

YS NEWS



Focus: Tween Scene, *part 3*

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

This third article in the Tween Scene series—research on learning and reading development for children ages 10–12 and how libraries can best serve them and their families—discusses library services for tweens.

This article is from the impressive handout presented at the “Tween Programs Extravaganza!” session at the 2012 CO Association of Libraries (CAL) Conference and the CO Libraries Consortium (CLiC) Spring Workshops 2013 in Grand Junction and Pueblo. Many thanks to the presenters: Nicole Burchfield, Christy Headrick, Kristin Roper, Donna Geesman, Mary Schadler, and Cydney Clink.

Who Are Tweens and Why Program for Them?

–by Nicole Burchfield, Christy Headrick and Donna Geesman

Basically tweens are from 8–12 years old. The word is actually taken from the phrase, between child and teen. Tweens are a lot less childish than a 9 year old would have been in 1950. These kids have been raised with personal computers and mp3s.

While they aren’t quite as angst or hormone ridden as today’s teens, they desperately don’t want to be little kids, even though they aren’t quite ready to be full blown teens.

Libraries routinely provide programs for kids of all ages. We specify ready to read skills for pre-readers, introduce arts, crafts and performers to elementary kids and families, and we have come to the light regarding programs especially for teens. Why break tweens out? They fit in with all the other kids watching the magician, right? Well, no they don’t. Media shows teens as the ultimate in cool, smart, role models, but they also have begun marketing aggressively to younger kids and it’s not just hyper-sweetened cereals. Tweens have more money and can make Mom understand why a certain brand is “the thing” at school.

Communities have a tremendous stock in keeping tweens in the library. We work very hard to bring teens back

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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Here was one place where I could find out who I was and what I was going to become.

And that was the public library.

--Author Jerzy Kosinski

2013 SRP: News & Ideas

SRP Public Service Announcements

Get a sneak peek at the 2013 Children's SRP Public Service Announcements:

- Children's PSA in English
<http://youtu.be/OCpURnkQEYI>
- Children's PSA in Spanish
http://youtu.be/i_E6xvoOvyw



They'll be available more formally very soon. And stay tuned for the winner of the CO Teen Video Contest in mid-April!

CSLP webinar archives

The Collaborative Summer Library Program (CLSP) recently offered a webinar each on the children's and teen 2013 SRP. You can catch the archives here (if you haven't registered already, you'll need to do so at these links to view the archive):

- [CSLP Dig Into Reading Webinar](#)
- [CSLP Beneath the Surface Webinar](#)

Moving Summer Learning Forward: A Strategic Roadmap for Funding in Tough Times



- Developed by the National Summer Learning Association, [this new online guide](#) is designed to help state and local leaders identify the

most promising funding streams to support summer learning and show how innovative states, districts, and communities have creatively developed and sustained high-quality summer programming. It gives tips on finding and applying for funding; provides a list of national and state organizations that fund summer learning programs; and details examples of grant-funded programs.

Origami Newspaper Pots

[Use these simple instructions](#) to create Origami Newspaper Pots for planting and protecting seedlings. Great for a hands-on SRP gardening activity!

One Book 4 CO 2013

Tell Us about Your OB4C Events!

If you're planning an OB4C event at your library or in your community, please tell us about it! We'll add your event to [the official OB4C event calendar](#) on the website. This will help you publicize your events; you can also get ideas from what others are doing.



Second McDonald's Trayliner Confirmed

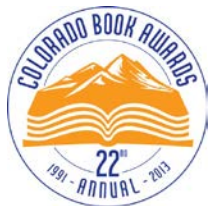
As a continued OB4C sponsor, McDonald's is providing a second round of trayliners in their restaurants across the state to promote the OB4C giveaway. The trayliners should be in use in restaurants the week of May 6.

Book Nook

Colorado Book Award Finalists

The 2013 Colorado Book Award Finalists in Children's Literature have been announced:

- *Monet Paints a Day* by Julie Danneberg
- *The Sandal Artist* by Kathleen T. Pelley
- *Time Out for Monsters* by Jean Reidy



These awards, for books published in 2012, honor Colorado's outstanding authors, editors, illustrators, and photographers. The Colorado Book Awards is one of the country's oldest book awards programs. Awards will be announced on June 21.

