



YS NEWS



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Colorado State Library

Focus: Teen Zone, *part 1*

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

This first article in the Teen Zone series—research on learning and reading development for children ages 13–19 and how libraries can best serve them and their parents—will discuss brain development and learning during the teen years. It is from Jayna Ramsey, who will be writing the 6 month Teen Zone series as part of her practicum experience as a student at the Library and Information Program at the University of Denver. Jayna will be graduating soon with her MLIS and just started in her new position as Adult Services Librarian at Douglas County Libraries.

Brain Development in the Teen Years by Jayna Ramsey

The teen years, ages 13 – 19, are a time of great change for teenagers. Not only are they experiencing physical changes due to puberty, but their brains are changing as well. One of the biggest changes the teen brain faces is the pruning of grey matter. Grey matter, or the thinking part of the

brain, peaks around ages 11 – 12, roughly around the same age the child begins puberty. As the child ages the grey matter is pruned; that is, some connections that are not used are lost. The “Use it or Lose it” slogan is true for which connections are hardwired into teens’ brains. If a teen spends a lot of her time doing sports, but little time drawing, the sports connections will be hardwired into her brain, but she may lose the connection for drawing.

The Frontal Lobe

The frontal lobe is undergoing a lot of changes during the teen years. The frontal lobe of the brain is responsible for helping people understand how to plan, organize, and strategize, as well as how to control judgment and impulse.

In teens this area of the brain is the last to fully develop, usually around ages 25 –30. Because of this teens are unable to have the same organizational or decision-making skills as adults. Also, while adults use the frontal lobe to interpret human emotions in body language, teens use the

Please see *Teen Zone* on page 8

Welcome to 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 happening 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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The libraries’ most powerful asset is the conversation they provide—between books and readers, between children and parents, between individuals and the collective world. Take them away and those voices turn inwards or vanish. Turns out that libraries have nothing at all to do with silence.
—Bella Bathurst

SRP: News & Ideas

Summer Reading Program Evaluations

As your 2013 SRP wraps up, please remember to plan to complete the online [2013 CO Summer Reading Report](#) by August 30. Your input into this annual evaluation goes a long way to maintain funding for the statewide program, as well as to assist in improving the program for the future.

Thanks for your time and input!



Images are copyrighted. Contact the CLEP at 1-800-421-8254 or info@clep.org for more information.

Also, if your library received an Early Literacy Mini-Grant this year, please also plan to

complete the [online evaluation form](#) for that program by September 18. Thank you!

More Evidence for Free Choice of Reading Materials

Most kids don't put reading high on their list of fun summer activities. According to a [new Harris survey](#) commissioned by Sylvan Learning, less than half of American youth ages 8 to 18 identify reading as a favorite summer activity.

The most popular summer activity among boys? Playing video games. Reading books trails at 6th as a favorite summer activity among boys. Only one in three boys rank reading as the No. 1 favorite.

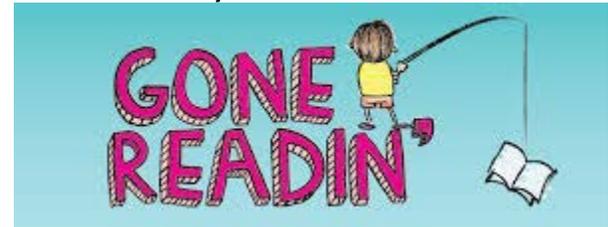
The picture is a bit brighter for girls, who are almost twice as likely as boys to report that their favorite summer pastime is reading books. They rank it 3rd on their list.

Still—for both genders—summer reading overall is less popular than watching movies or TV,

playing video games, playing outside with friends or going to the pool.

But summer does not have to be a learning vacuum. According to the survey, 94% of kids who choose books that matched their interests and reading ability saw reading as a fun activity!

Summer Literacy Collection from PBS



This summer, PBS LearningMedia turns the spotlight on their spectacular collection of resources supporting literacy skills development in grades PreK–12. Their [new summer literacy collection](#), called 'Gone Readin'', is a must-see for language arts teachers, reading specialists, librarians, and summer educators. Join [PBS LearningMedia](#) for free!

