

The Scoop

Fun, inspiring and innovative ideas
for library youth services

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SECTIONS

- [Library to Library](#)
- [Young Adult Corner](#)
- [School Zone](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [Tips and Tools](#)
- [Summer Reading News](#)
- [Feature: Summer Food Programs](#)
- [CE News You Can Use](#)
- [Multicultural Connections](#)
- [Know the Numbers](#)
- [STEM is Everywhere](#)
- [Book Look](#)

DATES & DEADLINES

- [Apply now](#) for the **Jump Start** kindergarten registration program.
- [Register NOW](#) for **El día de los niños/El día de los libros**.
- [Apply by March 20](#) to participate in the three **Bright Futures Summer Reading** incentive programs.
- [Apply by May 17](#) for **Wave 2** of the **Fun with Math & Science** workshops.
- [Apply by May 17](#) for **Every Child Ready to Read** workshops.

WELCOME

By Erica Compton

The annual Read to Me meeting drew record library staff this year. Eighty-seven folks joined us in Boise on February 21-22 and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. The presentation on Generational Poverty was eye-opening to say the least, and the fun STEM activities on Friday really got folks thinking about new ways to host storytimes.

Check out the STEM Is Everywhere and Featured Article sections to learn more about the content covered at the Read to Me meeting.



Read to Me Facebook Page Hits 200 Likes!

Our Facebook page has seen a lot of activity lately. Julie continues to update it frequently with early literacy tips, activities, and research. It's an easy way to stay current on what is happening with our Read to Me programs too.

Like us today using this handy QR Code Julie created! Just scan the code and it will take you directly to our page.



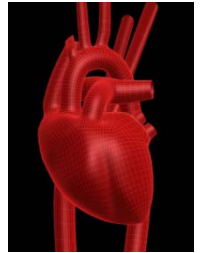
LIBRARY TO LIBRARY

Great Ideas from Read to Me Meeting Participants

- Snowy Fun -- “We get a lot of snow where I’m from, so I always do many fun snow storyhours. This year we had an indoor snowball fight using wadded up scrap papers. We also wrapped three different size boxes with white paper and cut out a nose, eyes, and mouth so they could make a snowman inside. They loved it! – *Randa Dye, Island Park Library*

[We’ve also heard of libraries allowing kids to cut out paper snowflakes for a week, displaying some of them all around the library, and not vacuuming the “snow” left from the snowflakes for the whole week to add to the snowy atmosphere. Love the indoor snowman idea!]

- Tying STEM into Valentine’s Day! -- “For Valentine’s Day, we learned about heartbeats and rhythm as part of a science and math early literacy storytime (preschoolers). We read books about hearts and activity (moving around) and let the kids listen to their heartbeats with a stethoscope. We also had parents help the kids find their pulses on their wrists or necks, marked the spot with a sticker, and count the beats of their pulse for 30 seconds. Then we spent two minutes dancing and counted our pulses again to observe the difference.” – *Jennifer Redford, Boise Public Hillcrest Branch*
- Idea for next year’s President’s Day -- Jane Somerville at the Stanley Community Library said they did a fun President’s Day Storyhour with books about George Washington’s teeth, Abe Lincoln’s Hat and more. They had cherry fruit snacks and made silhouette cameo’s of the kids.



Thanks for sharing these great ideas. Watch for more in upcoming issues! And keep them coming. We send thank-you books to library staff (for their libraries) in return for sharing ideas, book reviews, and photos with write-ups of events!

When You Think of Research, Think of C.R.A.P.

By Stephanie Bailey-White

Want teenagers to remember something you are saying? Sometimes it takes some creativity and Boise Public has done a great job with the easy-to-remember acronym C.R.A.P.

In a recent Idaho Statesman article on Boise Public Library’s “Book a Librarian” program, Librarian Becca Stroebel Kabasa provided some great information literacy tips we also thought we’d share here.

“Librarians might have a no-nonsense reputation, but a humorous acronym — CRAP — guides their approach to information,” Statesman reporter Anna Webb said.

“C” asks whether information is current. “R” asks whether it’s relevant to the topic. “A” is for accuracy and authority. “P,” for purpose, is especially key in an era when anyone can post information online with any kind of agenda. “You need to learn to ask if someone is trying to sell you something or a certain viewpoint,” said Stroebel Kabasa.

