Thinking Outside the Storytime Box: Building Your Preschool Programming Repertoire

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Welcome!

• We want to explore:
  • Why it’s important to expand beyond storytime for preschoolers
  • Program ideas, rationales, & resources

• Then, we want to hear from YOU!
Why Program Beyond Storytime?

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• Model a range of early literacy-positive activities for caregivers
Let’s talk programs!
Book Parties

• An easy way to celebrate preschoolers’ favorite characters!

• Think GIANT storytime!
Book Parties Rationale

- Great stepping-off point
- Storytimes DO make a difference
- VIEWS2 Findings:
  “Purposeful focus on early literacy principles makes a difference in programs and in children’s early literacy behaviors.”
Book Parties Resources

• “Book Character Parties: A Round Up” by Jbrary

• “A Seuss-tastical Celebration” by From the Short Stacks
  http://fromtheshortstacks.blogspot.com/2013/03/a-suess-tastical-celebration.html

• “Big Character Programs” by library bonanza
  http://librarybonanza.com/big-character-programs/
Dance Parties

• Combination of structured elements (like bubble time) and free dance
• Encourages music making and appreciation as well as gross motor movement
Dance Parties Rationale

• Welcoming active bodies can reach a different group

• Music & singing = building literacy in different ways:
  • listening skills
  • phonological awareness
  • oral language skills
  • vocabulary acquisition
  • sequencing/patterning
Dance Parties Resources

• “Bibliobop” posts by Storytiming
  http://storytiming.com/category/bibliobop/

• “Music & Movement — BABY DANCE!” by fat girl reading
  http://fatgirlreading.com/music-movement-baby-dance/

• Preschool Dance Party by The Show Me Librarian
  http://showmelibrarian.blogspot.com/2013/01/in-which-i-share-details-of-my-first.html
Preschool Obstacle Course

- Open kinesthetic play
  - tunnels
  - parachutes
  - hopping sacks
- Include chairs, tables, & open-ended art activity
- Play music
- Don’t forget a baby area! TUMMY TIME!
Preschool Obstacle Course Rationale

• This is what pre-writing can look like!

• Gross and fine motor skills:
  • bilateral movement
  • core muscles
  • crossing the midline
  • hand strength

• Read OT blogs for activity ideas & background knowledge
Preschool Obstacle Course Resources

• “Pool Noodle Obstacle Course” by PBS Parents
  http://www.pbs.org/parents/crafts-for-kids/pool-noodle-obstacle-course/

• “Indoor Obstacle Course” by Sarah Richards
  http://www.education.com/activity/article/overandout_preschool/
Preschool Players

• You tell the story & the kids play the parts.
• No lines, few costumes, & kids learn easy stage craft.
Preschool Players Rationale

- Repeated readings lead to vocal building & comprehension
- Simple props = representational play
- Cognitive stepping stone to understanding printed words stand for objects & ideas
Preschool Players Resources

• “Preschool Players” at Menasha Library
  http://www.menashalibrary.org/node/3041

• “Book Plus Theater = Literacy Excitement” by Tiny Tips for Library Fun
  http://tinytipsforlibraryfun.blogspot.com/2010/03/books-plus-theater-literacy-excitement.html

• “Write This Down: Story Dictation” by Storytiming
  http://storytiming.com/2014/09/05/write-this-down-story-dictation-in-the-library-is-awesome-and-vivian-gussin-paley-is-a-goddess/
Library Dramatic Play @ Outreach

• Recreates a library experience for kids in childcare settings who may not visit the library with their families
Library Dramatic Play Rationale

• Books, books, books!
• Print-rich environments
• Access to books is a critical component of literacy development
Library Dramatic Play Resources

• “Play Literacy” from Madison Public Library
  http://www.nfls.lib.wi.us/Play_Literacy_green_bay.pdf

• “Teaching Tools: Dramatic Play Center” by Digital Kindergarten

• “Dramatic Play” posts by Getting Giggles
  https://gettinggiggles.wordpress.com/tag/dramatic-play/
Preschool Science

• Facilitate exploration of science concepts
• Share a story & talk about it
• Use vocal & ask questions
• Offer demos & hands-on activities
• Promote learning at home
Preschool Science Rationale

• So much to talk about!
• So much to learn about!
• The more background knowledge children bring to the books they read, the more they will understand what they find there.
Preschool Science Resources