Timely Tidbits

Melissa Depper, Mover & Shaker

Congratulations to Melissa Depper, children's librarian at Arapahoe Library District, for being named a 2013 *Library Journal* Mover & Shaker! In her award summary, she's rightly called a "Story Time Superhero." Check out more about [why she won the prestigious title](#), and don't miss her excellent blog, [Mel's Desk](#).

Save the Date!



The CLEL Conference 2013 will be held on Friday, September 13, 8:30–4:30 at the First Plymouth Congregational Church on 3501 S. Colorado Blvd., Englewood.

[CLEL—Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy](#)—is a large and growing group of library staff dedicated to serving young children and their families. This conference—formerly called an Annual Meeting—is an excellent opportunity to learn from Colorado colleagues and share your own experiences.

Watch for a Call for Proposals and more details soon. Hope to see you there!

Early Literacy Resources Online Fast Facts

The Library Research Service (LRS) at the State Library posted a new Fast Facts resource related to early literacy that stems from Vivienne Houghton's excellent research as a U. of Denver–LRS Research Fellow:

[Our new Fast Facts](#) presents the results of a study of the early literacy information available on Colorado public library websites. The findings indicated that most libraries broadly referenced early literacy information on their websites, but fewer referenced early literacy skills, discussed the long-term benefits of early literacy, or provided information on the importance of reading aloud.

The report also links to an [early literacy resource guide](#) that Vivienne created that libraries can use on their own websites. With OB4C coming this spring, this resource may be particularly useful to libraries as they develop materials and plan activities for this event.

2013 KidsCount Report

The 2013 Kids Count report, published this month by the Colorado Children's Campaign, reveals both good and bad news for the state's children. Some of the good news: the number of kindergarteners enrolled in all-day programs is up significantly, and the number of children without health insurance has decreased. Amongst the bad news: the cost of childcare in Colorado remains high compared to other states, and there are significant gaps between children who are doing well and those who are struggling that are consistently influenced by family income, race, gender, and neighborhood. [View the report here](#), which includes a ranking of the state's 25 largest counties in the areas of health, education, and family economic sufficiency.

CO's Highly Effective School Libraries

The Colorado Department of Education recognized 14 Highly Effective School Libraries this month. Today's most effective school libraries are centers of activity with students sharing ideas, interacting, and using 21st century skills. [Find all the honorees here.](#)

State and national studies show that students in schools with endorsed librarians score better on standardized achievement tests in reading, even when controlling for student poverty. Even if schools had overall staff declines between 2004 and 2008, students' standardized reading scores were better in schools that maintained or gained a licensed librarian. [Click here to read more.](#)

Celebrate National Poetry Month

In April 1996, the Academy of American Poets launched National Poetry Month to introduce more readers to the art form. Today National Poetry Month is the largest literary celebration in the world. [Programming Librarian](#) offers some simple ways to celebrate it.

National Environmental Education (EE) Week:

April 14–20, 2013

Hosted by the National Environmental Education Foundation, [EE Week](#) is a celebration of environmental education held annually, the week before Earth Day, to inspire environmental learning and stewardship among K–12 students. This year, the theme will be "Taking Technology Outdoors" and will highlight the role that technology can play in engaging students in hands-on STEM learning.

ThingLink Interactive Image Contest

[This national contest](#) for K–12 students invites students to connect audio, video, images, and text in one cohesive presentation. Students will

dig deeper into content through research to present knowledge and ideas as they learn, practice and demonstrate digital literacy skills in image creation, selection, content curation, creativity, tagging and sharing. Categories include books and authors among others. Deadline: May 1, 2013.

Colorado Celebrates Read Across America Day

Events across the state on March 1 celebrated Read Across America Day, which was also Dr. Suess's birthday. Sponsored by the National Education Association, the annual celebration focuses on the importance of literacy and of reading with children. Check out these videos of [Governor Hickenlooper](#) and [Lt. Governor Joe Garcia](#) participating in Read Across America events.



Lt. Governor Joe Garcia celebrated Read Across America Day at the State Capitol, reading with young children.