Check out the great [article](#).

Books to Go Feedback is Good So Far!

By Stephanie Bailey-White

Read to Me meeting participants indicated things are going pretty well with the first phase of implementation in over 90 sites across the state. Library staff said their partners seem pleased with the quality of books and they like the simplicity of the check-out system and having books prepackaged. Here are two comments among several we have received about Books to Go so far:

"I had a mother in here this morning just gushing over being able to check out themed book bags at her son's preschool. She said her family tries to come in to the library regularly, but can't make it as often as she would like. She greatly appreciates the convenience of having themed book bags with extension activity ideas available right there at the preschool for families to borrow. Her four-year-old son really liked Rhyming Dust Bunnies from the "Rhyming" bag, so they were in here looking for a copy to check out to keep at home for four weeks!" – Cathy Hardy, Eagle Public Library

"I am a Head Start teacher. Our families love the Books to Go, especially the kids. They get to take four books home at a time, instead of just 1. One parent was very happy, remarking, "Oh good! No Curious George today." We have about 20 Curious George books in our library and his son kept bringing home the same books. The exchange system is faster for the teachers, too. Instead of each child looking through all of the books on the Lending Library shelves to find one they haven't read, they just choose a bag that they haven't borrowed yet and they know they will have four books to read. Thank you for thinking of us for your program!" -- sent from Amanda Bowden, Portneuf District Library

Alyce Kelley, Director of the Emmett Public Library, sent this great photo of some of the children in Emmett who are checking out the Books to Go for the first time. Keep that feedback (both good and not-so-good)



coming! We want to hear how things are going in your community. If you are with an Idaho public library and haven't signed up yet, it's not too late. Apply at www.surveymonkey.com/s/books-to-go-application or contact Stephanie at ICfL if you have any questions.

Read Across America

Did your library host an event for Read Across America Day (or week)? Please send us a photo and blurb describing how you celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday this year and we'll post it in the April issue of *The Scoop*.

YOUNG ADULT CORNER

Record Numbers Register for Teen Tech Week



53 public and school libraries registered to celebrate Teen Tech Week™ this March. Of those, 21 represent school libraries and 11 are first time participants!

We have sent out over 2500 paperback books, 180 posters and all of the bookmarks ordered. We still have posters, so if you need more let us know!

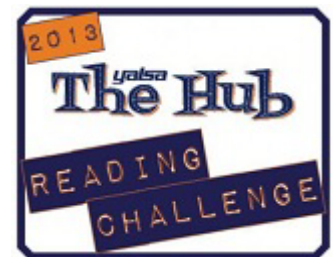
Remember to keep track of the number of tweens and teens who participate at your programs. You will be asked to provide those on the final report you are required to submit after your program. Random drawings will be held for hardcover books, paperback ARCs, signed books, and more, so register today!

Questions? Contact Erica erica.compton@libraries.idaho.gov.

The YALSA Hub Reading Challenge, Shiny and New

Have you heard about "The Hub Reading Challenge," sponsored by the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA)? As reported in *SL's Good Comics for Kids* blog, YALSA is hosting an expanded, new and improved The Hub Reading Challenge for 2013. This is how it works: you have until June 22 to read as many titles as you can from YALSA's [official challenge list](#). Once you hit the 25-book mark, you're eligible to submit a reader's response for any of the titles you've read. Sure, there's a prize, and you can earn a badge too!

Continue reading...



Taskforces Galore!

YALSA is seeking volunteers for six brand new taskforces. Interested? Go here! <http://ow.ly/hEbpF>

Teen Town Halls with Jack Martin

Following a Successful Summit in Seattle, YALSA's Virtual Town Halls on Teens and Libraries to Continue the Discussion in March

YALSA held a Teens & Libraries Summit Jan. 23-24, 2013 featuring speakers, panels and small group discussion examining the current state of library services for and with young adults, and explored how library services may need to evolve to better meet the needs of teens.

The Summit is part of the year-long National Forum on Libraries and Teens effort, which brings together key stakeholders from the areas of libraries, education, technology, adolescent development and the for-profit and nonprofit sectors to examine the world of young adults and library services to this population.

