



# YS NEWS

## Focus: Thrive by Five, *part 2*

*This feature will focus on learning and reading development for different age groups, beginning with birth to five from January to June, 2012, and eventually going through age 19.*

To continue with last month's focus on Thrive by Five—research on learning and reading development for children ages birth through 5 and how libraries can best serve them and their parents—this article will take a look at some Colorado organizations with a focus on early childhood development. Library staff that work with young children, as well as libraries as organizations, are encouraged to learn more about these groups and to consider getting involved.

### Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy (CLEL)

In January 2008, staff from more than a dozen Colorado public libraries and the Colorado State Library joined together and began working to develop a comprehensive approach to delivering and supporting early literacy services statewide. Today there are 171 CLEL members, including several from outside Colorado and one even from outside the US! CLEL's goals are to:

- Educate and train library staff in providing early literacy story times for children and caregivers.
- Increase awareness of the importance of early literacy to all communities in Colorado.
- Cooperate with other state and national agencies involved with early literacy.
- Promote the role of libraries in providing early literacy experiences.

Membership in CLEL is open to anyone involved with children, libraries, or early childhood education who supports its mission statement: All children deserve the joy of reading and the skills in life that literacy brings. Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy is passionately committed to strengthening children's literacy through library services and community advocacy.

CLEL's projects include:

[www.clel.org/](http://www.clel.org/)

This website brings together information about Colorado library early literacy programs and services and provides useful tools, news, and resources for library staff. CLEL's online presence also includes a [blog](#) and Facebook and Twitter feeds.

### Training and Presentations

CLEL members are frequent trainers for Colorado State Library Youth Services workshops, and regularly provide workshops and presentations at library and early childhood conferences throughout the state.

### Annual Meeting

CLEL holds an annual meeting for

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### Welcome to the second 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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## Summer Reading 2012: News & Ideas

### 2012 Summer Reading Mini-Grant Recipients

Congratulations to the 72 public library sites in Colorado that will receive summer reading mini-grants this year! Each library will receive \$200 to purchase books for the library.

“With more than 200,000 children participating in summer reading in Colorado, we hope these funds get more books into children’s hands,” said Eugene Hainer, assistant commissioner with the Colorado State Library.

Check out which libraries received a grant funds in 2012 and view a map of the [recipients here](#).

This grant program is made possible through the State Library using federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The IMLS provides funds to the Colorado State Library through the Library Service and Technology Act. The public libraries provide a local match of 25% of the grant.

### New Fast Facts Report on Colorado SRPs

The State Library’s Library Research Service (LRS) recently produced a new report on summer reading programs in Colorado, [Summer in Colorado Means Reading Programs for All Ages](#). Its focus is on the increase of SRPs for adults, as more libraries are offering adult SRPs and more adults are participating in such programs in recent years.

As stated in the report, adult summer reading programs benefit libraries by generating positive publicity; promoting other library services and programs; increasing visits, circulation, and number of new library cardholders; attracting new segments of the population to the library; and strengthening community partnerships.

There are also benefits for patrons, including opportunities for learning and literacy development and exposure to new literary

genres. These programs also promote the idea that reading is fun and reduces stress. In addition, for patrons who are parents or caregivers to children, these programs provide opportunities to be involved in common activities with their children, and to model good reading behavior for them.

Is your library offering an adult SRP this year? Send me info about it and I’ll include it in future newsletters!



*The 2012 adult SRP slogan is Between the Covers...*

### Mixing in Math

TERC, a not-for-profit education research and development organization dedicated to improving mathematics, science, and technology teaching and learning, has created some activities that support our summer program themes for 2012. Download the [engaging activities here](#) for free.

### Soar with Reading

PBS KIDS and JetBlue are teaming up to encourage young readers to read and get involved at their local libraries this summer, and are providing libraries with fun resources for your SRP at their [Soar with Reading website](#). Hooper, the talking guinea pig at PBS KIDS, is the site’s host to take kids through fun activities and reading lists that encourage reading. Kids can register online to track their reading; for every registration, JetBlue will donate a book to a child through First Book. Also, beginning in March, libraries can request free literacy based activity kits for kids 3–8 at the website. Also in March, the site will coordinate volunteers from the JetBlue staff in the Denver metro area; libraries there can submit volunteer opportunities at the website.