• “Preschool Lab” by Abby the Librarian
  http://www.abbythelibrarian.com/search/label/steam %20programs

• “Explore! Preschool STEAM” by Read Sing Play
  http://klmpeace.wordpress.com/category/steam/

• “All Things STEAM” from The Show Me Librarian
  http://showmelibrarian.blogspot.com/p/all-things-steam.html
Baby Book Bees

- Passive (stealth) and DIY program
- Based on the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten concept
- Encourages parents to read 100 books to their baby in the first year
Baby Book Bees Rationale

• “The benefits of [shared reading] increased the earlier [they] were started and the longer they were implemented.”

- CELLreview, Vol. 5, No. 4
Baby Book Bees Resources

• “Baby Book Bees” by Reading with Red

• “Goal: 1000 Books Before Kindergarten” from SLJ

• “Let 1000 Books Bloom”
  http://www.pinterest.com/lochwouters/let-1000-books-bloom/
Parachute Play

• A program that encourages gross motor development, listening skills, and cooperative play through structured parachute activities.
Parachute Play Rationale

- Executive functioning:
  - Working memory
  - Mental flexibility
  - Self-control
Parachute Play Resources

• “Parachute Games” by Libraryland

• “Program Idea: Parachute Playtime” from so tomorrow
  http://www.sotomorrowblog.com/2013/08/program-idea-parachute-playtime.html

• “Baby Parachute Playtime!” by Narrating Tales of Preschool Storytime
  http://nikarella.wordpress.com/2013/11/22/baby-parachute-playtime/
“Meet a Real…”

- Tap the community for people with interesting jobs
- Staff read a story
- Experts talk about their jobs & share skills
- Time & space for photos
- Simple activity option
“Meet a Real...” Rationale

- Children build vocabularies in rich learning environments
- Children can sound out a word more quickly if it’s a word they already know
“Meet a Real…” Resources

• “Marching Band Storytime” by Future Librarian Superhero
  
  http://www.futurelibrariansuperhero.com/2013/05/marching-band-storytime.html

• “Ballet Storytime” by The Show Me Librarian
  

• “Soccer Storytime” by The Show Me Librarian
  
Now it’s your turn to share!

- How do you program beyond storytime for preschoolers?
To Wrap Up…

• Go beyond storytime for preschoolers.
• Be intentional about your goals for all preschool programs.
• Use the resources available to you.
Questions & Closing

• Questions?

• Find all our resources on our Pinterest board for this presentation:
  http://goo.gl/6EUs1c
Thanks!

- Amy Commers, South St. Paul Public Library, @choosejoytoday
- Melissa Depper, Arapahoe Library District, @MelissaZD
- Amy Koester, Skokie Public Library, @amyeileenk
- Marge Loch-Wouters, La Crosse Public Library, @lochwouters
Additional Resources: Reading

• Children’s Access to Print Material and Education-Related Outcomes, from RIF, http://bit.ly/1Aeoiz4

• National Reading Panel Report, http://www.nichd.nih.gov/research/supported/Pages/nrp.aspx/


• A research overview about repeated book readings, from CELLreview, www.earlyliteracylearning.org/cellreviews/cellreviews_v5_n5.pdf

Additional Resources: Writing

• OT Mom Learning Activities for Kids, http://www.ot-mom-learning-activities.com/
• Therapy Street for Kids, http://www.therapystreetforkids.com/Skills2.html
• Early Literacy–Pre-Writing Skills posts from Family Child Care Academy, http://familychildcareacademy.com/early-literacy-pre-writing-skills/
• The Motor Story, http://themotorstory.org/
Additional Resources: Singing

- A research overview about nursery rhyme knowledge, from CELLreviews, http://www.earlyliteracylearning.org/cellreviews/ cellreviews_v4_n1.pdf
Additional Resources: Talking

• Project VIEWS2 (3-year IMLS grant measuring early literacy outcomes), https://www.facebook.com/VIEWS2/info

• The Early Catastrophe: The 30 Million Word Gap by Age 3 (Hart & Risley), http://www.aft.org/newspubs/periodicals/ae/spring2003/hart.cfm

• Child Talk (speech therapist blog), http://www.talkingkids.org/

• Playing with Words 365 (speech therapist blog), http://www.playingwithwords365.com/
Additional Resources: Playing