Beginning on **Tuesday, March 19, 2013**, YALSA invites you to join the discussion in a series of Virtual Town Halls on Teens and Libraries, facilitated by Linda W. Braun, a YALSA Past-President and Editor of Young Adults Library Services (YALS). **More Info:** <http://www.ala.org/yaforum/>

Figment.com Contest - \$5,000 for College!

Penguin Young Readers Group is teaming up with Ruta Septys, author of *Out of the Easy* and *Between Shades of Gray*, to give you the opportunity to accomplish your own college dreams! Enter the *Out of the Easy* Scholarship Contest for your chance to win \$5,000 dollars towards the college of your choice.

More info: <http://dailyfig.figment.com/2013/02/06/out-of-the-easy-scholarship-essay-contest/>

Neil Gaiman's *A Calendar of Tales*

Neil has been inspired, the twelve tales written, and your task to illustrate the stories has been set – but it doesn't stop there. Now he's giving you the opportunity to show off your filmmaking talents.

Neil has recorded himself reading all 12 tales and would like you to create a video to go with your favorite audio story. You can listen to the stories and download them further down the page, then use your skills to bring them to life on screen.



Continue reading...

SCHOOL ZONE

Summer Slide: Ode to Summer Reading

This spring many of your schools will receive a visit from public librarians to promote summer reading programs at your local library. Though we tend to focus more on the kindergarten through fourth grade students, middle and high school students also highly benefit from summer library programs. Research indicates that children who read as few as six books over the summer can significantly decrease summer slide. School librarians play an important role in helping students maintain reading levels over the summer by encouraging participation in summer reading programs.

Advantages of Summer Reading Programs for Students who Struggle with Reading

- Summer reading programs usually take special needs into account and make adjustments for individual children.
- Reading four or five books over the summer can have a significant impact for middle school readers.
- One advantage of public library summer library programs is that they are not located in school buildings, which helps reduce the negative perception about summer learning for students who are struggling.
- Summer reading programs in public libraries usually encourage readers, especially those who are struggling, to use alternate formats such as magazines, recorded books, graphic novels, and material on the Internet.
- Research indicates that library summer programs offer extensive enrichment activities related to literature that are often not included in schools because of the time constraints.
- Participants often return to summer library programs in successive years, which helps children build reading into their summer routine.

Importance of Self-Selection of Reading Materials

- Some researchers feel it is important that students, especially middle and high school kids, read things that are important to them socially--items related to movies and books that are popular with their friends--which most library programs encourage.
- Free, voluntary reading is essential to helping students become better readers, writers, and spellers.
- 8 out of 10 studies indicate students who read recreationally out-performed those who don't.
- Students read more when they can choose materials based on their own interests.
- Self-selection of reading materials is an extremely important factor in motivating struggling readers and is a key component for most summer library programs.

Sources:

Celano, Donna and Susan B. Neuman. 2001. *The Role of Public Libraries in Children's Literacy Development: An Evaluation Report*. Pennsylvania Library Association, Mechanicsburg, PA.

Summer Can Set Kids on the Right—or Wrong—Course, National Summer Learning Association, Research brief. Johns Hopkins University. *Facts About Summer Learning*. Center for Summer Learning.

Kim, Jimmy. March 18, 2004. *Summer Book Reading and the Achievement Gap The Role of Public Libraries*. Harvard, MA: Center for Evaluation, Harvard University.

Ways School Libraries Can Support Summer Reading Programs:

Now is the time to plan for those last weeks before summer reading programs at the library begin... The theme this year is "underground." Children's slogan: *Dig Into Reading*; Teen slogan: *Beneath the Surface*.

Continue Reading...

Resources for School Librarians to help promote summer reading:

- [Summer Learning Loss Handout](#)
- [Examples of how public libraries and schools have collaborated to promote summer reading](#)
- [Summary of Summer Reading Research](#)

Snapdragon Book Foundation Grant

Deadline: April 15, 2013

The Snapdragon Book Foundation is offering grants to school libraries that serve disadvantaged children. Grants will be awarded to public, private, and experimental K-12 schools. Last year, the Foundation awarded six grants of \$800-\$15,000 to help school libraries in underserved areas to purchase books.

