SELF-DIRECTED PROGRAMMING:

ENGAGING CHILDREN OUTSIDE OF SCHEDULED PROGRAMS

A USER'S GUIDE ON HOW TO IMPLEMENT SELF-DIRECTED PROGRAMS & EXAMPLES TO HELP YOU GET STARTED!

IMPLEMENT IT IN YOUR LIBRARY!

- These programs have helped us tremendously in elevating our programming statistics
- It is a great way to engage patrons who come in quickly after hockey practice or kids who never come to regular scheduled programming
- These activities provide an excellent way for patrons to orient themselves with the Library and discover something new!
- Creates a positive and fun/entertaining experience for the kids and they start coming into the library with the specific purpose of doing a self-directed program!
- Pinterest and blogs like Jbrary and Ontarian Librarian are great resources or for inspiration!
- If you would like any of the templates, feel free to contact me!

Thank you @king_township_public_library for the scavenger hunt prize! We ❤️❤️ our local library! Such a great atmosphere and amazing staff who often provide fun little extras for the kids!

10w

king_township_public_library
We're so happy to see the prize go to one of the many deserving kids! 😊 We are glad that you enjoy the library. Enjoy #ontariopubliclibraryweek 📚

10w Reply

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KING TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY

TRADITIONAL SCAVENGER HUNTS (Jr. & Sr.)

- This acts as a great introductory activity for new families so that they can get to know their library better, as well as creating parent-child bonding
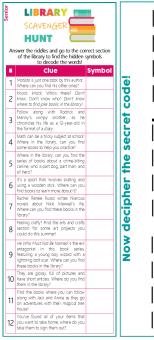- They get a marker and a laminated sheet with pictures of library staples such as the LEGO table, washrooms etc.

Supplies Needed:

- Sheets
- Markers
- Clues (Sr. only)
- Ballots
- Ballot Box

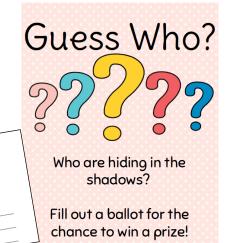- The goal of the program is to decipher the secret code
- Based on the clues on the sheets, patrons are led to an area of the library where they see a symbol
- They have to translate the symbol into a letter
- Once the secret code has been solved, participant shows Library Staff and receives a ballot
- It is a more time consuming activity so it is best used for class visits or could be incorporated as part of a larger program!

GUESS WHO

Supplies Needed:

- Display area
- Silhouettes of characters
- Poster
- Ballot Box
- Ballots

- Interactive wall display
- Participants guess the characters on the display and fill out a ballot
- Strategically put up some books featuring the characters in the Library as gentle hints
- Make ballots available for kids to fill out
- Use the paper size 11 x 17 as your guide otherwise the characters will be difficult to see from far away
- We usually do a mix of Picture Book characters and Junior Chapter Book characters so that it is fair to both really little ones and the elementary school aged children

Inspiration:

Lindsey Krabbenhoft (2017). *Guess who book character silhouette display.* Retrieved from https://jbrary.com/guess-who-character-silhouette-display/

1000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN

Supplies Needed:

- Prizes (dependent on budget)
- Log book
- Wall display
- Registration form
- Posters

1000 Books Before Kindergarten® is a registered trademark of the 1000 Books Foundation, used with permission.

We've read **100** books!

We've read **200** books!

We've read **300** books!

Example of Wall Display

- The goal of the program is for children to have read 1000 books by the December of the year that he/she enters kindergarten
- When the child registers for the program they receive a registration package which includes a brochure containing more information about the program, a logbook and a suggested reading guide
- After every 25 books, patrons can come in to receive a sticker, for 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, 900 and 1000 books read there are specific prizes
- We also had a wall display with their name to denote which milestone they have achieved

For more information:

1000 Books Before Kindergarten Organization (n.d.). *How it works*. Retrieved from https://1000booksbeforekindergarten.org/1000-books-before-kindergarten-program/

King Township Public Library. (2019). *1000 Books before kindergarten*. Retrieved from http://www.kinglibrary.ca/Pages/pageKids1000books.php

HIDE & SEEK

Supplies Needed:

- Ballots
- Ballot Box
- Poster
- A specified number of character cut-outs

Pete the Cat is playing Hide and Seek!