Free webinars to Engage! young adult audiences through visual arts programming

The ALA Public Programs Office and [ProgrammingLibrarian.org](#) are pleased to announce a free series of webinars for school and young adult librarians that introduces the Engage! programming model. "Engage! Teens, Art, and Civic Participation" introduces young audiences to themes of civic participation using the visual arts as a springboard for discussion and action. For more info and to register, [click here.](#) Upcoming sessions:

- Creating Compelling Discussion through Art
Wednesday, April 17, 1:00 p.m. MT
- Creating Local, Issues-Based Programming
Wednesday, May 15, 1:00 p.m. MT

EveryoneOn Digital Literacy Campaign

The Ad Council launched a campaign called EveryoneOn to promote digital literacy in local communities. This initiative encourages libraries to focus digital literacy efforts on adults who are non- or limited internet users, with a focus on minorities. The [EveryoneOn campaign toolkit](#) explains the goals and resources in more detail.



As it rolls out in selected cities, you may see TV, internet, or print ads promoting EveryoneOn. Digitally literate families are one step toward helping all students advance their internet skills. From the toolkit:

- 80% of teachers give homework online.
- 1 in 5 Americans consider themselves non-users of the Internet.
- 46% of non-users say they lack the necessary skills to use the internet or computer.

Teens and Technology 2013: Pew Report

This new study from the Pew Internet & American Life project finds that 78% of teens have cell phones—almost half of them smart phones—and that one in four young people say they are “cell-mostly” internet users. The report also finds that 95% of teens use the internet and 93% have computer access at home, and that teens in lower income situations are less likely to have internet access in their homes but

are at least as likely to have a smart phone and use it as an online access point. [Find out more in the full report.](#)

News from YALSA

As always, YALSA (Young Adult Library Services Association) has a lot going on:

- Check out the free webinar archive and case studies at [Connected Learning](#). Connected learning is a concept that’s gaining popularity among policy makers, funders, and educators. Its focus is on informal learning that goes on outside of the school day—perfect for libraries.
- April 18 is Celebrate Teen Literature Day. The purpose is to raise awareness among the general public that young adult literature is a vibrant, growing genre with much to offer today’s teens. [YALSA provides ideas](#) on how to celebrate.
- Library staff looking for tools to promote the best teen books and media of 2012 can find them online at YALSA’s [Best of the Best website](#). In addition to lists of YALSA’s awards and top ten lists, the website includes free promotional tools.
- All of YALSA’s award and booklist committees love to receive suggestions from YA readers. Anyone can suggest a title for any of our awards and lists! Just visit the [relevant award or list webpage](#) and click on “Suggest a title.”
- YALSA’s [2013 – 2014 Virtual Mentoring Program](#) pairs an experienced librarian with a new librarian or graduate student in a Library Science program. Individuals interested in applying to become a mentor may apply by April 30, 2013.
- Webinar: April 18, 12:00–1:00 pm: [Easy-to-Implement Teen Programs](#). Fees vary.

Living in the New Normal Institute

The Military Child Education Coalition®, a

nonprofit organization addressing the educational needs of children in military families, and the Child, Family and School of Psychology at U. of Denver presents this free two-day institute that outlines specific community resources, deployment information, and practical strategies for encouraging resilience in all children. Training will be held April 19–20 at the U. of Denver. [Find more info here.](#)

2013 Colorado Early Childhood Leadership Commission Report

The third annual report of the CO Early Childhood Leadership Commission is [now available online.](#) The ECLC was created to promote the coordination of policies and procedures that affect the health and well-being of Colorado children. The Governor-appointed ECLC includes parents, business and philanthropic leaders, legislators, service providers, and representatives from education, health and other state and community stakeholders.

Digital Storytime Project in Arizona

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) [featured a project on its website](#) that it funded through a grant from the Arizona State Library. The project at the Casa Grande (Arizona) Public Library added e-readers to a preschool storytime and has found the program gets parents more engaged and adds a new dimension of interaction for the children. In addition to developing language skills and instilling a love of books, the program helps bridge the digital divide.

Stress and Learning in Young Children

How a child does in school depends on a lot of things that happen long before the first day of school. New research, [reported here by CO Public Radio's Colorado Matters](#), looks at how stress at home in a child's earliest years affects learning

(and check out the related resources at the bottom of the page).

