

INTRODUCTION

The King Township Public Library is a multi-branch system, located slightly north of Toronto, situated in York Region and serves a population of 26,000. There are four branches: King City (central branch), Nobleton (community branch), Schomberg (community branch) and Ansnorveldt (small rural branch).

In August 2018, the King City Branch of the King Township Public Library closed for a complete re-build. It moved to a temporary space (in the basement of the Seniors Centre), which does not have space for programming. While Early Literacy programming is offered once a week at the Arena next-door, self-directed programs started as a way to engage young patrons at the Library and was so successful that it was rolled out to all branches.



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SELF-DIRECTED PROGRAMS: Temporary, patron-led activities that they can interact with on their own time, also known as passive programs.



SCAVENGER HUNTS

This is the most surefire way to make collection connections, and there are endless possibilities on how Scavenger Hunts can lead to active engagement in the Library! All of our Scavenger Hunts involves patrons filling out a ballot for the chance to win a prize. A winner is picked from each branch.

Mack the Moose

- Stuffed Moose who is hidden in the Library
- Kids walk around the Library to locate him

I Spy With My (Themed) Eye

- Objective to find all the characters related to a central theme (movie, book etc.), who are hidden throughout the Library, so that they can reveal the secret code
- Participants have a sheet with the pictures of all the characters and an empty space to record their findings
- Laminated sheets are better because you can reuse them by washing off the washable marker

Library Scavenger Hunt – Junior

- This acts as a basic introductory to the library so that children and parents get to know their library better
- They get a laminated sheet with pictures of library staples such as the washroom, Self-Checkout machine, Peppa Pig books etc.
- They check off what they find as they go

Library Scavenger Hunt – Senior

- Participants are given a sheet with clues to a certain area of the Library
- Hidden are the symbols which they have to decipher (legend given on the bottom of the sheet) in order to spell the secret code

Hide & Seek

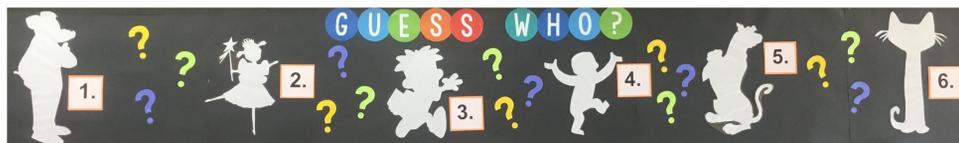
- A character from popular children's books hides throughout the library (paper print-outs) such as Pete the Cat
- Participants count to see how many they can find and mark it on their ballot

KEY FINDINGS

- This type of programming is a great way to engage patrons like those who come in quickly after hockey practice or the kids who only come in the late afternoons on Saturdays
- These activities can also be great for new patrons to orient themselves with the library or for long-time patrons to learn something new!
- Creates a positive and entertaining experience for the kids and they start coming into the library because their friends told them about the activity or they have become accustomed to doing an activity at the Library!

GUESS WHO

- Interactive display
- Silhouette shadows of popular children's series
- Children can fill out a ballot to put in their guess for the chance to win a prize
- Books containing the characters were strategically put on display in the Library as hints



Guess Who Display at the King City Branch in 2018.

MAKE & TAKE CRAFTS

- Smallest branch (Ansnorveldt) does not have any regularly scheduled programming for children
 - Fills the programming void
 - Changes monthly
- Recently expanded to all branches but only for 'special events' such as St. Patrick's Day, Star Wars Days and December Holidays
- Requires a bit of prep work beforehand but then the kids can choose to make it at the Library or take it home



Make & Take Crafts at the Schomberg Branch for May the Fourth (Star Wars Day) in 2019.

1000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN

- The objective is for children (birth until the December that he/she enters Kindergarten), to read 1000 books
- When the child registers for the program they receive a registration package which includes a guide to the program, a suggested book list and a log book
- After 25 books, patrons show Library Staff their log book and they receive a sticker; for 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, 900 and 1000 books read there are specific prizes
- We have a wall display in each branch to denote which milestone patrons have already achieved
- So far 3 participants have already reached 1000 books and their achievement is celebrated with a write-up in the local paper (along with their grand prize)!
- It's a great way for kids and parents to feel connected with their library even if the child is in daycare and does not attend any story time programs



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