More info: <http://www.snapdragonbookfoundation.org/index.html>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming Library Conferences

The Idaho Library Association (ILA) is sponsoring some fabulous regional conferences in April and May. Register today for one in your area:

- April 5, Magic Valley at CSI. See www.idaholibraries.org/files/Reg4brochure2013.pdf for details.
- April 13, Southwest Idaho at Fresco Arts Academy in Eagle. See www.idaholibraries.org/node/509 for details
- May 3, Southeast and Eastern Idaho at Snake River Community Library in Blackfoot. See <http://emp.byui.edu/twitchell/> for details.
- May 10, Northern Idaho. Details coming soon at www.idaholibraries.org/conferences.

This year's **Pacific Northwest Library Association Conference (PNLA)** will be held in Boise on August 14-16. This is a great opportunity to attend a regional library conference right in your backyard. They always have excellent sessions, and it's fun to meet colleagues from neighboring states and Canada. See <http://www.pnla.org/conference> for details.

The **ILA Annual Conference** will be held October 2-4 at the Nampa Civic Center. If you can help with planning, please contact Laura Abbot at the Nampa Public Library, abbott@nampalibrary.org. They could use your support!



Routes to Reading

Community Campaign for Grade-Level Reading: Third Grade Reading Success Matters!

The Challenge:

Reading proficiency by third grade is the most important predictor of high school graduation and career success. Yet every year more than 80 percent of low-income children miss this crucial milestone. If left unchecked, this problem will undermine efforts to end intergenerational poverty, close the achievement gap, and reduce high school dropout rates.

Communities must address this problem with a collaborative approach, bringing the education system, libraries, business leaders, social service agencies, and policy-makers together cohesively to develop an action plan which addresses the unique needs within that community. These "Community Campaigns" are finding success in 124 communities around the country and are part of a network sponsored by the National Campaign for Grade Level Reading. This Campaign is a call to action. We hope you will join us.

Who should attend?

Educators and administrators, library staff and trustees, business people, local and state policy-makers, parents, social service providers, non-profit organization staff, VISTA and AmeriCorps volunteers, and others interested in working together to address the challenge of grade-level reading proficiency in their area.

Registration will open soon for these important coalition-building events. Mark your calendars and watch for a notice on LibIdaho!

April 11: Pocatello, Clarion Inn, 8:30 – 11:30 (register by April 9)

April 11: Twin Falls, Hilton Garden Inn, 2:30 – 5:30 (register by April 9)

April 12: Boise, CW Moore Building, 9:00 – 12:00 (register by April 10)

More info:

<http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/route-3-communication-collaboration-and-coalition-building>

Idaho ALA Annual Proposal Needs Your VOTE!

ICfL submitted a proposal to present a “Conversation Starter” session at ALA in Chicago this June. We need your votes to make it in! You do NOT need to be an ALA member, but you do need to sign up for an account in order to vote. Once you sign up for an account at: <http://connect.ala.org> please take a moment and visit <http://connect.ala.org/ala2013csvoting> to vote. You need to click on the title and then click on the “thumbs up” symbol to cast your vote. You can only vote once, but you can lobby others!! Spread the word and help ensure that our proposal is chosen!

Look for: Idaho Maker Spaces - Engaging Teens with STEM

Description: Thought about starting a Maker Space in your library? Idaho has joined the Maker Movement by launching Maker Spaces in five public libraries across the state.

The State Library has implemented a pilot project that includes training on tools and technology, leveraging partnerships, involving community, and evaluating outcomes.

The results include formal and stealth programming which incorporate engineering, robotics, and other STEM topics to draw teens into these innovative spaces!

Come hear what Idaho is doing, what we are learning, and what's next.

There will be time for discussion, questions, and sharing.

TIPS AND TOOLS

Idaho Community Foundation (ICF) Opens Grant Cycle to Those in Eastern Idaho

The Idaho Community Foundation (ICF) Eastern Region Competitive Grant Cycle, which is for Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Bonneville, Butte, Caribou, Clark, Custer, Franklin, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, Oneida, Power and Teton counties, opened Feb. 1. **Deadline for applying is April 1.**

Last year, ICF awarded more than \$83,000 in grants to 54 organizations through this grant cycle. This year more than \$30,000 in additional grants for education will be available thanks to an anonymous donor, so new and previous applicants are encouraged to apply. Organizations may apply for up to \$5,000.

