

“Be Creative @ Your Library” 2009 Summer Children’s Manual Outline

Chapter 1 Planning

Chapter 2 Promoting

Chapter 3 I’ve Got Rhythm: Music and Rhythm

Music enriches our lives. Even if you can’t sing or play an instrument, you can play music CDs or tapes, show videos with music or invite a local singer or musician to help you with your programming. Music also helps with early literacy skills, building phonological awareness and helping with language development. So let your library come alive with the sound of music this summer. Who could ask for anything more?

Program Ideas

- Instrument Petting Zoo (All ages, families)
- Strike Up the Band (Pre)
- Get the Beat (Pre, Pri)
- At the Orchestra (Pre, Pri)
- Fiddling Around (Pri)
- Saved by Song (Pri)
- The Magic of Music (Pri, Int)
- All That Jazz (Int)
- Making Music Together (Pre, Pri, Int)
- Musical Gadgetry, or, the Kitchen Band (Int)
- Quick Takes: More Ideas

Reproducibles

- Family Fun Page: Match the Instruments
- Music Makers Word Search
- Family Fun Page: Find the Hidden Instruments
- I Know a Shy Fellow patterns from “At the Orchestra” program
- Old King Cole Headbands from “At the Orchestra” program

Chapter 4 Ham It Up!

We could devote a whole summer to drama and storytelling, but we’ll try to squeeze as many ideas as possible into this chapter. Even if drama isn’t your strength, there are lots of program ideas that you can easily (and cheaply) do with children at your library.

Make a real effort to partner with area performers or performing arts groups for fine arts programming. Most communities have drama groups, puppeteers or storytellers. So seek out area performers and teachers to help you “ham it up.” Make your library a performing art space in any way you can this summer. Collaborate!

Plus, participating in creative drama activities helps children develop social cooperation, concentration, creative expression and more. We hope you’ll find the following ideas fun.

Program Ideas

- All Join In (Baby/Toddler)
- Cat and Mouse (Pre/Pri)
- Let It Shine (Pre)
- Creative Play (Pri)
- Tell a Tale (Pri/Int)
- Tell a Whopper Contest (Int)
- Puppet Play: Three Little Fishies and the Big Bad Shark (All ages)
- Theater Games (Int)
- Quick Takes: More Ideas to Inspire You

Reproducibles

- Cat and Mouse Finger Puppets
- Family Fun Page: Puppet Stage
- What Am I?
- Family Fun Page: Star Light
- Finger Puppet Pattern
- Human Bingo
- On with the Show Crossword
- Patterns for “Three Little Fishies” Puppet Play

Chapter 5 **Now You See It: Visual Arts**

You are an artistic person—let your colors show. Fortune cookie

It was hard to squeeze all of our good ideas on visual arts into one chapter. That’s why it’s the longest chapter in this year’s manual. We hope this chapter, which is a bit like the song “Anatevka” from *Fiddler on the Roof*—a little bit of this, a little bit of that—will offer you plenty of suggestions and spark other ideas to explore.

Don’t forget to scout your community for visual artists and art teachers who you may collaborate with on programs. Communities with art museums and/or art galleries are lucky because there may be opportunities for special field trips or passes, and again, collaborative programming. What about a gallery tour for kids? A behind-the-scenes visit to an art museum? A hunt for public art in your community? A library-sponsored public mural? An art parade where participants dress as their favorite painting, art tool, artists, or walk with a sandwich board image of a painting.

Program Ideas

Art & Photography Contest Kick-Off (All ages)
Arts and Craft Show (All Ages)
I Know an Old Lady (Pre)
My World (Family)
Paint an Animation Cell (All ages)
Cool Collages (Pre, Pri)
Native American Art (Pri, Int)
Juan Quezada Pottery Class (Family, Intergenerational)
Kente Cloth Designs (Pri, Int)
The Artsy Smartsy Club (Pri, Int)
Preserve Your Past: Quilts (Pri, Int, Family)
The Handy Dandy Secret Painting Gadget (Pri, Int)
Colorful Science (Pri, Int)
Quick Takes: More Ideas to Inspire

Reproducibles

Family Fun Page: Baggie Books
Family Fun Page: Touch and Feel Books
Five Little Paintbrushes Take Home
Family Fun Page: Patchwork Quilt
Mad Lib: The Masterpiece
Go Green Word Find

Chapter 6 Moving Around

If you can talk you can sing, if you can walk you can dance. African proverb

Ballet, Boogie Woogie, clogging, waltzing, hip hop, folk dancing, step dancing...there's lot's of movin' around when you dance. But there is more to moving than dance. Cheerleaders move, marching bands move, martial arts players move. So, get your young patrons moving around next summer.

Program Ideas

March It Out Kick Off (All Ages)
Jurassic Jiggle (Pre)
Chicken Cha Cha Cha (Pre, Pri)
Boogie Woogie Bunnies (Pre, Pri)
Cheers! (Pri, Int)
Dance Party (Int)
Hip Hop for Kids (Int)
Invite a Ballerina (Pre, Pri, Int)
Capoeira (All ages)

End of Summer Parade (All ages)
Quick Takes: More Ideas

Reproducibles

Dancing Chicks Coloring Page
Bunny Ears Pattern
Bunny Hop Coloring Page
Family Fun Page: Move to the Music
Dance Word Find

Chapter 7 Free Play

To live a creative life, we must lose our fear of being wrong. Joseph Chilton Pearce

In order to encourage the highest level of creativity, here are some suggestions for open-ended programs where kids can let their imaginations roam free. The title of this chapter also refers to the bonus fact that most of these programs can be done using little or no money and lots of recycled materials. Enjoy!

Program Ideas

Box Bonanza (Baby/Toddler, Pre)
Imagination (Pre)
Garbage Games Kickoff (All ages)
Build It! (Pri, Int)
Make a Puppet! (All ages)
Recycled Fashion Show (Int)
Poetry Palooza (or Bad Poetry Day) (Int)
Bookmark Fun (Various ages)

Reproducibles

Take Home: Not a Box
Squiggle Drawing
Family Fun Page: Make Up a Story
Garbage Games
Hand Puppet Patterns
Bad Lib Poetry
Bookmarks

Chapter 8 Adult Programming Ideas for Be Creative @ Your Library

Why Should Kids Have All the Fun?

Many libraries now add an Adult Summer Reading Program to their summer activities. And why not? Adults look forward to summer vacation, too! They often make time to relax, take vacations and catch up on reading. Consequently, you can use summer as an opportunity to promote books and reading for adults with a summer reading program specifically for them. But don't stop there! Include some adult (or intergenerational) programs to connect to this summer's "Be Creative" theme. This chapter offers some ideas.

Programming Ideas

- Be Creative on Vacation
- Be Creative in the Kitchen
- Art Gallery in the Library
- Be Creative in Your Home
- Our Creative Community
- Author Visit
- Crafts of the Decades
- Junk in the Trunk
- Dance Away
- Storytelling for Adults
- Host Music Concerts
- Music in the Library
- Be Creative with Games: Giant Pick-Up Sticks
- Art Smart
- Film Series
- Community Mural
- Creativity in Our State
- Film Series
- Who's Got Talent? Open Mic
- Remembering Music

Writers of the 2009 "Be Creative @ Your Library" children's manual are: Pam Carlson; Carissa Christner; Kathy Ross; Patti Sinclair. There were twenty-seven contributors, who are listed in the manual along with the 2009 CSLP children's manual committee.