

June 15, 2010



Leave 'em Laughing

Fun and laughter are essential to children's lives. "Children's sense of humor reflects their new intellectual achievements. Humor is basically a form of intellectual play—play with ideas. Further, humor is generally the funniest during the months (maybe even a year or two) after the time it can be understood. Riddles, for example, are most funny in first and second grade, but become progressively less funny after that, because they are just too easy to understand." (McGhee, Paul, *Understanding and promoting the development of children's humor*. Kendall Hunt, 2002)

As librarians, how can we contribute to the development of amusement in children? By choosing books and rhymes for storytime and the library collection that match the children's current intellectual abilities, we reinforce their sense of humor.

Babies most often laugh when their parents do something silly that is not part of their normal behavior such a silly

faces or sounds. Thus, babies enjoy hearing rhyming words like "piggly wiggly" or jouncing along with bouncing rhymes.

Toddlers laugh at stories where the characters get simple things wrong. They also love slapstick, such as tales that involve hiccups, sneezing or kids behaving badly.

Based on such developmental traits in children, you should consider adding laughter-producing books and activities to each storytime or program. Look for humorous materials to include in the juvenile collection, and every now and then, have a good laugh yourself.

From the "First Steps" column by Renea Arnold and Nell Colburn, "Humor Us." *School Library Journal*, p. 17, January 2010.



District Happenings

NEW

Hamlin Memorial Library in Smethport has a facebook page. Check it out at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Smethport-PA/Hamlin-Memorial-Library/181174986417>

EVENTS

Hamlin Memorial Library held a Princess Party to prepare for International Princess Day (May 5). Little girls age 3-7 were invited to wear their Princess "bling" and come to the library to make a crown and listen to Fairy Tales read by a "real" princess.



Warren Public Library is hosting eight (8) embroidery classes for children ages 7 and up on Tuesday and Thursday evenings throughout July. Classes will be taught by the Chautauqua Regional Embroiderer's Guild.

Johnsonburg Public Library held the 3rd annual, second grade I-Did-A-Read during which children learn about Alaskan history & culture & are challenged to read 1,000 pages before the end of the month. One student read 5,026 pages this year!

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District Happenings (cont'd from page 1)

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Warren Public Library is holding *Crafty Wednesday for Tweens and Teens* throughout June & July. Participants will craft things such as duct tape beach bags; paper bead necklaces; bandana pillows, tote bags, etc.; flip flops; and brick and rock painting.

CONGRATULATIONS

Friends' Memorial Library in Kane received 2 grants. They obtained a Kane Redevelopment Grant for some improvements to their facility and a gift from the Collin's Family of Collins Pine Company in the amount of \$5,480.

ACTUAL REFERENCE QUESTIONS

Do you have a list of all the books written in the English language?

I was here about three weeks ago looking at a cookbook that cost \$39.95. Do you know which one it is?

Which outlets in the library are appropriate for my hairdryer?

Can you tell me why so many famous Civil War battles were fought on National Park sites?

Do you have any books with photographs of dinosaurs?

I'm looking for information on carpal tunnel syndrome. I think I'm having trouble with it in my neck.

Is the basement upstairs?

I am looking for a list of laws that I can break that would send me back to jail for a couple of months.

Guy holding a big Chilton's car repair manual says, "So where can I make the x-rays at?"

Hi, is there a book based on *Grapes of Wrath*?

Do you have a book about Leslie Miserables?

I need a copy of Macbeth in English.

Is cabbage grown on the white cliffs of Dover?



District Reminders

District Meetings:

September 24, 2010—*Getting Started with Economic Gardening: Small Business Resources on a Shoestring Budget*, presented by Rhonda Kleiman at Pitt-Bradford, Frame-Westerburg Commons, Conference Room C, 9:00 a.m. to about 1:00 p.m.

October 22, 2010—*Fundraising Forum: a Sharing of Ideas* at Mt Jewett Memorial Library, 9:00 a.m. to Noon

Workshops/Webinars:

June 23, 2010—*LSTA Grant Writing Workshop*, presented by Connie Cardillo, LSTA Administrator at Riverview IU 6 in Clarion, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

June 30, 2010—*Strategic Thinking Webinar*, presented by Michael Kumer, Nonprofit Leadership Institute at Warren Public Library, Slater Room, Noon to 1:00 p.m., Bring your lunch & Warren will provide coffee & tea.

August 13, 2010—*Building Blocks: Strengthening Children's Services*, presented by Sue McCleaf Nespeca at Clarion Holiday Inn, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Audit:

Now is the time to send your financial records to your accountant for audit or review. Please, inform accountants that the audit/review must be completed by **September 1, 2010**.

District Professional Collection

Nichols, Judy, *Storytimes for two-year-olds*. 2nd ed. Chicago: American Library Association, 1998.

Storytimes for two-year-olds is a programming tool that has been in the District Professional Collection for a number of years. However, it is still a very useful volume as it contain 50 thematic programs all prepared for your use.

Author Judy Nichols is a librarian, storyteller, puppeteer, and a seasoned children's performer. The programs in this tool are designed for flexibility with broad themes and include book recommendations; rhythm, rhymes, and fingerplays;

parents' follow-up ideas; craft activities; and program notes. Program themes range from zoos, rabbits, and colors to bath time, love, and getting dressed.

This book also incorporates sign language into each theme. Thus in the "Read to Me!" themed program, children learn the sign for book and in the "Hats" theme, children are taught the sign for hat.