## Book Nook

### Colorado Teen Literature Conference, March 31

Join the 24th [Colorado Teen Literature Conference](#) at the Tivoli, Auraria Campus, Downtown Denver!

The Colorado Teen Literature Conference is a yearly event to promote and celebrate teen literature. The conference offers diverse sessions thanks to the willingness of knowledgeable

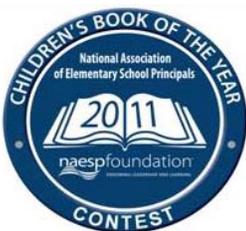


librarians, teachers, authors, and teens who share their expertise for the event. This year's keynote speakers will be Colorado authors Maggie Stiefvater and Todd Mitchell. Register today; the registration deadline is March 11!

### Walter Dean Myers Named National Ambassador for Young People's Literature

Walter Dean Myers has been named the third national ambassador for young people's literature. He was chosen by a committee formed by two groups: the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and Every Child a Reader, a nonprofit organization affiliated with the Children's Book Council, a trade association for children's book publishers. The post is similar to a poet laureate of children's books; as such, Myers will tour the country for two years, speaking at schools and libraries about reading and literacy. Myers announced that the theme of his ambassadorship will be "Reading Is Not Optional." [Listen to an interview](#) with Myers about his new post.

### NAESP National Children's Book Award Contest



[This contest](#) is for prospective children's authors to submit manuscript(s) for picture book and/or chapter book written for children 3-16

years of age with a chance to get your work endorsed by the NAESP Foundation and published by a nationally known publisher. This is your chance to have your work(s) reviewed by a nationally known publisher. Deadline: March 1. There is a fee to enter the contest.

Catch up on all the national literary award recipients for [children](#) and [teens](#) announced in January! And don't forget the [Cvbils](#)!

## Timely Tidbits

### CLiC Spring Workshops 2012

The Colorado Library Consortium (CLiC) will hold its spring workshops in Grand Junction, February 27-28, and Pueblo, April 19-20. Sessions from the State Library will include teen advisory groups and a summer reading program exchange. Hope to see you there!

### CO Collaborative Project for Girls in STEM

Business partners, technical professionals, teachers, and representatives from professional organizations and higher education are invited to attend an informational meeting announcing the Colorado Collaborative Project for Girls in STEM. This initiative will provide mini-grants, professional development, and other free resources to project participants to help increase the participation of girls in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Join us to learn more about the National Girls Collaborative Project (NGCP) model, how this initiative can help your program or

### *Timely Tidbits* continued

organization, and to network with colleagues to identify collaboration opportunities. The meeting is March 6, 12:30–3:00, Skyline High School in Longmont; there is no charge but registration is required. [Register here](#) and RSVP to [CoCoGirls.STEM@gmail.com](mailto:CoCoGirls.STEM@gmail.com).

#### **Bringing STEM Learning to Public Libraries**

Webinar date: February 27, noon (Mountain)  
Many libraries want to introduce STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) into their programming to attract new audiences and help stimulate children’s interest in science. During this free webinar, you will learn about the STAR Library Education Network (STAR\_Net), led by the National Center for Interactive Learning at the Space Science Institute. STAR\_Net Librarians and others who are successfully programming STEM will also share their strategies for connecting with community resources. [Register here](#).

#### **Free Music Resource**

The musician Moby has generously made some of his instrumental music available to film makers developing educational videos. [mobygratis.com](http://mobygratis.com) is an archive of “film music” available for independent, student or non-profit film production from the alternative rock/electronic music maestro Moby. Feel free to share this resource with your teens, schools and community organizations that work with student film makers.

#### **YALSA Academy**

YALSA has just launched YALSA Academy, a free online educational video initiative available at [www.youtube.com/yalsa1957](http://www.youtube.com/yalsa1957). The channel offers free training videos on popular professional development topics for school and YA services librarians, as well as other staff who work with teens.