Healthy Summers Report

[This new report](#) from the National Summer Learning Association presents research that makes the connection between summer, children's health, and learning.

Summer Learning Toolkit for Mayors

The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading and the National Summer Learning Association have prepared [this toolkit to point mayors](#) toward effective strategies and resources to stop summer slide. They believe this is a problem that can be solved when city leadership works with schools and communities. Great preparation for your 2014 SRP!

Book Nook

Great Book Lists on the CLEL Blog!

Check out all the great book lists on the [CLEL Blog](#) for kids 0–5 on topics ranging from music to humor to burrowing animals! And nominate your favorites for upcoming themes!



While you're there, follow the nominations for the [CLEL Bell Awards](#) and [nominate a book](#) you think is especially deserving!

Historical Look at Children's Books

[An exhibit](#) at the New York Public Library explores the historical, social, and artistic importance of reading materials meant for children over the centuries.

Timely Tidbits

Pew Study: Younger Americans' Library Habits and Expectations

The Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project has released the results of a survey conducted last fall on the library and reading habits of Americans aged 16 to 29, and the findings show that this group exhibits a fascinating mix of habits and preferences when it comes to reading, libraries, and technology. The survey found that almost all Americans under age 30 are online, and they are more likely than older patrons to use libraries' computer and internet connections; however, they are also still closely bound to print, as 75% say they have read at least one book in print in the past year, compared with 64% of adults ages 30 and older.

Similarly, younger Americans' library usage reflects a blend of traditional and technological services. Americans under 30 are just as likely as older adults to visit the library, and once there they borrow print books and browse the shelves at similar rates. Large majorities of those under age 30 say it is "very important" for libraries to have librarians as well as books for borrowing, and relatively few think that libraries should automate most library services, move most services online, or move print books out of public areas. [There's much more; surf to the full report!](#)

Colorado Getting More Childhood Education Funding

Colorado is getting an additional [\\$15 million in supplemental funding](#) for early childhood education from the federal government, adding to the nearly \$30 million award the state received in December through the Race to the Top education challenge. The funds from the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will be used for training early child education workers and other programs.

Early Learning: America's Middle Class Promise Begins Early

[The Obama Administration has proposed](#) a new partnership with states that would provide universal, high-quality, full-day preschool for 4-year olds from low- and moderate-income families. The President's budget proposes \$75 billion for the program to be provided to states and distributed to local school districts, or local school districts in partnership with other early learning providers. An additional \$750 million would provide for competitive grants to states to strengthen their early learning systems. Stay tuned for the outcome.

Students in Poverty Show Lower Planning Skills

Besides having fewer academic resources, students in poverty may also be less able to plan and marshal the resources they have efficiently, making it harder for them to close achievement gaps with their wealthier peers, [according to a new study](#) in the journal *Child Development*. "Low-income families are bombarded with numerous psychological and physical risk factors," the authors noted. "These circumstances could lead to an inability to focus on everyday tasks necessary for the development of planning skills."

Creating Successful Tween Programming from Scratch

[This article from Programming Librarian](#) explores the best practices of tween programming on a budget.

Great Websites for Kids – Spring 2013 additions

The Great Websites for Kids list, sponsored by ALSC (Association for Library Service to Children), received its spring updates this month. [Check out the new additions!](#)



School Librarians Teaching Most Important Skills

School librarians are vital to building the very skills that teachers consider most important in contributing to their students' success in life. According to a recent Pew Research Center survey, the skills include the ability to judge the quality of information, writing effectively, behaving responsibly online, understanding online privacy issues, and finding information quickly. Learn more at the [Library Research Center's blog](#).

CCIRA Conference—Save the Date!

The next [CCIRA \(Colorado Council of the International Reading Association\) Conference](#) will be held Feb. 5–8, 2014, and will offer a variety of opportunities for participants to "Embrace the Future." Keynote addresses, luncheons, and many sessions by leading researchers and educational leaders promise to enlighten and inspire all who attend!



Readers' Advisory Workshop

The [Readers' Advisory Interest Group Summer workshop](#) is an event that explores readers' advisory in a new light. Join us for interactive, TED-style presentations and group networking time to introduce Colorado librarians and library staff to innovative readers' advisory methods, whole collection considerations and emerging genres.