Look for Pete and see how many you can find! Once you think you've found them all fill out a ballot to let us know how many there are and you could win a prize!

HIDE AND SEEK
Name: _____
Age: _____
Phone #: _____
How many Petes did you find? _____

Tip: Try taking photos of all the hidden locations so frontline staff know plus it's easier to take down!

- Choose a character from a popular children's book series (Pete the Cat, the Mouse from *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*, the Grinch, Llama Llama etc).
- Print off character (usually about 2.70-3" tall), the number of times desired (usually I try to do an odd number just to throw them off—like 9, 11 or 14)
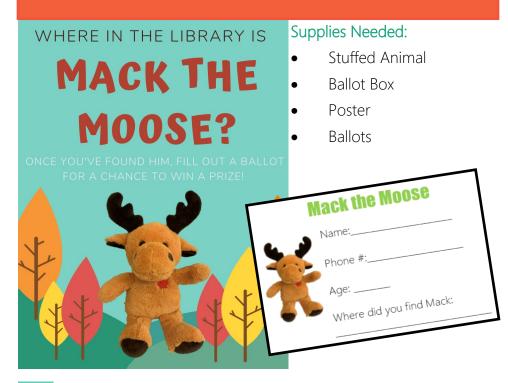- Participants wander around the Library seeing how many they can find (we put some in easier and harder spots)
- Affixed with Scotch tape to shelves and other parts of the library
- Once participants think that they have found all of them, they fill out a ballot with their final count

Inspiration:

Ms. Anna. (2011). *On display - Dr. Seuss and the seussical musical*. Retrieved from http://www.futurelibrariansuperhero.com/2011/10/on-display-dr-seuss-and-seussical.html

WHERE IN THE LIBRARY IS MACK THE MOOSE?

WHERE IN THE LIBRARY IS

MACK THE MOOSE?

ONCE YOU'VE FOUND HIM, FILL OUT A BALLOT FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A PRIZE!

Supplies Needed:

- Stuffed Animal
- Ballot Box
- Poster
- Ballots

Mack the Moose

Name:_____

Phone #:_____

Age: _____

Where did you find Mack:

_____

- Hide Mack the Moose (stuffed toy moose) in a location in the library
- Kids have to walk around the Library to find him
- When they do, they fill out a ballot with their name, age, phone number and where they found him!
- Normally he's out for 1 week and then put away, but we have done a month-long program where he switches spots each week
- Mack is brought out for Summer Reading Club, Canadian Library Month, Winter Break and March Break!

I SPY WITH MY FROZEN EYE!

Supplies Needed:

- Sheet (optional: laminated)
- Cut out characters with letters
- Ballot Box
- Ballots
- Writing Utensils

I Spy with My FROZEN Eye!

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Find each Frozen character in the Library.
2. Write down the letter with each character to decode a special saying!
3. Show your completed card to Library Staff and receive a ballot.
4. Fill out your ballot and put it in the Ballot Box for a chance to win a prize!

I Spy with My FROZEN Eye

NAME:_____

PHONE #:_____

AGE: _____

- The objective is to find all the characters with their associated letters so that the secret code is revealed (Winter Wishes) - this would be really easy to change up the theme (Despicable Me, Toy Story, Zootopia etc.)
- Children mark the found letters on their sheet
- The characters are hidden all throughout the Children's Department, it's a great way to get kids looking in all parts of the Library, and to let them discover something new!
- Once completed, the children show Library Staff the completed sheet and they receive a ballot for a chance to win a prize
- We laminate our sheets and put out Washable Markers so that they can be reused and easily cleaned!

Inspiration:

Lisa Shaia. (2014). *Frozen scavenger hunt*. Retrieved from

https://thriveafterthree.com/2014/07/18/frozen-scavenger-hunt/