

November and December 2021 Youth Services Report

Thank you all for the wonderful staff dinner you provided for us. It was great to be able to come together as a staff, relax, and be able to talk and catch up.

Story Time Programs:

On Mondays at 10:30, I have Storytots Story Time and this is for ages 0 – 3. During this story time, we read stories, sing songs, learn nursery rhymes, dance and jump around, and the kids have time to play at the end. On Thursdays at 10:30, I have Preschool Pals Story Time and this is for ages 3 – 5. During this story time, each week has a different theme (colors, letters, shapes, etc). We read books, sing songs, and say rhymes that go along with the theme of the week. I do allow kids to come to both and don't turn anyone away. I am requiring registration to be able to keep attendance at a safe and comfortable number.

Storytots: 6 Mondays, 70 total in attendance

Preschool Pals: 4 Thursdays, 22 total in attendance

Library Programs:

Grab and Go Kids Crafts: This is a weekly craft kit that people can register for if they choose to but it isn't required. Each week I start out with around 25 kits plus the number of kits that people register for. Each week I am making up between 30 and 40 kits. Between November and December we had 254 craft kits distributed.

Grab and Go Teen Craft: November: Paper Bag Flower- for this craft, teens were able to make flowers out of brown paper bags. Each kit had a set of instructions and 6 brown paper bags for the teens to use to make their flowers. 12 teens participated. December: Hand Painted Wooden Slices- teens were able to get creative with this craft and make a landscape or whatever they wanted on a circular, wooden slice. Those who were interested received a kit that contained 2 circular wooden slices, a set of acrylic paints, and a paint brush. 12 teens participated

Offsite Story Time: Every Tuesday from 10:00 to 10:30 I do an offsite story time at Partners in Parenting with their preschool class. I try to pick books that have a theme to them, and sometimes use the books that I use during my Preschool Pals story time. Part of working with this preschool is that the teacher shares with me her monthly lesson theme that she uses to teach the children. From there, I gather a bunch of books that fit the theme that they are allowed to keep for the entire month. I bring them the books at the beginning of each month and then return the previous month's books. There are around 13 children each week in attendance.

Special Programs:

In November we held Dinovember. All month long, we celebrated dinosaurs! For the entire month, I had dinosaur themed crafts available for kids to take that included dinosaur scratch art (kids got a black dinosaur and when they scratched it off with a wooden tool, rainbow colors would appear), coloring sheets, and paper bags that had dinosaurs on them that they could color. I read some dinosaur themed books during my story times as well. We also had a very popular dinosaur scavenger hunt throughout the children's area. I hid small dinosaur toys around the children's area and if a child found one, they could keep it! I kept this going all month so kids found a new dinosaur toy to keep every time they visited the library. This was a lot of fun and definitely something we will keep doing every year with hopefully adding more programs next time we do it.

New Program and Update on current programs:

Unfortunately with the current Covid situation, we along with other libraries in our surrounding area, have cancelled in person programs for kids. After next week, we will all decide if we are going to go back to in person or do some virtual programs for at least the rest of this month. I think this is the right thing to do for right now for the safety of our young patrons and their families.

A new program that I am going to be offering will be occurring on the 2nd Saturday of each month, which is my Saturday to work. I am starting a program called Saturday Family Fun. It is basically a program where families can visit the library and play games that would normally have to be checked out to play, build with our Lego collection, read books together, play with toys that are available, and I will have some craft that families can take home. For the first one, I am going to limit the games that are out and try and make sure Legos are distanced far enough so that families feel safe. At some point I'd like people to be able to do crafts here at the library but I am going to hold off on that for a bit longer. During these Saturdays, I will occasionally have other things going on or have special guests as well.