The intended audiences are young adult librarians, school librarians, library support staff, teachers, administrators, technology staff working with teens and educators and any literacy-focused professional who works directly with teens and tweens. Those interested in posting a short instructional video should consult the guidelines, read the frequently asked questions and watch the introductory video on the YALSA Academy website, [www.ala.org/yalsa/academy](http://www.ala.org/yalsa/academy).

### Upcoming Grant Opportunities

#### [Computer Science Collaboration Project Grants](#)

Deadline: March 01, 2012

The Project offers this mini-grant opportunity as an incentive for collaborative projects to increase the participation of Hispanic/Latino(a) K–12 youth in computer science.

#### [Ezra Jack Keats Minigrant Program](#)

Deadline: March 15, 2012

Public school libraries and public libraries that host programs encouraging literacy and creativity in children can apply for an Ezra Jack Keats Minigrant of \$500. Programs focusing on the work of Ezra Jack Keats are welcome, but not required.

#### [Dollar General Literacy Grants](#)

Various deadlines based on grant program  
A variety of literacy grants are available, including summer reading, family literacy, and youth literacy.

#### [Wish You Well Foundation Grants](#)

Deadline: ongoing

The Wish You Well Foundation supports family literacy in the United States by fostering and promoting the development and expansion of new and existing literacy and educational programs.

## Timely Tidbits continued

### Teen Read Week® 2012 Sneak Peek

If you're making plans to celebrate [Teen Read Week](#) Oct. 14 – 20, please know that teens voted online back in Oct. and selected "It Came from the Library" as the theme. Products featuring a vintage horror movie look will go on sale in the ALA Online Store on March 9th and YALSA will launch its 2012 TRW web site on April 12th.

### Geek Out @ your library

This [Teen Tech Week](#)™ (March 4–10), YALSA invites you to Geek Out @ your library! This year's theme encourages libraries to throw open their physical and virtual doors to teens and showcase the outstanding technology they offer, from services like online homework help and digital literacy-focused programs to resources like e-books, movies, music, audiobooks, databases and more.

How are you celebrating Teen Tech Week? Let me know and I'll include info on your programs in upcoming newsletters!

### El Día de los Niños Webinar and Discussion

El Día de los Niños/El Día de los Libros – Children's Day/Book Day – is coming up on April 30. Get some wonderful ideas for your library from the great discussion generated at the State

Library's recent webinar. Special thanks to our guest speakers Ghada El Turk, Outreach Librarian at Boulder Public Library and President of REFORMA CO, and Valerie Pierce, Latino Outreach Program Librarian at Lafayette Public Library.

The webinar archive, list of ideas generated in the discussion, and additional resources are [now available here](#). And keep the discussion going by

sharing your ideas and experiences about Día on the CYS-Lib list!

This is also a great time to [register your library's Dia programs](#) on ALA's El Día de los Niños website. When you register your Día 2012 program, you'll receive free stickers and buttons to promote your events. Parents and others interested in Día can search for local programs and events, and librarians can review activities to learn from your successes.

### [Libraries & Kids: Quotes you can use](#)

*ALSC provides positive quotes about kids, libraries, reading & literacy*

### [ALSC/YALSA Tech Contest](#)

Show what tweens/young teen + technology looks like at your library and win a \$100 Amazon gift card! How are you handling the digital lives of tweens and young teens at your library? The 2012 Presidents' Program at ALA this July will be a joint affair between ALSC and YALSA. We will be talking about tweens and young teens and exploring their use of technology. What is the life of a tween or young teen like in this digital age? What should libraries be doing? Show us in a video!

- Videos should be 2–3 minutes long and created by librarians, for librarians. Show and tell us about an experience or project dealing with tweens and young teens and technology at your library. What worked? What didn't? What did you learn?
- Post it on YouTube with the tag "youthprezprogram12".
- Email Tessa Michaelson Schmidt and Sarah Couri at [tweenlibraryvideos@gmail.com](mailto:tweenlibraryvideos@gmail.com) with the YouTube link and your contact info.
- Deadline: Monday, April 30, at midnight.



