STORYTIME FUNDAMENTALS

Tammy Hawley-House
Tammy.hawleyhouse@libraries.idaho.gov
Introductions

• Find the person with the other half of your book cover
• Talk with them for 3 minutes and find out
  1. Their name
  2. At which branch they work
  3. Their favorite picture book character & why it is their favorite
• Introduce them to the larger group
WHY DO LIBRARIES OFFER STORYTIMES?
Why do libraries offer storytimes?

1. Because it is expected
2. Expose adults and kids to quality literature
3. Model reading aloud to kids
4. Demonstrate early literacy skills
5. Offer children an opportunity to be part of a group setting
6. Develop positive relationships between library staff and public
7. Develop lifelong love of reading and books
Preparing for Storytime

- Plan ahead
- Gather and review lots of materials
- Organize your storytimes
- Practice, practice, practice
- Find your voice
- Have fun
Storytime Toolbox

- Space & room set-up
- Books
- Your voice
- Fingerplays
- Music
- Movement
- Scarves, beanbags, rhythm sticks
- Puppets
- Flannel boards
- Apps
- Transitions

The tools do not work without you!
Gather the kids on the floor- A semi circle works great. (use tape if needed).

Sit slightly higher than the children.

Hold the book open so that children on the floor can see the illustrations.

Use charts, white boards to introduce songs, rhymes, etc.

Make sure all technology is cooperating and have a back-up for tech fails.

Make sure exits are accessible.
Books

• Do I like it?
• Does it fit my audience?
• Is it a good read-aloud in a large setting?
• Can I make it interactive?
• Do I know other books, songs & rhymes to pair with it?
• Can everyone in the audience see the illustrations?
• Types of books: informational, big-books, pop-up, storyboards

Literacy Skill:
Encouraging Print Motivation &
Developing Print Awareness &
Increasing vocabulary
Your Voice

• Project your voice
• Find your rhythm
• Get into character
• Vary the speed, pitch, volume
• Be expressive
Fingerplays

The Eensy, Weensy Spider
The eensy, weensy spider, Climbed up the water spout.

Down came the rain, And washed the spider out.

Out came the sun, And dried up all the rain.

And the eensy, weensy spider, Climbed up the spout again.

Two Little Feet Go Tap
Two little feet go tap, tap, tap, (tap feet)
Two little hands go clap, clap, clap. (clap hands)

A quick little leap up from my chair, (stand up quickly)
Two little arms reach high in the air. (stretch arms high)

Two little feet go jump, jump, jump, (jump)
Two little fists go thump, thump, thump. (pound fists)

One little body goes round and round, (twirl around) And one little child sits quietly down. (sit down)

Literacy Skill: Rhyming develops phonological awareness
Music

- Help kids refocus
- Improve math skills
- Encourage kids to express themselves
- Provide guided movement activities
- Engage parents

Let’s Engage in Jim Gill’s Silly Dance Contest
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bVqoqfidupQ
Scarves, beanbags, rhythm sticks

• Helps get the wiggles out
• Teaches kids to follow directions
• Develops good listening skills
• Promotes motor coordination
• Develops eye-hand coordination

https://thriveafterthree.files.wordpress.com/2013/08/scarf-storytime.jpg

Beanie bag Dance
https://youtu.be/4Rri2xpvhxo
Puppets

- Engage kids visually
- Can be used as a host for storytime
- Can remind kids of storytime “rules”
- Sing a song
- Can tell an entire story.
- Just plain fun!

Literacy Skill:
Modeling Narrative Skills
Flannel Boards

- Encourage enjoyment of language
- Aid in visual teaching
- Provide exposure to sequencing
- Add variety to storytime

Skills:
Providing Narrative skill practice

Types:
- Retelling a story
- Songs/Rhymes
- Concepts
- Counting

https://www.pinterest.com
Storytime Transition

**Wiggle Rhyme**
I wiggle my fingers
I wiggle my toes
I wiggle my shoulders
I wiggle my nose
Now all the wiggles are out of me
& I’m as quiet as quiet can be.