More Info: http://www.idcomfdn.org/Regional_Cycle

Apply: <http://www.idcomfdn.org/page.aspx?pid=542>

OR [create an account](#).

The Improving Literacy through School Libraries (LSL) program

The LSL program promotes comprehensive local strategies to improve student reading achievement by improving school library services and resources. The program is one component of the Department's commitment to dramatically improve student achievement by focusing available resources, including those of school library media centers, on reading achievement. **Deadline for application is April 11.**

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/lsl/index.html>

Mini-grants for School and Public Libraries

Deadline: March 15, 2013

The Ezra Jack Keats Foundation offers \$500 mini-grants to K-12 school and public library programs that encourage literacy and creativity in children. Programs relating to the work of Ezra Jack Keats are welcome, but not required.

Apply: <http://www.ezra-jack-keats.org/minigrant-program/>

Ansel Adams Photo Contest

February 20 was the 111th birthday of landscape photographer Ansel Adams. In his honor, Scholastic is inviting kids to take their own landscape snaps — and enter them for a chance to win a Fujifilm Instax Mini Instant Camera and a free canvas print courtesy of CVS/pharmacy! Get inspired at AnselAdams.com, then enter for a chance to win.

More Info: <http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/article/parent-child/snap-photo-and-win-camera>



SUMMER READING NEWS

Important Message Regarding Backpacks for School Visits

If you were planning to distribute backpacks to elementary schools as part of the Bright Futures School Visits program, please read...

[Continue reading...](#)

Check the Website Before Applying for Bright Futures Outreach Opportunities

If more than one person from your library will be applying for an outreach program, or if your library shares boundaries with another library serving the same schools, please check the current list of applicants on our [summer reading website](#) before you apply. The link to the chart is under Bright Futures. This list is updated every few days.

Please check with other library staff before applying to determine who will apply for which programs and which schools.

Deadline to apply for **School Visits, Reaching Underserved Children, and School Partnerships** is **March 20, 2013**. Application information can be accessed on our summer reading website (link above).

More Info: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/bright-futures-summer-reading-opportunities-school-partnerships>

If you apply for a Bright Futures program through Survey Monkey, you will receive confirmation that we received your application within a day or so. If you **do not** receive an email confirmation please call us immediately. Confirmations will be sent by ICfL staff person Karen

Fred Meyer Books for Summer Readers

For the past few years we have applied for and received grant funds through the Fred Meyer Foundation and Corporate Stores to provide paperbacks to libraries for summer reading prizes. We applied again this year, and we hope to be notified by spring. As soon as we know whether our application was accepted, we will send out a notice on LibIdaho. Libraries that submitted their End-of-Program Summer Reading Report are automatically eligible to receive these books. There will be no application process on the libraries' part.

YALSA Summer Reading Group

YALSA has created an online community for librarians and library workers to use to find resources and to connect with one another and share ideas around teen summer reading and summer learning. Please visit <http://summerreading.ning.com> if you'd like to join in on the discussions and idea sharing.

Dig Into Reading Ideas

Did you know that there is an **International Mud Day**? It takes place on June 29 each year, right in the middle of SRP! There is also a [Facebook page](#). And if you plug "International Mud Day" into your favorite web search tool, you'll find lots of resources. Who knew? (Thanks, Janet Ingraham-Dwyer!)

Lots of folks are digging this year's theme! Libraries attending the Read to Meeting shared some of the programs they're planning. Here are a few things Soda Springs is planning this summer:

(From Dorajo Messerly) We are having a roaming gnome. He will vanish from the library and give a clue about where he might be hiding in the town. Kids and parents can log on to our Facebook page and comment on where he might be or take a picture of where they have seen him. We are also having a Big Rig day, where companies bring their equipment and have a show-and-tell where kids can see them up close.

Soda Springs, like many libraries around Idaho, is planning to partner with their Soil Conservation agency and local mines.



See more ideas <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/summer-reading-resources>

FEATURED ARTICLE

Poverty 101

Librarians were introduced to Poverty 101 at the annual Read to Me meeting on February 21. Lynda Coates from Communication across Barriers in Portland, Oregon shared her experiences of living in generational poverty. She presented information about how library services can help people in poverty break through the barriers that keep them there. About 17 percent of Idaho children from birth to age 18 live in poverty.

