



TAKING ON
LITERACY... LITERALLY!





My feeling is that if you can make a big impact on the global literacy problem, you can uplift a big portion of society.

Peter Diamandis



1

PRESCRIPTION TO READ

This program was intended to offer patrons books and materials about health related issues. The materials selected were recommended by local health care and wellness professionals.

- Contact local professionals - ask for material suggestions
- Process materials
- Order "prescription pads" (I used Vistaprint)
- Collate a list of materials, by category
- Follow-up
- Promote
- Tips

- Contact local professionals describing the program and asking for input regarding materials they would like to have available to their clients/patients.
- Collate the suggestions, order the materials, catalog
- Order "prescription pads", create a list of materials (including items already in your collections), sorted by categories - e.g. Dementia/Memory Loss, Neurological Disorders, Diabetes, send participating professionals a welcome letter, instructions, materials list
- Promote: in newsletters, flyers, presentations to senior groups, service organizations, etc.
- Tips: include therapists, all medical personnel and clinics, yoga instructors, school counselors, materials can include memory cards, audio books, information for caregivers, DVDs, extend patronage as far as you can (we participate in Visiting Patron through MeL and have a 4 library collaboration in our cooperative MMLL).



2

FAMILY LITERACY PROJECT

This program is two-fold: registered families receive a book bundle every month with 3-4 themed books, a special activity item (e.g. puppets), and a craft project. Bundles have enough materials for each child in the family. Then, four times a year, families come to the library for a child friendly meal, storytime, and craft time. The whole family is included and the project is free!

- **Registration**
- **Book Bundles**
- **Family Literacy Nights**
- **Storytime goals - modelling reading with children and learning to ask open ended questions - having conversations.**



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JUST READ!

This is a program where students choose up to 4 paperback books they want to read over the summer. They will receive their first book before school is out for the summer. When they finish their first book, they come to the library and tell us about the book, then pick up their next book. Read & repeat! All for free!

- Promotion & registration
- Kids choose the books!
- Kindergarten through 12th grade eligible - homeschool too!
- Especially important for struggling readers
- Kids can build their own library
- Extra benefits

Especially important that kids choose the titles - must be paperback (cost issue)
Kids who already struggle to read at grade level can lose up to 6 months of reading skills over the summer if they don't read
Extra benefits: encourages kids to come to the library, and often we will purchase copies of the books they chose for our kids collections.

4

BELLAIRE READS - 2022

- Volunteers reviewed a variety of books and choose the book “Wonder” by RJ Palacio as this years Bellaire Reads book
- At the same time, the decision was made to make this year’s Bellaire Reads a multi-generational program.
- Participants registered and received a free copy of “Wonder”
- Several conversations took place in late May, early June on the project’s theme “Listen, Compromise, Collaborate”
- Program ended with viewing of the movie “Wonder”



“The most exciting part of this year’s Bellaire Reads was that parents, youth, teens, grandparents, all ages of community members participated.”

Mary Edens, Bellaire Community Member

FUNDING - GRANTS, COLLABORATIONS, DONATIONS

- X Michigan Humanities Council Grants
- X Local organizations - Great Lakes Energy People Fund Grant, Rotary, Kiwanis
- X Library of Michigan LSTA Grants
- X Collaborate with local schools
- X Senior centers, daycare, homeschool
- X Libraries Transforming Communities, ALA



BIG CONCEPT

How can your library encourage literacy education? What does your community need/want? What resources do you have available to your library?



TYPES OF LITERACY BPL ADDRESSES

READING FOR ALL AGES

- Family Literacy Project
- Bellaire Reads
- Just Read
- Summer Reading Program
- Adult Reading Challenge
- Book Clubs

HEALTH & WELLNESS

- Prescription to Read
- Cooking Classes
- Reader's Advisory Information flyers
- Crafternoons - teens and adults
- Library staff trained in mental health awareness

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

- Tech Tuesdays
- Technology classes
- Understanding the U.S. Constitution
- Learning Lab



ONLY RECENTLY HAVE LIBRARIANS BEGUN TO REALIZE, OR AT LEAST VOCALIZE, THAT THEY CAN BE MORE INFLUENTIAL IN THE LIFE AND DEVELOPMENT OF A CHILD IF THEY FOCUS LESS ON TRYING TO TEACH THE CHILD EXCLUSIVELY AND MORE ON TEACHING THE PARENTS HOW TO FOSTER EARLY LEARNING SKILLS IN THEIR CHILDREN. IT IS NOW BECOMING ACCEPTED THAT "THE PARENT IS THE CHILD'S FIRST TEACHER. THE LIBRARIAN IS THE PARENT'S FIRST LITERACY COACH.

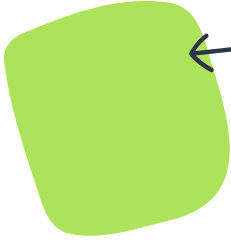
Meagan Albright, Kevin Delecki, and Sarah Hinkle

The Evolution of Early Literacy: A History of Best Practices in Storytimes





SHARE IDEAS!!!



NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Cindi L. Place, Director

Bellaire Public Library

231-533-8814

bellairelibrary@gmail.com

www.bellairelibrary.org

THANKS!