It Pays Off to Invest in Early Education

James Heckman, a Nobel-winning economist, has found a powerful connection between a child's early education and his or her earnings, IQ and behavior later in life. [Read an interview with Heckman.](#)

Rocky Mountain Storytelling Conference

April 26 in Broomfield, April 27 in Boulder
Fee: \$75 (\$60 with advanced registration)
[The conference](#) features an evening pre-conference storytelling conference on April 26, followed by an all-day workshop on April 27. Much of the material in keynotes and workshops is particularly suited to storytelling in education. The keynote speaker will be Kendall Haven, storyteller and author of *Story Proof: The Science Behind the Startling Power of Story.*

Teaching OUTSIDE the Box Conference

April 26–28 in Denver
Fees vary
Teaching OUTSIDE the Box is an action-packed workshop that brings together the best in environmental education for a weekend of engaging presentations, networking, resource sharing, and more. Learn about outdoor classrooms, teaching environmental literacy, community engagement, and much more in hands-on workshops. [Click here for more info.](#)

Enhance Your Curriculum with Online Resources

April 25, 4:00–6:00, online
Fee: \$10
Discover the abundance of online resources and distance learning opportunities that CO museums and organizations have created to help you teach any topic in an exciting and engaging way. The Denver Art Museum, Denver Museum of Nature

and Science, History Colorado Center, and Resource Area for Teaching (RAFT) Colorado collaborate [in this webinar](#).

How reading literature stimulates your brain

[A new study](#) from Stanford University mapped the relationship between reading, attention, and distraction. The results: when students engaged in critical reading, there was a notable increase in activity in regions of the brain outside those normally used for paying close attention to a task like reading. These included areas associated with physical activity and movement, parts of the brain we use to place ourselves spatially in the world, as though the readers were actually physically present in the story.

CO Libraries in the Press

Countdown to Kindergarten Carnival at Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD)

These carnivals, held at several PPLD branches, are early literacy programs designed to get families interacting with one another in ways that are both fun and effective in improving early literacy skills. Parents got the opportunity to discover fun ideas to help their children get ready for kindergarten and ready to read through singing, playing, talking, reading and writing. Families received a free book, snacks, and lots of great activities! And don't miss their [wonderful video](#) for these carnivals!

Kindergarten Job Fair

Though not at a public library program, this [Kindergarten Job Fair](#) held at Meridian Ranch International School in Falcon, CO, has an interesting premise: encouraging parents to speak to kindergarten classes about their careers.

Colorado Talking Book Library

Debbi MacLeod discusses [in a TV interview](#) the Colorado Talking Book Library, a free statewide service that provides reading opportunities to those CO residents that can't read traditionally on their own.

A Seed Bank at the Basalt Public Library

The public library in the small town of Basalt is trying an experiment: In addition to borrowing books, residents can now check out seeds. The library's director, Barbara Milnor, says in the age of digital, downloadable books and magazines, the tangible seed packets are another way to draw people in. ALA says there are at least a dozen similar programs throughout the country. [Check out the article](#) for great ties to children and families.

Colorado ILEAD USA Participants Announced



The CO State Library announced the team members and mentors

participating in the ILEAD USA: Innovative Librarians Explore, Apply and Discover, the 21st Century Technology and Leadership Skills Institute. The program is designed to develop the knowledge and skills of library staff to understand and respond to users' needs through participatory technology tools. [Check out the list of teams and mentors](#), which include youth services library staff!

MY Denver Card

Starting this year, Denver Public School students in grades 6–12 will be able to [use their student ID](#) to gain free access to all Denver Parks and Recreation Centers, and to use it as their Denver Public Library Card.

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

[Target Early Childhood Reading Grants](#)

Deadline: April 30, 2013

Reading grants are awarded to schools, libraries and nonprofit organizations, supporting K–3 reading programs such as weekend book clubs and after-school reading events that foster a love of reading. Each Early Childhood Reading Grant is \$2,000. Your library must be within 100 miles of a Target store in order to be eligible.

[STEMfinity's List of STEM Grants](#)

This list of federal, private foundation, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) afterschool grants provides short descriptions of each source of funding, along with a link to the application information. Many of these grants are women and minority-focused, with an emphasis on increasing diversity in the STEM workforce. Some are specific to schools, but libraries are eligible for many of them.

Tween Scene *cont.*

to us, why not just keep them engaged after elementary programs and send them off to college as a library lover/user? Tweens are looking at the world and wondering where they fit. Are there others like them? Are there adults they can trust and who like them beyond their families? These questions can be answered by using the community library as a gathering place. Service in the library shows them how communities work on a very basic level. Working and playing in groups led by people who enjoy them is an invaluable tool in making decisions about who they are and how they fit.