Lynda discussed the difference between oral and print cultures, which can be a disconnect for people who don't know that there are characteristics of each. The 10 strategies that she recommended to help support people in poverty are:

- Withhold judgment of them -- we don't know their circumstances.
- Connect with them by using some oral culture techniques -- using stories, repeating information, using gestures.
- Work with them by using a strengths-based perspective instead of looking for deficits.
- Foster resiliency in them using encouraging words.
- Foster belonging and identification -- think about Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs.
- Teach print skills. Having a balance of oral/print skills is better than being predominately one or the other.
- Focus on enrichment and core skills instead of remediation.
- Help build their assets and social capital. Help them develop an "address book" of contacts and resources.
- Create shared meaning and influence them with motivation.
- Build partnerships within your library and within the community.



For more information about poverty issues, there are more written resources on the Communication across Barriers [website](#). Julie Armstrong will also be presenting workshops connecting poverty with literacy at regional library conferences this spring.

CE NEWS YOU CAN USE

Early Literacy Programming in the Digital Age: Apps and E-Books in Storytime Webinar Offered

Explore mobile apps and e-books for children and learn practical techniques for integrating these tools into traditional early literacy programming during this upcoming webinar offered through PLA (Public Library Association). Learn more at www.ala.org/pla/onlinelearning/webinars/digitalstorytime. Cost is \$35 for non ALA or

PLA members on April 17, 1 p.m. CST. Registration is now open for these programs. Questions? Contact PLA at pla@ala.org or (800) 545-2433 x5PLA.

Free Offerings for March

Idaho Commission for Libraries: (click on ICfL sponsored workshops, then on Monthly Free CE List – March 2013)
Highlights include:

- *LiLL.org data base trainings* in March – great opportunity for gaining more information on the individual databases
- *Info2Go!* Idaho's monthly gathering online to learn and share – this month's topic: Advocacy in Action

More Info: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/freetraining>

Enrollment Assistance Awards - Library Support Staff Certification

The Idaho Commission for Libraries is once again accepting requests for Enrollment Assistance Awards (EAA) for the Library Support Staff Certification (LSSC) program. LSSC program offers library employees the opportunity to achieve recognition for their experience, enhance library service, and increase skills and knowledge in areas such as the foundations of librarianship, technology, and communication. For more information about the LSSC program go to www.ala-apa.org/lssc.

To request consideration, please complete the form at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/lssc>. Application deadline is March 15, 2013.

MULTICULTURAL CONNECTIONS

El día de los niños 2013



El día de los niños / El día de los libros

Many Children, Many Cultures, Many Books!

Get ready to celebrate children and literacy this April 30th with El día de los niños/El día de los libros!

Registration Now Open

Receive hardcover books for your library and paperback books to give away at your event. Promotional materials will also be provided to all libraries that register.

More Info: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/files/El%20dia%20promotion2013.pdf>

Apply: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2013Dia>

Día Resources

Check these websites for ideas and suggestions for celebrating Many Children, Many Cultures, Many Books, as well as resources for bilingual learning. On these sites parents and caregivers will find useful tips related to reading and literacy, as well as recommended books, activities, songs and music, and more.

Continue Reading...

KNOW THE NUMBERS

Start Early to Prevent Innumeracy

One in five adults in the U.S. can't do basic arithmetic problems such as adding fractions, working with measurements, and doing whole number arithmetic problems, according to a new study about how math skills develop.

Celia Baker of Deseret News reports that 22 percent of adult Americans are functionally innumerate—a term that describes the inability to do math problems in the same way the word illiterate describes the inability to read or write. The millions of Americans who fit in this category don't have the basic math skills for most modern jobs, the study says, including jobs open to people without college degrees: "The study, by researchers at the University of Missouri, showed it is important for children to comprehend that written numerals represent quantities by the time they enter first grade. They also need to be able to solve simple arithmetic problems by grouping numbers, not just counting.