**After Movement Rhyme:**
Reach right up and touch the sky
Reach right over and touch your toes
Reach out to the side
Reach right in and touch your nose
Put your hands in your lap
Look up at the ceiling
Look down at the floor
Look at Miss Tammy
Take a big deep breath and hold it (Exhale)
One more time, take a big deep breathe and hold it (Exhale)

Breathing exercises are great for calming
Storytime Toolbox
Re-cap

What are other tools you use?

- Space & room set-up
- Books
- Your voice
- Fingerplays
- Music
- Movement
- Scarves, beanbags, rhythm sticks
- Puppets
- Flannel boards
- Apps
- Transitions
Storytime Structure (30 minutes)

- Opening
- Book (longest)
- Song/Fingerplays
- Book
- Flannelboard

- Movement with transition to seat
- Book/ Flannelboard (short)
- Closing (song, stamps, bubbles, etc.)

Be sure to take in extra stuff in case you need to change course
Add a process to identify what needs tweaking.

Develop a system to keep track of storytimes for reuse and for reflection.
Storytime Openings

Clap and Sing Hello!
*(Tune: Farmer in the Dell)*

We clap and sing hello,
We clap and sing hello,

With our friends at storytime,
We clap and sing hello!

(Wave and sing hello; stomp and sing hello.)
The More We Get Together
The more we get together together, together,
The more we get together the happier we’ll be!
Cause your friends are my friends
And my friends are your friends.
The more we get together the happier we’ll be!
Weaving in Early Literacy Skills

- Letter of the Day/ Sound of the Day
- Syllable clapping
- Pointing out rhyming words
- Parent tips on early literacy skills
Practice your message to adults

1. Pick a topic
   • Vocabulary, Syllables, Letters. Rhyming

2. Write down your quick message on a post it note

3. Practice your message to yourself

4. Practice your message with each other
WHERE DO YOU FIND GOOD BOOKS?
SHARE....................
Age Appropriateness

- Infants (0-18 month)
- Toddlers (18 – 36 months)
- Preschoolers (3-5 year)

Zero to Three

Idaho Early Learning eGuidelines
What age is it best for

1. Choose a partner
2. Pick a book
3. Look at handout with guidelines
4. Determine the age group your book is best suited for
5. Share with the larger group
Materials for flannel board pieces

- Flannel
- Felt
- Interfacing/Pellon
- Velcro
- Images laminated with felt glued on the back
- Magnets on a magnet board
Types of flannel board stories

- Counting
- Retelling of a picture book
- Concepts
- Science concept
- Song
- Hide and Find
REPLICATE IT!!!!!!

If you have a flannel board activity that is a proven success, replicate it.
## How to engage the adults

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Post songs and rhymes so they can read/sing along</td>
<td>Ask adults to join in movement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Give each adult a scarf/shaker/etc.</td>
<td>Remind them they are part of a successful storytime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make eye-contact with them</td>
<td>What works for you? - share</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Post songs and rhymes so they can read/sing along
- Ask adults to join in movement
- Make eye-contact with them
- Give each adult a scarf/shaker/etc.
- Remind them they are part of a successful storytime
- What works for you? - share
Other stuff

- Set rules and expectations
- It is O.K. to stop and ask for parental/adult assistance.
- Be prepared to change your course.
- Some storytimes just don’t go well.
- Don’t forget to laugh!
How to deal with hiccups

- Kids won’t stay seated
- Snacks & toys are distracting
- Kids aren’t paying attention
- Kids are noisy
- Kids hitting each other
- Cell phone interruptions
- Parents are talking
LET’S MAKE A PLAN!
Resources for Storytime

- Other library staff doing storytimes
- Library resources: books, kidpacks, reference-type books
- Day by Day Idaho
  http://daybydayid.org/
- Blogs: http://storytimekatie.com/, https://jbrary.com,
  http://storytimeunderground.org/
- Videos: http://www.wccls.org/rhymes/have-you-ever-seen-a-baby
  https://jbrary.com/toddler-storytime-songs-get-wiggles/
- Pinterest-great for visuals http://www.pinterest.com/
- Apps: https://littleelit.com/
Time to Share

What 1 tip resonated with you today?

What are some of your tips, experiences with storytimes?

Do you have some favorite resources?

Wanna share an epic fail?
Thank You!

Thank you for taking the time to attend today’s workshop and for making a difference in the lives of so many in your community!