**Maine Library Conference**

**9/30/19 Sunday River**

**Too Old for Storytime, Too Young for Soldering**

**Presenter: Sam Cote**

Sam gave a brief overview of the characteristics of children in this age group (Ages 5-8)

5 year olds(mostly sweet, sometimes wild. Still learning how to manage them)

6 year olds (trying to balance what they want to do with what they can actually do, learning to read, often stubborn)

7 year olds (moody, emotional and overcoming fears)

8 year olds( world is starting to expand, understand what adults are saying, clear concept of time and are able to follow directions)

It can be easy to forget this group as they are not always independent, and also not old enough to be alone in the library.

Here are some of the successful programs Sam has used with this age group:

**LEGO Busy Builders Club**

This age group loves building with LEGOS encourage parents to be in the room, can be free play or you can offer a challenge

**Minute to Win It games**

These are available on the Internet and Pinterest has some good ideas. Try to stay away from food related activities. It can be a set program time or you can have it available in the department. Parental participation is helpful.

**Fairy tale STEAM/STEM**

Ideas available on Pinterest or <https://fairytalesteam.blogspot.com>

Usually includes a fairy tale book and activity

Examples:

Read *The Snow Queen* and make pipe cleaner crystals

Read *Three Little Pigs* and build houses

**Arts & Crafts Activities** (they love glue)

<https://www.alsc.ala.org/blog/2018/01/painting-table-innovative-k-5-programs/>

**Readers Theater**- Take familiar stories, act them out, and make props.

**Drive In Movie**- need adult help with this one. Get cardboard boxes, have kids make cars with them. Show a short movie and the kids can watch the movie in their cars.

Sam’s slides are available on the MSL Conference page:

<https://mainelibraries.org/page-1862679>

After Sam’s presentation, she invited participants to share their ideas for this age group.

Here is a summary:

**Chickadee Award book Club**- provide a snack, read 1or 2 books from the list, discus the books and provide a related craft project

<https://jbrary.com/early-readers-book-club/>

**Food For thought** - read food related story and activity. Ask families to host once a month and share food from their culture.

**Night in the Library**- Someone asked about having a sleepover in the library. The consensus was that it was too much of a liability. An alternative might be to host a Library After Dark party from close til 7 or 8 pm. Kids could leave their stuffed animals for a sleepover and staff would take pictures of the animals doing things in the library at night. One library provides a small blanket in two pieces, one to go home with the child and one to stay with the stuffy (Genius!)

**Where’s Waldo**-Could create a cardboard symbol and hide it in place around town or in the library. Kids need to find the cutout around town. Mexico, Maine did a variation on this during a town wide celebration called *Mexico Mania*. Other libraries could tailor a program like this for their communities.

**Pajama Storytime** - Invite children to come in pajamas and build blanket forts. Fort building kits are available to purchase with pipes and connectors. If you purchase the kits, you can then loan them out after your pajama storytime.

**Cornerstones of Science kits-** provide STEM/Science programs in a box. Some libraries use these every other month for programming. Available at no charge from Cornerstones of Science. They come on the van delivery. If your library isn’t on the van delivery, you could make arrangements to have them ship it to the nearest library to you on the van delivery for pick up.

**4H Science kits**- 4H provides science kits- they require a $25 deposit which you will get back if kits are returned in good shape.

**Offering STEAM/STEM programs** **for both homeschoolers and the public**. Offer to homeschoolers in the morning and then provide an after school program for kids in public schools. This type of program provides exposure to basic concepts. Pick something you are interested in to make it fun for all.

Here are some websites with STEM ideas

<https://confidencemeetsparenting.com/tinkering-station/>

<https://steminlibraries.com/tag/grades-1-3/>

<https://showmelibrarian.blogspot.com/p/all-things-steam.html>

Bedtime Math is another good source for STEM Activities.

<http://bedtimemath.org/>

**Early Release Programming**- plan simple activities for early release days. Making paper airplanes is a simple and popular activity.

**Passive Make & Take Activities**- create some simple activities packets for kids to do on their own and leave in the children’s room.

**Story walks** are popular with this age group. They can be done in city parks, the library or store windows. You can also contact Kirsten Kappy at Curious City Books for more information about Story Walks.

**Break Out Rooms** were discussed. This would obviously need lots of planning, parental involvement and the space to create one in your library. An alternative suggestion was to create a Breakout Box. You have 4 or 5 boxes with locks and kids find clues to unlock each box. The information to answer the clues is on the walls in the library.

Other good resource for ideas:

<http://mclskids.pbworks.com/w/browse/#view=ViewAllObjects>

[https://www.howtosmile.org](https://www.howtosmile.org/)

This site has filters and you can sort by category, cost, age range, and prep time.

Respectfully submitted:

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