Date: August 6, 2013

Location: Anythink Wright Farms, Thornton

CO State Library's Professional Development Collection

The CO State Library has a [professional development collection](#) that you can use via interlibrary loan! This new title just in:

- *Every Child Ready for School: Helping Adults Inspire Young Children to Learn* by Dorothy Stoltz, Elaine M. Czarnecki and Connie Wilson. ALA Editions, 2013.

Nature-Based Learning: Taking Infants and Toddlers Outside

[This article](#) from NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) discusses why it's so important to let infants and toddlers explore the out of doors, and lends good ideas on ways to do so, along with possibilities to

bring nature indoors, too.

[These related ideas](#) are intended for parents but are also great tips for library staff to engage young children in nature!

Disability Resources Available

The NGCP (National Girls Collaborative Project) works to strengthen the capacity of girl-serving STEM programs to effectively reach and serve underrepresented girls in STEM. To assist programs to reach girls with disabilities, the NGCP website now includes a [comprehensive listing of disability resources](#) including: links to publications, resources, and organizations focused on including, advocating for and serving youth with disabilities. This web resource is organized into three groups: K-12 Education, Higher Education, and Career Information.

COPPA: Revised Children's Online Privacy Protection Rule Goes into Effect

The Federal Trade Commission's [revised Children's Online Privacy Protection Act](#) (COPPA) Rule took effect July 1, giving parents greater control over the online collection of their children's personal information. The revised rule addresses changes in the way children use and access the Internet, including the increased use of mobile devices and social networking. The modified rule widens the definition of children's personal info to include persistent identifiers like cookies that track a child's activity online, as well as geolocation information, photos, videos, and audio recordings.

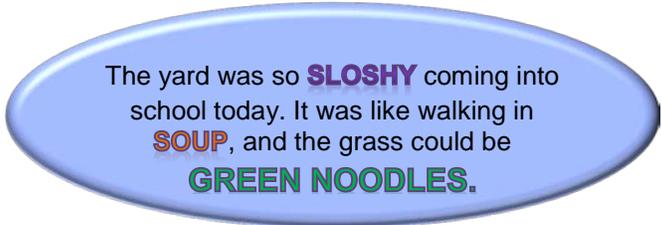
Own Your Future Colorado

[Own Your Future](#) is the one-stop resource for building a new life after prison; this online resource provides tools and information to help recently-released prisoners in CO create a plan

to own their future.

Using Fanciful Language with Preschoolers

By adding fanciful language to daily routines and conversations, educators can help young children expand their thinking skills, vocabulary, and creativity as they describe the world around them in new ways. Learn more about the concept and how to put it into practice from [this NAEYC article](#). And for a list of children's books that feature fanciful language, [click here](#).



The yard was so **SLOSHY** coming into school today. It was like walking in **SOUP**, and the grass could be **GREEN NOODLES**.

I'm Tired of Reading Out Loud to My Son, O.K.?

[This blog post](#) from the *New York Times* gives insight into why parents that are well-meaning and knowledgeable about early literacy sometimes do not read to their young children.

Libraries and Librarians Celebrated

[This positive blog post](#) from *Scientific American* highlights recent comments from a range of celebs on the important work of libraries and librarians.

New Report Shows Gaps in Colorado's High-Quality Child Care

You think college is expensive? Try child care. A year in a Colorado state college will set you back about \$8500 a year. But tuition for an infant at a child care facility in Denver? More like \$13,000. A new report shows that there's only enough licensed care available to serve less than a quarter of the state's children. Learn more from [this piece on CO Public Radio](#).

Infant Toddler Autism Certificate

The University of Denver's School of Education and Human Development is [offering a new certificate](#) for early childhood educators to better meet the needs of infants and toddlers with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). This certificate will improve the knowledge and skills of early interventionists working with infants and toddlers with ASD and their families.

Censorship Issue in Adams County School District

Parents concerned with the content of a book common on high school reading lists have asked the Adams 12 school district to take Toni Morrison's 1970 novel *The Bluest Eye* out of the curriculum. [Learn more](#) about the debate and the school district's actions in response, as well as [national attention](#).

