Focus: Elementary Reads, part 2

This feature will focus on learning and reading development for different age groups, beginning with birth to five and eventually going through age 19.

This second article in the Elementary Reads series—research on learning and reading development for children ages 6–9 and how libraries can best serve them and their parents—will discuss ways that parents can help their children build their reading skills as they start school.

Parents are *Still* Their Child's First and Best Teachers

When children begin kindergarten, their formal education is focused in school. Teachers work with the young children on skills of all types, including listening, reading, writing, focus, and a host of others that help in literacy development. However, once their kids reach kindergarten and elementary school, it is no time for parents and caregivers to lessen literacy activities in their home and leave it to the schools. Home literacy activities are still critical during ages 6-9, helping to reinforce and further what kids learn in school. Fun home activities can also help kids gain a lifelong love of reading and learning. Involving the whole family in literacy activities can increase the fun and positive influence.

A dynamic step that libraries can take is to offer suggestions to parents/caregivers for

home literacy activities appropriate for 6–9 year olds, and model activities in your library during programs for these ages, just like for early literacy ages. A great opportunity for this is to hold a back to school open house, but it can be done anytime, with or without an event or program.

It turns out the same 5 activities that Every Child Ready to Read, 2nd edition suggests for parents to do with their children 0–5 work well for their 6–9 year olds too. Here they are, backed up with research:

Reading

Encourage parents to continue reading out loud to-and withtheir 6-9 year olds, with kids increasingly reading to their parents as they move up the age range. Research shows this makes a significant difference in later school achievement. To model this in your library, hold fun, interactive storytimes for this age group. Establishing a program where kids read out loud to dogs in the library is a way to provide a safe environment for children to practice reading; it also again models for parents what they can do in their homes.

Welcome to the 8th issue of YS News!

This newsletter will feature articles on learning development, summer reading updates, timely tidbits, children's and teen literature news, and an exchange of what's going on in CO libraries.

Would you like to see a topic covered in the newsletter?
Want to share info about your programs? Or perhaps contribute an article? Let me know!

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SRP: News & Ideas

2012 SRP Wrap-Up

The 2012 SRP is over! After celebrating another successful SRP in your library (and resting a bit!), please remember to complete your annual <u>SRP</u> evaluation online by Friday, August 31. (And we love photos of your SRP in action, so please email any you'd like to share to me!)

Also, for those libraries that received a 2012 SRP Mini-Grant, please complete your <u>online mini-grant report</u> and submit your receipts by August 31 as well. Thank you!

And onto the 2013 SRP: Dig into Reading!!

Speakers from History Colorado

History Colorado offers a <u>list of speakers</u> on history and archaeology topics. This is a great start to planning your 2013 SRP programs!

Lazy Days of Summer: A National Security Threat?

US military leaders are aware of and very concerned about summer slide and the affect it can have on the nation's potential military recruits. Retired military leaders have created a nonprofit called Mission: Readiness to help combat summer slide. The group published a report online recommending programs that can help kids have more learning and exercise opportunities over the summer. While public library SRPs are not mentioned, reading programs in general are.

2014 Children's Program Manual: Call for Ideas!

The Collaborative Summer Libraries Program (CSLP) is currently seeking ideas for the 2014 Children's Program Manual. The general theme is "science" and the slogan is "Fizz, Boom, Read!" Please see details from Patti Sinclair, Children's Program Manual Chair, and send ideas either directly to her or to me by October 15, 2012.

Book Nook

Books That Build Community

This <u>blog post</u> by a 6th grade teacher suggests books that create shared experiences that foster community-building and literacy development.

100 Best-Ever Teen Novels

Last month NPR asked their audience to nominate titles for a top-100 list of the best young adult fiction ever written. Thousands sent in nominations. The results have been tabulated and, with the help of an expert panel, they narrowed the list to the 235 finalists. The public then voted to narrow the list to these 100 books. It will give you ideas for several years' worth of reading!

From The Scoop, published by the Idaho Commission for Libraries, v. 8 no. 13.

New Stats Show Great Gains in Children's Fiction

The <u>second annual edition</u> of BookStats, a collaborative venture between the Book Industry Study Group and the Association of American Publishers, has just been released and brings good news for children's fiction. The category had the strongest performance of any trade segment in 2011 – adult or children's – with sales up 11.9% over 2010, to \$2.78 billion. The increase was led by a huge jump in e–book sales, which rose 374.8% to \$220.3 million, and a solid performance for hardcover books, whose sales rose 14.7% to \$1.29 billion.

Timely Tidbits

The CLEL Annual Membership Meeting will be held on Friday, September 7 at the Douglas County Fairgrounds, Kirk Hall, Castle Rock, 8:30 to 4:00. It's **free!** Click here for the exciting agenda and online registration. Hope to see you there!