## Timely Tidbits continued

### YALSA App

Look for YALSA's Teen Book Finder app in the Apple iStore. This free app, funded by the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, allows users to search over 1,200 titles of recommended reading, build lists of favorites, and locate the library nearest them. Later in 2012 the app will be available via the Android platform. For more info, visit <http://bit.ly/x6bxlx>.

Sign up for the new Children and Teen Services Interest Group at CAL! Contact Nicole Burchfield, [NBurchfield@poudrelibraries.org](mailto:NBurchfield@poudrelibraries.org)

### Check Out Materials from the State Library's Professional Collection

The State Library has a great collection of materials on library topics that you can check out! Search [the catalog](#) to find some today. A small sampling to get you interested:

- *The librarian's guide to graphic novels for children and tweens* by David S. Serchay, Neal-Schuman, 2008.
- *Every child ready to read @ your library* [kit]. ALSC/PLA, 2011.
- *Playing around with words [videorecording]: games and activities to develop phonological awareness in 4-5 year olds*. ALA, 2004.
- *The power of reading: insights from the research* by Stephen D. Krashen. Libraries Unlimited; Heinemann, 2004.
- *Gaming in libraries* by Kelly Nicole Czarnecki. Neal-Schuman, 2010.
- *Libros esenciales: building, marketing, and programming a core collection of Spanish language children's materials* by Tim Wadham. Neal-Schuman, 2007.

## Thrive by Five continued

all members; the meeting includes a training component and whole day of networking with other library staff from across the state that are also passionate about early literacy. Stay tuned for details about the 2012 Annual Meeting!

[www.storyblocks.org/](http://www.storyblocks.org/)

In the fall of 2009, CLEL received an LSTA grant to create the StoryBlocks website. Working in partnership with Rocky Mountain Public Broadcasting Services, StoryBlocks is a collection of 30-60 second videos designed to model to parents, caregivers, and library staff some songs, rhymes, and fingerplays appropriate for early childhood. Each video clip includes helpful early literacy tips to increase caregivers' understanding of child development and pre-literacy needs. Storyblock videos are sorted into different categories. You may choose to watch videos showing songs to sing, or spoken rhymes. Some rhymes are in English and some are in Spanish. The videos are also divided into three age ranges: babies (birth-24 months), toddlers (2-3 years), and preschoolers (4-5 years).



Please join CLEL!  
CLEL is working hard to strengthen

children's literacy through library services and community advocacy. Your membership will connect you to a network of Colorado library staff committed to making a difference in their communities, who can help you make a difference in yours. To join, complete [this form](#). Membership is free!

## *Thrive by Five* continued

### **Early Childhood Councils**

What's the best way to get involved with other organizations in your community to advocate for early literacy? How do you find local partners to improve the services you offer to children age birth through 5, and their parents? Where can you go to join like-minded groups to improve local and state practices and policies about early childhood matters? Join your local Early Childhood Council!

The Colorado General Assembly formally established Early Childhood Councils in 2007 (in HB07-1062), after ten years of pilot projects. This legislation establishes the Councils to "improve and sustain the availability, accessibility, capacity and quality of early childhood services for children and families throughout the state." Early childhood services are defined as early care and education; health; mental health; and family support. Today there are 31 Councils serving 56 counties.

Early Childhood Councils provide community-based groups to support a state-wide early childhood system. They are rooted in community, collaboration and leadership on behalf of children prenatal to age 10. As well as bringing individual communities together, the 31 Councils work together across the state as an innovative network.

The Early Childhood Councils are composed of community leaders representing education, mental health, health, and family support and education organizations. Parents, families and stakeholders from libraries, higher education, business, local government, and other community members also sit on local councils.

Early Childhood Councils bring together local partners to make decisions about how to improve early childhood services locally. These community partners build local foundations for collaboratively improving services for children and families, work that includes making joint funding and investment decisions, improving policies, engaging the public and stakeholders, and building local leadership within the system. The Councils work with community partners to make sure that local services to young children are plentiful, of high quality, and easily available to anyone who needs them.

