Share Your Online Storytime Why

I recently took over a Children's Librarian position, so I'm doing online storytime to connect with the storytime kids of my predecessor and hopefully connect to more children!

We do virtual storytime because it's so important for the children to see each other as well as the familiar library "Story Lady!" They need the consistency of having that weekly interaction to look forward to.

to connect with kids and families in another way and to meet expectations of grantors

Because Relationships Matter

Part of the literacy initiative

To keep the excitement for early literacy strong and the love of reading growing.

So children love books!

To keep providing early literacy opportunities to children who may not have them otherwise

To continue to connect with our community

Kids need routines and online story times can provide that -- and it can help parents sit down and connect with their kids

To maintain communication and share books with our patrons!

Because we miss the children and they miss us.

Provide effective early learning for children and model for caregivers.

Because the kids deserve as much normalcy as we can give them.

You can reach a wider audience than in-person

Many kids are with older caregivers now who need help navigating the "zoom world" We need to keep engaging the little ones to promote early literacy

To share stories and build (and maintain) relationships with our patrons

because nothing replaces interacting with families

So children can learn to love books.

To give the children a place to socialize, see each other, and the familiar library staff. And it's fun to see kids who wouldn't be able to attend in person!

Because it's expected from administration and boards...

So there is a consistency of service

To reach the community so they know we're here!

To keep the kiddos engaged.

Virtual storytimes help us to stay connected with the with our patrons.

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Building Relationships: What If We...?

Sent craft kits home so we could do a craft together

play an interactive game (mouse in the house)

Ask kids what kind of programs they want to see.

Invite children to show and tell, share a talent, etc

share tips on mindfulness and stress relief, eg. yoga

mentioned certain kids by name?

What if we mention something positive we remember from last time

I started during the pandemic and there were not any virtual programs so this is my relationship building.

Reminded parents of online resources like library Spotify storytime playlists or e-audiobook services

Families who attend programs are families who will advocate for the library.

partner with community organizations

open the session a few minutes early to have time to "chat" with the kids before the formal program begins

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Accessibility: What If We...?

offer to do a zoom test run with families that are not familiar with it

What if we had a visual of what's coming up in story time?

Read books with large print or images so that they can be seen more clearly through a screen

Teach toddlers sign language for simple items/requests. that way if they are muted, you can still tell they have a question or something to share.

incorporate ASL during Storytime

Used captions or included simple polls to get opinions?

used breakout sessions on Zoom to form smaller discussion groups

Show the question/add question screens so parents and children can pause the video and have a discussion.

consult with local OTs and PTs for fine & gross motor development (ex. some kids can't jump or clap both hands)

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High Quality Screen Time: What If We...?

showing how to modify or replicate something from storytime to do again after the screen is off

connect to theme or timely topic

Promote good quality online resources to parents (ex. Common Sense Media)

Share tips on how to minimize screen time overall...what to try instead.

How to start a storytime file...

encourage family (siblings, etc.) to stay too

Offer times to pause and comment or chat

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