envisioning using self-directed play in a storytime for 250 people...

Ken CCCLib:"Shake the Sillies Out!"

Angelica Trummell:Carolyn - RCLS is working on a similar pop up service program. I would love to find out what's working for El Dorado in staffing on visits and timing / timeframe of your visits.

Rick Samuelson:@Kristine.. the new Kindergarten Assessment testing in Oregon is standardized in the worst way possible (timed testing, etc.)

Tracy Dodge:is Pleasant Hill a Family Place Library?

Kristine:Yes, test the parents, they are the most important teachers!

Leslie Rose:Ken - do you mean for giveaway or for checkout?

Karen:I admit I have a hard time combining the song with my hands and movement; I can't seem to do both at the same time!

Margaret:Where did the cube come from? I love ti!

Margaret:Oops, it!

Carolyn Brooks:Angelica, please email me...

Rick Samuelson:That lion is awesome!!

Barbara Chung:I incorporate music and movement into my toddler story times, which average 100 attendees. We all get up and dance a couple of times during the story time.

Ken CCCLib:For getting kids to have "Skin in the game" of the storytime. Then, these library books can be borrowed.

beth felton:Our play equipment was donated! Our community loves to donate items we can use.

Angelica Trummell:Thanks CB - will do!

Kristine:Gees.... timed tests for Kinder??? Time to look at other options

Ken CCCLib:The Cube contains motor skill devices that make TONS of noise. Distracting in a small library. I'd avoid this model.

Rick Samuelson:Standard Unit Blocks are the greatest play toy ever.

beth felton:Our toys are outside of our program room. I invite parents to come and go as they please, if needed by their child.

beth felton:if

Debbie Arenas: We do the dame Beth

Debbie Arenas: Oops! The same

Angelica Trummell: Thanks Ken! Great advice!

Karen: We all do our best!! Wonderful!!

Karen: So much more we can do too!

Kristine: We have all the kids line up like a train for our train song... kids love it

Deb Ehret: How do you clean the giant stuffed animals? We had very large bear, very popular. Now he's sitting in vault...homeless were sleeping on him, couldn't clean. Ideas?

Margaret: We also have problems keeping our stuffed animals clean. Any tips?

Nora: I have toys (stuffies, wooden cars/houses, tutus, capes, kitchenware) in flexible tubs (tubtrugs, I think?) in the picture book area. We offer stickers for kids who clean up when they're finished.

Chrissy Deffendall: Deb, have you contacted your local dry cleaners?

Nora: Can you surface clean the large animals using cleaning wipes (they don't have bleach in them).

Ken CCCLib: Think about cushioned, kid friendly furniture such as bean bags, overstuffed benches, etc. These "curl-up-with-a-book" spaces are really popular and give the area a warm/welcoming story area.

Josie: I love the panels full of gears, buttons, knobs, switches, etc. So much room for making it what you want (rocket control panel, time machine, kitchen tool, whatever). There's a great set of buttons and tools at the Ft Vancouver (WA) library. So fun!!!

Vicki: We take stuffed animals home and wash in washer. Don't have any giant ones, though.

terri savago: We had a lego wall placed in our play area, it is a big hit. The kids really share well with it.

Deb Ehret: Hmmm, Manitou has none; good idea - can check with ones in Colo Spgs

Karen: Possible to have a stuffed animal shampooing program? Might be fun. Could have books about bath time!

Christy Bridges: Deb I have a friend who does dry cleaning, I can check with him on what he can do!

Kristine: If you are worried about microscopic bugs on stuffed animals or mattresses then leave them outside in the winter over night and the freezing kills everything, germs too.

Deb Ehret: Thanks, Christy

Josie: I also love feltboard walls, and magnet walls.

Debbie Arenas: Love the lego wall idea Terri!

Christy Bridges: Just let me know how big the bear is and I'll call him tonight

Tamara Palmer: Biokleen makes a fabric freshener that removes odors

<http://biokleenhome.com/products/household/General>

Rick Samuelson: You can mount felt on the wall (or end of a shelf) and set out a basket with flannel pieces so kids can play with telling stories.

Margaret: No freezing nights in California!

Ken CCCLib: What about mini Lego play areas at a pop-up table in large cinemas that are screening "The LEGO Movie"? Could tie into branches' Lego items and block play areas.

Deb Ehret: Thanks, Tamara! Sounds good...

Deb Ehret: Want a LEGO wall!

Kristine: What's a lego wall?

SUSAN: Hot sun disinfects, too

Chrissy Deffendall: Killing bugs and germs on stuffed animals and other plushies can be as easy as placing them in a securely tied (knot in the neck, not a twist tie) black garbage bag and leaving them in the sun for a few days.

Deb Ehret: How do you do LEGO wall, Terri?

Janet Parr: Couldn't agree more. Music unifies.

Cyndi Barron-Harris: A librarian friend of mine puts plush animals in a pillowcase and puts them in the dryer.

Angelica Trummell: I would love to invite anyone interested in play in libraries to check Play and Learn Islands <http://www.cityofrc.us/cityhall/lib/kids/pals.asp>