The opening chapters relate Judy Nichols' tricks and tips for successful storytimes. Nichols provides

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More District Professional Collection

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advice on how to handle older siblings, child discipline, children who are not ready and more. She also includes a discussion of all the various elements that can be included in a storytime.

In the appendixes, is a chapter titled "Construction of Storytime Materials." In this day of shrinking funds for children's programs, this is a great resource. Within the book, there are several items that are used in many, if not all, programs. The appendix provides instructions to guide you in constructing these items. There are instructions for constructing a lap stage, a touch box, puppets and more. An added bonus is that all of these items can be made from materials you most likely have at home or around the library. No need to go out and buy expensive storytime props.

Another interesting feature of this tool is the "Parents' Follow-up Ideas," which provide suggestions you can share with parents so they can supplement their child's learning. Also of value are the "Program Notes" in each theme. These are tips to guide and aid the person presenting the storytime.

While the book is presented as a resource for two-year-old programming, most of the themes, books, crafts, etc. would work in any pre-school storytime. Some of the recommended books may be out of print but most libraries will have newer materials that fit the same theme. Just because this title has a 1998 copyright does not mean you should ignore it as a source of new themes, crafts, fingerplays, etc. for your storytimes. It is in the Professional Collection for your use.



Quick Notes

Libraries: How they stack up

In a report by the above title, OCLC provides a snapshot of the economic impact of libraries. The report contains some interesting comparisons of library economics & activities to other sectors, professions & destinations. Available at: www5.oclc.org/downloads/community/librariesstackup.pdf

The Science of Music

Highly interactive site created by the Exploratorium Museum of San Francisco that provides an opportunity to play around with music. Any time you are curious about the science behind what is happening, click on the "What's Going On?" links. Share this site with music and science teachers as well as teens.

www.exploratorium.edu/music/index.html

Library Internet Access

The University of Washington recently completed a nationwide study of public access computing in public libraries in the U.S. The results give dramatic data showing the community impact of this service. The study contains clear documentation of why funders should increase support of technology in the public library. The full study and the executive summary can be found on WebJunction at: www.webjunction.org/732/-/articles/content/94601339?utm_source=WhatCountsEmail&utm_medium=Crossroads&utm_campaign=2010-05+Crossroads



Library Chronicles

The Barbara Moscato Brown Memorial Library had its inception back in 1898. The first public library in Emporium was started by Josiah Howard on December 22, 1898. Mr. Howard dreamed of offering, free of charge, books and periodicals to enrich and educate the population of Emporium. Howard's Library (or sitting room as it was known then) began with 275 volumes. Mr. Howard himself maintained the library until February 1928 when at his request the Emporium Borough took it over. At this point the library became known as the Emporium Public Library.

In 1937, the residents of Cameron County voted to establish and maintain a county library with a library tax. In September 1940, the

doors of the Cameron County Public Library opened with an agreement between the County Commissioners and the Borough of Emporium.

This library was housed in the old First National Bank until 2002 when the Library was moved to its new building at 27 West Fourth Street. This move was necessary due to inability to provide up-to-date library service in an over crowded setting. Along with the new building came a name change. The new facility is called the Barbara Moscato Brown Memorial Library because of the Brown family's generous donation in memory of Barbara Moscato Brown.

Seneca Library District



Moments in Our Lives

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Seneca Library District

WE'RE ON THE WEB AT
WWW.WARRENLIBRARY.ORG

Serving libraries in five counties.

- ◆ **Susanne Zampogna**, Director of Friends' Memorial Library, reports that her daughter Heather has fought and won a sex discrimination case in North Carolina. The result will be a whole new law governing discrimination for all people.
- ◆ **Lori Rounsville**, Director of Hamlin Memorial Library, is proud to announce that her son, Andrew, graduated from Jamestown Community College nursing school. Andrew is now preparing to take the State Boards so he will be a Certified RN.
- ◆ **Lois Strycula**, District Consultant, says that her youngest daughter (Lara) and her husband will be moving to Charlotte, NC the first of July.

*"Great libraries have
always looked to both the
future and the past."*

Laura Shapiro



Water

- ◆ There is about one quarter-pound of salt in every gallon of seawater.
- ◆ Water from the north Pacific can be carried by deep ocean currents right around Africa and into the North Atlantic.
- ◆ The Great Lakes hold 18 percent of the world's supply of fresh water.
- ◆ Water has a greater molecular density in liquid form than as a solid. This is why ice floats.
- ◆ The Great Lakes contain 6 quadrillion gallons of fresh water.
- ◆ The Gulf Stream travels 111 miles across the Atlantic Ocean each day.
- ◆ The Great Lakes are the largest group of freshwater lakes in the world.
- ◆ Only about 1.6 percent of the water on Earth is fresh. Most of it is locked in snow and ice.
- ◆ The largest water eddy in the world is the Sargasso Sea, a huge, slowly revolving area of water in the mid-Atlantic Ocean between the Azores and the West Indies.
- ◆ Sea water is approximately 3.5 percent salt.
- ◆ About two-thirds of the world's fresh water flows out of the Amazon River and can be found on the sea surface 40 miles from the river's mouth.
- ◆ Combined, polar icecaps and glaciers contain 99.5 percent of the world's fresh water.
- ◆ Hot water weighs more than cold.
- ◆ A drop of water may travel thousands of miles between the time it evaporates into the atmosphere and the time it falls to the Earth as rain, sleet, or snow.
- ◆ More than 71 million gallons of water pass over Victoria Fall in Africa every minute.
- ◆ The average rainfall world-wide is 40 inches per year.