How to Get Kids Hooked on Nonfiction Books

[iNK Think Tank](#), an organization of award-winning children's authors who write Common Core-aligned nonfiction books for kids of all ages, has put together a [list of engaging books on science](#) for students in grades K-12.

News from YALSA

- [Reads 4 Teens](#) is a list of the best in the latest teen literature and includes 32 customizable pamphlets and 10 bookmarks that can be printed in unlimited quantities and can be downloaded for \$29.
- Investing in teen services isn't just good for teens; it's good for libraries and for communities. The [2013 Advocacy Toolkit](#) provides practical tips, messages, facts, and strategies to help you speak up—without adding too much to your already full plate. Visit YALSA's [Advocacy and Activism web page](#) for more information.
- 20 libraries will be selected to receive a set of the 2013 Teen's Top Ten titles, courtesy of the Dollar General Literacy Foundation. [Click here](#) for details and to access the application. Apply by Sept. 1.
- Aug. 6, 10:00–11:00 am MST, get ideas & resources for Teen Read Week via a Twitter chat. Use the hashtag #TRW.
- Aug. 15 – Sept. 15, voting opens for the [Teens' Top Ten!](#)
- Aug. 22, noon–1:00 pm MST, [Teen Read Week webinar](#) on trends in YA lit. Free to anyone who joins the [TRW site](#).

STEM Corner

STEAM at the Library Supports Literacy, Common Core

Ideas for STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) programming in libraries were discussed at a panel at the recent ALA annual conference; [learn more in this summary](#).

STEM Programming Toolkit from YALSA

Check out this [handy STEM toolkit](#) from YALSA for info on the how's and why's of STEM programming for young adults in libraries, plus tips on promoting and evaluating your YA STEM program. Not to mention loads of great programming ideas!

Engaging Latino Audiences in Informal Science Education

Environment for the Americas conducted this study, funded by the National Science Foundation; its findings established [significant general strategies](#) found to be effective for reaching Latino audiences across a diverse range of demographic areas.

Educational Resources on Energy

NREL (National Renewable Energy Lab), located in Golden, provides a [variety of free, online educational resources](#) to help teachers and parents educate their kids about renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies, including hands-on projects and curriculum suggestions for elementary school, middle school, and high school students.

Educational Resources on Meteorology and Climate Change

Earth System Research Lab (ESRL), part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), also offers [free, online educational resources](#), including background info and hands-on activities. ESRL is located in Boulder.

Earth Science Week

Save the dates! [Earth Science Week](#) will be celebrated across the country October 13–19. This year’s theme, “Mapping Our World,” will promote awareness of the many exciting uses of maps and mapping technologies in the geosciences.

Lunar and Planetary Institute’s (LPI) Newsletter

LPI’s Summer Earth and Space Science [Education Newsletter](#) is now available online; check it out for info on workshops, grants, events, news, and more.

CO Libraries in the Press

Summer Reading Fun in Trinidad

At the [Carnegie Public Library](#) in Trinidad, children and teens had fun reading and learning this summer while exploring everything underground. Instead of handing out material prizes to children for their reading achievements, a portion of the prizes’ monetary value was donated to the charity Noah’s Ark. This is an initiative that the library

hopes will have greater value, instill a deeper sense of community involvement and have a longer lasting impact in the SRP participant’s lives.

Recognition for Telluride’s Youth Services Staff

This [letter to the editor](#) praises the staff that work with children and teens at the Wilkinson Public Library in Telluride.

Aurora Public Library opens a branch in Kmart

A new extension of the [Aurora Public Library](#) opened in the Kmart Super Center this summer, featuring a computer center with library staff; in addition, patrons can request books that will be delivered from another library branch.

Lamar Public Library’s Teen SRP

[Lamar Public Library](#) announced its top teen SRP readers and other info about its 2013 SRP in the local newspaper.

100 Year Library Anniversaries in Denver

The Denver Public Library honored [two of its oldest branches](#) on July 13: the Decker Branch on South Logan Street, and the Woodbury Branch on Federal Boulevard, both marked their 100th birthdays with parties featuring family-friendly activities, photo booths, live performances and refreshments.