Reforma Colorado's Translation Service

Reforma Colorado, a chapter of Reforma, has developed a team of bilingual librarians that are donating their time to help libraries improve their services to Spanish speaking patrons by translating promotional and information materials into Spanish. Any library or information institution wishing to submit a translation request can do so by emailing reformaco.translations@gmail.com. Once the team receives the document, which must be sent as an attachment in the email, the document is forwarded to the translators. The volunteers then translate the content and return it. Read more about this tremendous resource for CO libraries in the latest issue of Colorado Libraries. (And a huge thank you to the service for providing Spanish translations for One Book 4 CO promotional materials and handouts!!)

The Mindset List, 2016

Each August since 1998, Beloit College has released the Beloit College Mindset List, providing a look at the cultural touchstones that shape the lives of students entering college this fall. Check out the list for the students entering college this year. It is both entertaining and

Come to the storytime workshop at the Rawlings Library in Pueblo on Thurs, September 20, 1–4 pm. It's free! Contact Mary Grant to register: 719–553–0208 or mary.grant@pueblolibrary.org

thought-provoking!

Digital Divide in CO Classrooms

This <u>Denver Post article</u> outlines gaps in high speed internet access in CO schools, and for students in their homes, in both urban and rural areas. These gaps have significant implications for public libraries.

Events & Celebrations

Did you know that September is Civic Awareness Month, or that September 21 is the International Day of Peace? Keep up with daily, weekly and monthly <u>celebrations and events here</u>, from Programming Librarian.

Healthier School Meals Starting this Fall

Starting in school year 2012–2013, schools in CO and across the country participating in the USDA's School Meal Programs are required to meet new nutrition standards for breakfast and lunch meal patterns. This change is driven by the 2010 Healthy, Hunger–Free Kids Act, which is part of the First Lady's Let's Move! Campaign to improve the health of our nation. Check out a handout on the changes. What can public libraries do to help with the transition?

- Display books for parents and for children of all ages on healthy eating, cooking, and growing fruits and veggies (check out <u>this</u> <u>project</u> and its database of recommended books on children's nutrition).
- Have a fun weekly or monthly tasting of less common but tasty fruits, veggies, and whole grains.
- Host a kid-friendly, healthy cooking demo and tasting by a local chef.
- Work with your school district to find out what they'll be serving throughout the year.
 Ask if there's a way your library can partner with them.
- Invite a local nutrition expert or registered dietician to present on the new school menu guidelines.
- When offering snacks to kids at your library, model good nutrition choices by serving fruit, whole grain crackers, and other healthy choices.

Food Day, Oct. 24

For more on food, Food Day is an annual, nationwide celebration and movement toward more healthy, affordable, and sustainable food. Food Day addresses issues as varied as health and nutrition, hunger, agricultural policy, animal welfare, and farm worker justice. Learn more about it and get some ideas for celebrating Food Day at your library.

Lunar and Planetary Institute (LPI) Resources

As always, LPI has great resources for <u>educators</u> <u>posted</u> on all things astronomical. Catch up on the latest from the Mars rover Curiosity and find some fun, educational activities for kids.

September is Roald Dahl Month

It's never too early to start planning your scrumdiddlyumptious activities in celebration of all things Roald Dahl. Go to the official Roald Dahl website to immerse yourself in the world of Roald Dahl. There you can find information on your favorite titles, check out some incredible downloadables, and learn more about the man himself!

Don't forget to keep following that peach! Join the mission to roll James's peach around the world. Encourage your students to send the peach on further adventures by <u>sending a virtual peach</u> or <u>download a paper Peach-gram</u> to send through the mail.

Tailoring an Early Literacy Program for Your Community

This article from Programming Librarian emphasizes the need to tailor your early literacy program to meet the needs of your community, including getting out of the library to reach families that can't attend programs in the library and partnering with organizations and business sponsors in the community.

Teen Read Week 2012

To celebrate Teen Read Week, October 14–20, the Library as Incubator Project is hosting a Teen Read Week Art Contest with theme "It Came From a Book" this year. Teens can read any book and create a piece of art inspired by the story. The artwork can be any type—photography, painting, drawing, sculpture, manga. Teens should submit a digital photograph of their work to trwartcontest2012@gmail.com by September 30, 2012. Check the website for the prizes, promotional materials, and more.

For more on TRW, <u>catch the archive</u> of a recent State Library online session on Teen Read Week, plus read the great ideas that participants generated and find additional TRW resources.

News from YALSA

• Teens' Top Ten

The <u>online vote</u> for teens to choose their favorite books from among the Teens' Top Ten nominees will be open through Sept. 15! Access a free toolkit about how to use the TTT in your library as well as the 25 nominees <u>here</u>. The winners will be announced during Teen Read Week™.

