Children’s Services Roundtable: Storytimes
October 16, 2018
North Smithfield Public Library
Meeting Notes

Why

- Fulfilling
- School readiness – listening skills
- For big people as well as little people- modeling
- Firsts – first graphics, text, first developmental steps
- Social emotional development
- Surprises - impact
- Promote library – engaging people to bring them back
- Opportunity to talk about EI

Who

- grownups

What

- added play piece for social emotional and engaging adults, good opportunity for ESL families

How

- Using storytime to build interest in other programming and resources

Parents don’t want to sing?

- Ask them to help you out
- Have children get their grownups to join in
- Use prerecorded music
- Respect that some grownups are out of their comfort zone, but let them know they can sing
- The more engaged you are with your own child, the more your child will engage

Storytime breaks!

Cell phones? Distracted grown-ups, privacy issues with being recorded & photos

- Post expectations, might not have to be posted all the time
- Boiler plate welcome statement at beginning of program

Registration vs. drop-in? Late arrivals?

- Speak to grown-ups individually
- Waiting 5 minutes to start (especially if you know parking, travel, weather are an issue)
- Online registration
- Tickets
• If it can’t be helped (nature of the space), it’s possible for kids & grown-ups to acclimate to the distractions
• Greeting late folks, have kids catch up the latecomers

Room set-up

• WGR has storytime right in children’s room
• BAR just moved from storytime room to using children’s room – going very well

Parents in storytime?

Challenges with felt/flannel – kids grabbing pieces off board, case by case basis

• NPR flannel - where is pumpkin on LibGuide
• CUM flannel – flip flap jack song based on Aiken drum, body pieces are made of breakfast foods, great way to sing song and think about it visually, lot of songs between stories to maintain engagement. 5 baby owls. Always give opportunity to play with felt pieces after storytime, show families how they can make pieces at home to work on narrative skills. Kids playing with pieces at home are less inclined to rush feltboard. Find that thing in your comfort zone!
• LIN uses magnetic board with clip art magnets, can use milk filters (see Patti’s LiveBinder)
• EPL uses felt for stories, rhymes, and songs, stored in file folders
• PAW has toddler activity stations instead of crafts, see handout

Put StoryWalk info on LibGuide

• NSM does StoryWalk May - fall, try to change story every Friday but once school starts changes monthly. Uses blank “candidate signs” and laminates story and affixes to sign. Does two page spread because trail isn’t very long & maintains book feel. Takes reading out of the building! Brings it in Friday nights because of vandals, talked about installing permanent fixtures, but worried it might now deter vandals. Christmas, Halloween, indoors, outdoors, at community locations/businesses, can use poetry instead of picture books