Jeffco Library offers 2 Go tablets

Jefferson County Public Library is now offering a limited number of [JCPL 2 Go devices](#) for checkout at their 10 library locations. These devices are wireless D2 tablets that can contain a virtual library of eBooks and other digital info. The tablets come preloaded with selected eBook titles, a game, and Library eBook applications, so patrons can download other digital titles from the Library. They are available in three formats – kids, teens and adults – and may be checked out for three weeks at a time.

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

[Digital Humanities Start-Up Grants](#)

Deadline: September 12, 2013

From the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Digital Humanities Start-Up Grants program awards relatively small grants to support the planning stages of innovative projects that promise to benefit the humanities. Proposals should be for the planning or initial stages of digital initiatives in any area of the humanities.

[Build A Bear Workshop Literacy and Education Grants](#)

Deadline: October 31, 2013

Build a Bear Workshop wants to provide direct support for children in literacy and education programs such as summer reading programs, early childhood education programs and literacy programs for children with special needs. The company desires to provide books for children from underserved populations for schools, shelters, libraries and other organizations that encourage literacy and reading.

Teen Zone *cont.*

amygdala, which is typically used for instinctual or gut reactions. As a result, teens can misinterpret facial expressions and body language. As teens get older the frontal lobe then makes these types of decisions. When this shift happens teens are better able interpret human emotions in body language.

Sleep and Learning

Many teens face a challenge when it comes to getting enough sleep every night. A teen's circadian rhythms actually prevent the teen

from getting enough sleep each night. Just as teens should be going to bed, around 9:00 or 10:00 pm, their circadian rhythms are preventing them from falling asleep, delaying their bedtime to 11:00 pm or later. With school starting around 7:30 am, many teens face a sleep deficit every day getting, on average, about an hour and half less sleep than they need.

This switch to delayed circadian rhythms preventing sleep begins right before puberty and lasts through the teenage years. Teens can help to reset their circadian rhythms by turning off music, tv, computers, and other electronics, dimming lights, and doing relaxing activity around the time they should be going to bed to help get their bodies ready for sleep. Slowly their body's circadian rhythms will adjust to their new sleep routine and teens will be able to fall asleep earlier more easily.

Sleep is also important to learning for teenagers. It has generally been known that a good night's sleep before learning is important, but now research is showing that sleeping *after* learning is just as important. Studies have shown that the brain consolidates and practices what is learned during the day after teenagers go to sleep. Therefore a teenager that takes a short nap after school or studies right before bed has a better chance of retaining what he has studied.

For more information on teen brain development, see:

- [Frontline: Inside the Teenage Brain](#)
- [National Sleep Foundation, Adolescent Sleep Needs and Patterns](#)
- [Children's Hospital Boston, The Teenage Brain](#)

Concise Learning Milestones Timeline for Teens

Specific ages for each milestone will differ in each teen, but generally teens:

- Develop advanced reasoning skills
- Develop thinking skills about abstract concepts like morality
- Demonstrate a heightened level of self-consciousness
- Tend to believe that no one else has experienced similar emotions
- May become very cause-oriented
- May debate and develop intolerance of opposing views
- Can think about how one is perceived by others
- Develop learning and memorization strategies
- Sometimes struggle with dealing with their anger
- Think about and begin to systematically consider possible future goals
- Often try to figure out their belief systems
- Respond to media messages but develop increasing ability to analyze those messages
- Question authority and societal standards
- Demonstrate use of formal logical operations in schoolwork
- Think about different possibilities and formulate a sense of identity
- Use systematic thinking to influence relationships with others
- Have increased thoughts about more global concepts such as justice, history, politics, and patriotism
- Can discern underlying principles and apply them to new situations
- Exhibit an increased empathy and concern for others
- Seek a sense of self-worth
- May think they know everything
- Are often strongly influenced by peers
- Often develop idealistic views on specific topics or concerns
- Often have significant mood swings
- Can calculate consequences of actions without experiencing them (BUT...)
- Tend to exhibit the belief that "it can't happen to me"
- Can deal with a problem by considering multiple solutions and planning a course of action
- Begin to focus thinking on making career decisions in later adolescence
- Begin to think about emerging role in adult society in later adolescence
- Have uneven cognitive development that is impacted by emotions