The long-term study followed 177 children from kindergarten through seventh grade. It found that children who don't grasp the meaning and function of numerals before they enter first grade fall behind their peers in math achievement, and most of them don't catch up. Those who start first grade behind their peers in math achievement remain at heightened risk for low scores on math problems through seventh grade. It's the first study to link starting points of math knowledge to outcomes that will affect kids later in life, said psychologist David Geary, an author of the study. 'We know very little about the precursors of later innumeracy,' Geary said. 'A lot of focus has been on preparation for college math, and not as much focus on the bottom 25 percent of students who won't be going to college—and in addition to that, will have employment problems.'

It's whether children have been taught about numbers—and when—that matters, not how smart or advantaged they are, according to the study. And that means there is hope for changing the crippling effects of poor math achievement, which include heightened chances for dropping out of school. 'If we catch (math comprehension problems) early enough, it's something we can probably do something about,' Geary said."

Continue Reading...

STEM IS EVERYWHERE

STEM Fun for All at Read to Me's Meeting

Ever seen 80 library staff playing with blocks, buttons, and beads? The crew at this year's Read to Me meeting had a blast trying out different activities from the *What's the Big Idea Math & Science Librarian Starter Kit*. Presenters Gwendolyn Haley and Mary Ellen Braks from the Spokane County Library District shared their expertise and enthusiasm for math and science in early childhood with the group. Participants built with straws and connectors,



tested their sorting skills, designed bridges, determined which items would float in a tub of water, and more.

Two lucky libraries took home their very own Math & Science Librarian Starter Kit from *What's the Big Idea*, and every library took home a manual chock-full of ideas to get them started. Many of the library staff commented on how easy they now see it can be to incorporate math and science skills into storytimes after participating in this training. That is just what we wanted to hear! Want to learn more? You can start by checking out the ICfL's Fun with Math & Science resource page.



If you are interested in participating in our Fun with Math & Science pilot project then click on one of the links below.

More Info: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/doc/fun-math-science-family-workshops>

Apply: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FunwithMathScience2013>

STEM Programming Toolkit Released from YALSA!

Interested in incorporating STEM programming into your library? Then this NEW toolkit is for you! Topics include: Getting Started, Partnerships, Marketing and Promotion, Stealth Programming, MakerSpaces, Evaluation, and more! Sample formal programs, stealth program, action plans, and evaluation forms are provided to help you get started.

This toolkit was created in 2012 - 2013 by a task force of the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA). YALSA would like to thank the members of the task force, who include: Erica Compton (chair), Julia Driscoll, Jennifer Knight, Laura Mesjak and Tiffany Williams.

More Info: http://www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/STEMtoolkit_Final_2013.docx

National STEM Video Game Challenge

The National STEM Video Game Challenge is a multi-year competition that aims to motivate interest in STEM learning among America's youth by tapping into students' natural passion for playing and making video games. Join the new faces of game design and start designing today! Click on the link below to enter and submit your game.



More Info: <http://stemchallenge.org/>

Making Goop!



Making goop is a great scientific experiment. Kids are fascinated to see two ingredients that when mixed together behave completely different than either one of them did by itself. Read about our [two ingredient goop recipe](#) which is great for young children. For older children you can use the three ingredient recipe. Have fun talking to your children about what they observe.

Websites Full of Fun and Learning

Check out some of these websites for programming ideas, STEM activities, and just plain fun stuff!

- [Inner Child Learning](#) – Check out their great experiments and other activities
- [Science for Preschoolers](#) – A variety of wonderful science activities for preschoolers
- [Dr. Picklestein](#) – BSU professor make house calls in the Treasure Valley to share his love of Chemistry! Outside the area? Check out his [Facebook page](#).
- [TinkerBox](#) – (free iPad app) A fun-to-play physics game and puzzle that puts you in the role of inventor, problem solver, and engineer extraordinaire.
- [9 Great Apps for Math](#) – courtesy of Parent & Child magazine (Scholastic)

BOOK LOOK

YA Literature Release Dates

Looking for the latest releases in YA Lit? Look no further. [YALit.com](#) lists titles by publication date.

Here's a glimpse of some upcoming books:

March 19: *Clockwork Princess*, by Cassandra Clare

March 26: *Period 8*, by Chris Crutcher

April 2: *Fearless*, by Cornelia Funke

April 2: *Light*, by Michael Grant



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