What's the Next in YA Literature?
 Find out at YALSA's YA Literature
 Symposium, Nov. 2 – 4, 2012 in St. Louis!
 Access a <u>preliminary program</u> and registration information.

YALSA Webinars

YALSA will offer a few webinars this fall for \$39 for members, \$49 for nonmembers:

- Sept. 11: A TAG Can Work for You, Too!
- Oct. 18: Book Blitz 2: 45 Must Know YA Titles

Check out the <u>webinar page</u> also for free archived webinars, too.

New Listserv about Middle Schoolers
 This open electronic discussion list is meant to provide a means of discussion and networking for any individuals interested in library services for and with middle school aged youth. It is a joint project by ALSC and YALSA. Discussions, news and information are welcome on the list. Subscribe here.

Invite Walter Dean Myers to Your Library

Walter Dean Myers is the third National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, serving in the position through 2013. Myers will soon begin to schedule events for 2013. If you are interested in inviting him, <u>click here</u> for more info.

Register for International Games Day



ALA is coordinating the annual International Games Day @ your library for Saturday,
November 3, 2012. There will be lots of fun activities, including a national video game tournament in which your players can compete against other libraries around the world.
Register here and you may receive donated games!

State Test Results Hold Steady

Statewide, Transitional Colorado Assessment Program (TCAP) scores remained about the same as last year in reading, math and science but dipped 1.3% in writing. Click here for the complete results.

Preschooler Attention Spans

A <u>new study</u> demonstrates that young children who are able to pay attention and persist with a task have a 50% greater chance of completing college. The study in *Early Childhood Research Quarterly* asked the parents of 430 preschoolers to rate their kids' abilities to pay attention, follow directions and complete tasks. The kids were then assessed at age 7 on their reading and math abilities, and again at age 21. The findings show that the biggest predictor of college completion was whether or not kids were able to pay attention and finish tasks at age 4.

Nine Reasons to Save Public Libraries

This blog post outlines some threats to public libraries and, in the author's view, the nine best reasons to support them. Many of the reasons touch on library services for children and teens.

If you cut funding to libraries, you cut the lifeblood of our communities.

—former Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley

From The Scoop, published by the Idaho Commission for Libraries, v. 8 no. 13.

How to Make Book Earrings

These were just too cute not to share.

Detailed directions, complete with step
by step pictures, can be found here.



Are you considering creating or expanding a dedicated space for early literacy in your library?

Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public
Library received an IMLS LSTA grant awarded by
the State Library of Ohio for the P.L.A.Y. Room
Project. The grant allowed the library to create a
pre-literacy center at the Noble Neighborhood
Library and to create programs that supported
literacy, community and the family. Branch
manager Constance Dickerson has created a guide
to assist other libraries in developing similar early
literacy spaces in their communities. The guide,

The Preschool Literacy And You Room: A Guide to Creating an Early Literacy Play Area in Your Library, includes a detailed summary of play centers and other furniture and resources in the P.L.A.Y.room, including suppliers/vendors. It also includes samples of many materials, created by the library, to encourage parents to use the play centers to engage in singing, talking, reading, writing, and playing with their children.

CO Libraries in the Press

Internet Buddies at the Wray Public Library

The Internet Buddies program at the Wray Public Library pairs teens with adults to provide one-on-one technology tutoring. The pairs meet regularly through the summer, while the teens are out of school. They get to choose the topic to work on, and at the end of the program the adult gets an award, created by the teen.

Louisville Public Library Exhibit

The Louisville Public Library is featuring "From the Power Plant to Your Home," part of "Discover Tech: Engineers Make a World of Difference," an interactive exhibit on loan from Boulder's Space Science Institute. The library is the first of nine across the country that will get to borrow the exhibit.

Grant and More for Sterling Public Library

The Sterling Public Library will <u>receive a grant</u> from the National Science Foundation for a series of book discussions next year. SPL is one of only 20 libraries in the US to receive the grant. The library is also adding <u>Playaway Views</u> and <u>AWE stations</u> for kids.

Early Literacy Classes at Aurora Public Library
Parents and children ages 3 to 5 will practice
pre-literacy skills through a new program

offered through the Aurora Public Library starting in September. The RISE (Read, Imagine, Share, Explore) Storytimes and Parent Literacy Classes, presented by The Center for Hearing, Speech and Language, are especially suited for immigrants from different countries and English as a Second Language Learners.

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

Get ready for the 2013 SRP with these underground-themed garden grant opportunities:

Western CO Gardening Foundation Grants

Deadline: Rolling

This foundation accepts grant applications for horticultural and water-wise programs and activities. Grants generally range from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

2012 Subaru Healthy Sprouts Award

Deadline: October 31, 2012

This grant supports youth gardening programs focused on teaching about our environment, nutrition and hunger issues in the United States. Through winning programs, youth will learn the skills necessary to maintain a healthy lifestyle compatible with environmental stewardship and gain an understanding of how their actions can positively impact the well-being of their community.