But beyond the philosophy and theory, kids like feeling safe, learning new things and feeling needed. Tweens are making their way through the minefield of growing up. It can be confusing, painful and incomprehensible sometimes, but good parents and caring adults who aren't afraid to have fun can make things better and keep them on track to be lifelong library users. Sometimes it pays to remember that education is great, but fun is sometimes a good enough reason to invite tweens into the library.

Tips & Tricks: Getting Started Right Now

Food

Food makes everything better, except for the budget. Offering food for a program will guarantee that you get some attendance. It works, especially for guys. We chuckle when we say it to others but all know that even adult meetings that have food get better attendance than those without. What do we do about food? I don't always have the money to purchase it so, do I have to have snacks? If your program is after school, yes. Kids really need energy to get them through until dinner. Does it have to be a lot? Nope, we routinely buy packaged snacks from Amazon and put them in baskets so kids can choose. Water is the beverage of choice. You can make snacks yourself (I don't suggest it) or ask for donations from local businesses (pizza, tacos, etc.). Asking them to bring a sack lunch or snack is also acceptable. *Be sure you are familiar with your library jurisdiction's policies before you cook or ask for donations.* [Beth's note: a cheap and fun snack is ramen noodles cooked in a crock pot!]

Service

Tweens love helping out. It helps them feel that they have value to their community. Many libraries have tweens and teens help during the summer reading program. Without their assistance many districts could not administer the summer reading program. Hundreds of volunteer hours from teens and tweens make the quality of summer service doable. Giving them opportunities to serve year round allows them to feel the warm fuzzies all the time. It's important to remember that having tweens assist kids is terrific, but is only one part of the tween library experience.

Passive Programs

Passive programs are programs that do not need a meeting room or a staff facilitator. That does not mean there is no preparation. It just means that patrons are "on their own" for this activity. They can do it in their own timeframe.

Little Brothers and Sisters

Tweens are prime babysitters. We see it all the time. A tween with a 5 or 6 year old sibling in tow is putting forth a valiant effort to keep the younger kid entertained. At tween programs this is a big fat NO. Everyone (even tweens) need things for THEM. So at our libraries we try not to let younger children in. If parents insist on being the room they must sit at the back and are NOT invited to participate. This activity is for tweens, not babysitters and not adults. One helpful idea: make the skill set needed to complete the project more complex. Using a glue gun gets every younger sibling out of the room and makes the tweens feel like they are being "dangerous."

Marketing

Remember no babies, so no cutesy art; this isn't school, so nix the school words and please, please, please make it fun! Also don't ever hesitate to show off what your tweens have done. Hang it up, put it on the wall, or blog about it. Showing off the cool things your tweens do will draw other tweens. It's the old flies and honey thing.

The 40 Assets

Good to know: The Search Institute has surveyed about three million young people. The Institute claims that the assets described benefit young people regardless of race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic backgrounds. With this research, the Search Institute has identified 40 Assets for children (0-11) and teens (12-18). These developmental assets are a driving force behind why we create and run programs at the library. Some of the over-arching assets we strive to build include:

External Assets

- Support by providing other caring adult relationships
- Empowerment by demonstrating that the community values youth
- Empowerment by giving young people meaningful work and allowing them an opportunity to serve others by volunteering
- Help them to feel safe within the library setting
- Give them reasonable boundaries and expectations by modeling good behavior and create opportunities for positive peer influence
- Expect good things and you will get them!
- Programs give young people creative activities and frames constructive use of time

Internal Assets

- Our commitment to learning is seen when our program motivates young people to achieve
- Provide a spot to do homework
- Read for pleasure
- Through modeling we teach positive values like caring, equality, and integrity
- By borrowing materials from the library young people can learn honesty, responsibility and restraint
- Through mentoring programs we support social competencies like planning and decision making, friendship skills and positive identity

For more information, please see the Search Institute's website:

<http://www.search-institute.org/developmental-assets>

Webinar: The Tween Scene at Your Library

Wednesday, April 10, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. MT

Fee: Free!

Log on: connect.enetcolorado.org/cslinsession

No need to register.

Tweens are not quite children, but not quite teens. What's the best way to offer services to this group to keep them engaged at your library and in reading? Join us for this interactive session to discuss best practices for effective tween programming, policies, reading advisory, and more. Hear examples from Colorado public libraries and share your experiences in serving this important audience. This webinar complements this newsletter series on tweens.

Can't make it? It'll be archived.