Share Your Online Storytime Why

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.

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

Provide effective early learning for children and model for caregivers.

Because we miss the children and they miss us.

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.

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.

You can reach a wider audience than in-person.

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

To keep the kiddos engaged.

To maintain communication and share books with our patrons.

Because nothing replaces interacting with families.

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

To continue to connect with our community.

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

Because Relationships Matter.

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

Virtual storytimes help us to stay connected with the with our patrons.
Building Relationships: What If We...?

- Ask kids what kind of programs they want to see.
- 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-audobook services.
- Open the session a few minutes early to have time to "chat" with the kids before the formal program begins.
- Partner with community organizations.
- Invite children to show and tell, share a talent, etc.
- What if we mention something positive we remember from last time.
- Families who attend programs are families who will advocate for the library.
- Share tips on mindfulness and stress relief, e.g., yoga.
- Sent craft kits home so we could do a craft together.
- play an interactive game (mouse in the house)

After Emergency Response Mode: Approaching Virtual Storytimes with Intention
Accessibility: What If We...?

- What if we had a visual of what's coming up in story time?
- Read books with large print or images so they can be seen more clearly through a screen.
- Incorporate ASL during Storytime.
- Offer to do a zoom test run with families that are not familiar with it.
- 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.
- Used captions or included simple polls to get opinions?
- 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 and gross motor development (ex. some kids can't jump or clap both hands).

After Emergency Response Mode: Approaching Virtual Storytimes with Intention
High Quality Screen Time: What If We...?

- Connect to theme or timely topic
- Share tips on how to minimize screen time overall...what to try instead.
- How to start a storytime file...
- Offer times to pause and comment or chat
- Encourage family (siblings, etc.) to stay too
- Promote good quality online resources to parents (ex. Common Sense Media)