2013 Youth Garden Grant Award

Deadline: December 3, 2012

Sponsored by the National Gardening Association and The Home Depot Garden Club, five winners of this grant will receive gift cards valued at \$1,000, and 95 winners will receive \$500 gift cards, to purchase gardening materials and supplies from their local Home Depot store specific to the needs of their program.

Encourage parents to read themselves in front of their kids. Research shows (p. 41) that the more kids see adults close to them reading, the more likely they are to read themselves. One way busy parents can accomplish this is to set aside a family reading time each day, to include themselves, and/or read while their children do their homework. Creating a strong reading environment in the home is important, too.

Talking

It's still vitally important for parent to talk with their children ages 6-9 frequently. During this time, talking greatly increases their vocabulary, knowledge of the world around them, and ability to decipher word meaning from context. Just as in the 0-5 years, parents should use every occasion, no matter how routine, to talk with their children. Reading Rockets offers a great example with their Grocery Store Literacy Activity Sheets of how to turn an everyday activity into a fun learning outing. Telling family stories, talking through a recipe while making it, asking their children about school that day, discussing a book or tv show, and playing "I Spy" on a car trip are all easy examples that families can do.

Singing/Music

Studies show music can continue to help children with literacy skills through elementary school, just like they do with younger children (and can also boost memory). Encourage parents to check out CDs of all types from your library to expose their kids (and themselves!) to a variety of musical genres; consider a changing display of CDs in the kids' area, and stock it with some from your adult area, too. Suggest that parents have simple instruments in their homes like recorders and harmonicas and improvise instruments with household items, and that they sing with their kids often.

And if kids can take music lessons in school or at home during the elementary grades, it may further specifically <u>improve their vocabulary</u> and verbal sequencing skills.

Writing

When parents and others outside of school can encourage and help their kids age 6-9 to write at home, it can increase their writing success in school—and beyond. There are many simple steps parents can do in the home, like create writing stations (like a family white board in the kitchen), bind their kids' writing and drawings in a simple book, encourage their kids to write down their favorite song lyrics or family stories, draw with their kids, have the kids write the family grocery list, and have their kids write notes to friends and family. To model and encourage a home writing environment, set up fun writing stations in the children's area in your library, or during programs. Supply them with crayons, colored pencils and pens, along with colorful paper, fun writing prompts, and coloring sheets. Display the creations in your library for a period before families take them home.

Playing

Just like for the 0–5 year olds, play is critical for kids 6–9 to improve their reading and social skills, nonverbal communication, critical thinking abilities, motor skills, learning overall, and much more. The National Museum of Play in Rochester, NY offers a list of studies to demonstrate the importance of play, plus information on play at home for parents. At your library, offer costumes, puppets and props for spontaneous role playing and theater, along with programs that incorporate a lot of active play. (And check out the museum's unique partnership with its local library to offer a children's circulating collection!)

Word games and word play are a fun and effective way for kids to increase language and literacy skills, and the whole family can get involved. The social interaction involved in playing word games can help motivate students who struggle with reading, too. At the library, have word games like crossword puzzles out in the kids area for kids to do on their own and with their friends, and during programs, try Mad Libs for a fun crowd pleaser. Get teens involved: sites like Puzzlemaker and edhelper let them create and print word games for younger kids at your library, great for seasonal and themed puzzles.

As astronauts and space travelers children puzzle over the future; as dinosaurs and princesses they unearth the past. As weather reporters and restaurant workers they make sense of reality; as monsters and gremlins they make sense of the unreal.

-Gretchen Owocki, Early childhood educator

For more tips for parents on all of these activities, see:

- A Child Becomes a Reader: Proven Ideas from Research for Parents, from the National Institute for Literacy
- For Parents, from Reading Rockets
- Reading Tip Sheets for Parents, from Colorín Colorado
- Helping Your Child with Reading and Writing: A Guide for Parents, from Canada's Ministry of Education
- Articles for Teachers and Parents, from Reading is Fundamental
- Reading & Language, from PBS Parents
- Helping My Child Read: Reading Resources, from U.S. Department of Education
- <u>Parents and Reading CCIRA Family Literacy</u>
 <u>Activities</u>, Colorado Council International
 Reading Association

Getting Involved at School

Studies show that it's crucial for parents/caregivers to get involved in their child's school and talk with their children's teachers in the elementary years. Parents can talk with teachers to better know what their children are learning in school and how they can complement and supplement classroom lessons at home. It also helps parents stay informed of any difficulties their children are having academically or socially in school.