What's in this for libraries? By joining their local Council, library staff can:

- Inform other Council members about the great work their libraries do in terms of early literacy and other childhood services
- Learn better what other local organizations do for the 0-5 population and their parents, to avoid duplication and to find potential partners to work together more efficiently
- Capitalize on Council funding opportunities, and leverage those into greater funding possibilities
- Teach other early childhood community leaders about the importance of involving parents in their child's literacy, starting at the birth of their children
- Open another door to advocate for early literacy locally and statewide
- Develop cross-promotion with complementary organizations of each other's programs
- Contribute to local and statewide policy making on early childhood matters

- Become an even more visible leader in your community in early childhood matters

Once you join, offer to host a Council meeting at your library. Give a tour of the library and give members flyers about your early literacy programs. Or, go a step further and invite members to your storytimes and other early childhood programs.

To contact your local Early Childhood Council, go to the [Council Directory](#). For more info on the Councils, check out these relevant pages at the [Early Childhood Colorado Information Clearinghouse](#) and the [Colorado Department of Education](#).

Do you participate in CLEL and/or your Early Childhood Council, or another early childhood organization you think is great? Please let me know your experiences with these groups! I'll post them in an upcoming newsletter.

#### One more CO organization

...that's worth checking out:

#### Colorado Council International Reading Association (CCIRA)

CCIRA is a professional organization of educators and community members dedicated to the promotion and advancement of literacy. The group offers excellent resources on [its website](#) (don't miss their lovely downloadable [Baby's First Book](#) and [Read Aloud Booklet](#)), sponsors the CO Children's Book Award and the CO Blue Spruce Young Adult Book Award, has a variety of literacy brochures for parents at a low cost and more free online, hosts an annual Conference on Literacy, maintains an electronic list and speakers bureau, and more. [Annual membership](#) is \$35 (\$20 for undergraduate students and retirees).

#### *Featured Early Literacy Program:*

#### **New Early Literacy Center Opens at Aurora Public Library's Central Branch**

The Aurora Central Library Youth Services Department is pleased to announce the grand opening of the Early Literacy Center (ELC). The ELC is a dedicated room with three advanced graphical interface computer stations that have touch screens for little fingers to explore and develop essential pre-reading skills. Called "AWE" stations, these computers offer multilingual formats. The design of the jungle themed ELC was inspired by the five new learning areas from Every Child Ready to Read @ your library (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition): Talking, Singing, Reading, Writing and Playing. In addition to the AWE stations, the ELC has children's art work, educational toys, adult computers, children's books and a fun mini-play and crafting area. The ELC provides a vibrant, literacy rich space to help young children explore a world of colors, animals, letters, numbers, sounds, objects, shapes, textures and books.



"What is especially exciting about the ELC," says Children's Librarian Crystal Niedzwiedek, "is that it offers a great space for caregivers to do their online work such as school assignments or job applications while simultaneously

offering their small children a safe place to ‘be kids’”.

Central Library staff will offer early literacy classes to parents using the new Every Child Ready to Read @ your library curriculum sometime in 2012. The Aurora Public Library would like to thank the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Grant for funding the computers for this new center. Please contact Crystal Niedzwiadek at 303-739-6746 if you would like a tour of the ELC.



Check out more photos of the new Early Literacy Center at Aurora Public Library [online](#).

Have a great program or service to share? Let me know!

#### **Early Childhood Education Program Example outside of the library world:**

The Audubon Society offers the [Schlitz Audubon Nature Preschool](#) in Wisconsin for 3, 4, and 5 year olds, one of only a few nature-oriented preschools in the country. This preschool experience is very hands-on, with

much time spent outdoors observing and interacting with the natural world. There is also emphasis on play and guided but unstructured exploration.

Recent research shows that noticing differences between objects, like seeds and nuts, helps wire the brain and nurtures early math and pre-reading skills that develop from the ages of one to four. Observing nature closely, including watching the seasons change and insects and animals grow, help foster this learning. Plus, studies have shown positive benefits of exercise on learning.

So give it a try—hold a storytime outside, offer a nature-themed family activity in a nearby park, or have a park ranger bring some nature inside for a hands-on demonstration for your preschoolers!

“Many things we need can wait. The child cannot. Now is the time his bones are formed, his mind developed. To him we cannot say tomorrow, his name is today.”

—Gabriela Mistral