



Play & Read: A Partnership to Engage Young Readers

*Wisconsin Library Association
2016 Annual Conference*

In This Session, You Will Learn About:

- The Play & Read project
- How different libraries responded to community needs
- The impact trained volunteers can make
- The importance of actively building relationships

Play & Read Project Headquarters



Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

- Literacy and Mathematics Team
- Public Library Development Team

Laura Adams, *Project Manager*

Tessa Michaelson Schmidt, *Project Manager*

Claire Parrish, *Project Coordinator*

Play & Read Project Genesis

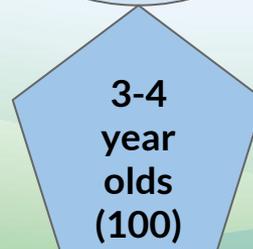
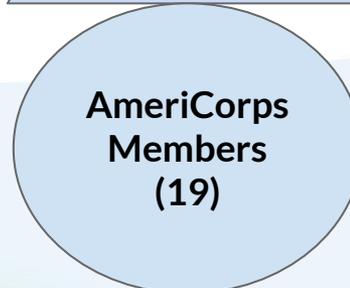
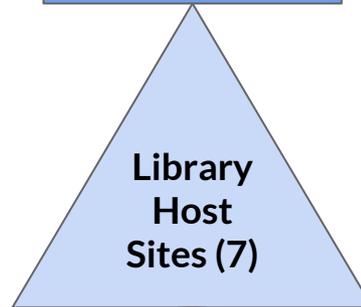


Based on the successful early literacy efforts of Growing Wisconsin Readers, public libraries were an ideal host site for service-based outreach.



The focus was improving rural communities by building on children's early literacy skills to position them for academic and social success.

Play & Read Organization



1. Beloit Public Library
2. Brewer Public Library (Richland Center)
3. Hedberg Public Library (Janesville)
4. Kenosha Public Library
5. La Crosse Public Library
6. Watertown Public Library
7. Irving L. Young Memorial Library (Whitewater)

Play & Read Representatives

- Who is in the room today?
 - Project Staff
 - Library Directors
 - Youth Services Staff
 - AmeriCorps Members

Three Main Goals



- Increasing literacy among 3 and 4 year-olds
- Family engagement with libraries and literacy
- Library outreach, especially to non-library users.

Pilot Year = Experimentation

Questions? Call 524-3682
YOUNGEST Public Library

Play & Read
Helping YOUR child read by playing at the library!

What is Play & Read?
Play & Read is a fun and FREE way for 3-4 year old kids to learn reading skills through play at the library. For more information visit the Irvin L. Young Memorial Library website at whitewaterlibrary.org

How can your child join?
Visit Irvin L. Young Memorial Library for information on the Play & Read Program
• Ask at the front desk for help on how to get involved!
• Or call the library at (262)-473-0530

General Program Information
• Playgroups offered beginning February 15th, 2016 at your library on:
Mondays 9:30-10:30am Saturdays 11:30-12:30pm
Thursdays 3:30-4:30pm

| Play & Read |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3-4 Yr. Olds |
| Irvin L. Young Memorial Library
262-473-0530 |

Post 2-5-16

2016 GARDEN EDUCATION SERIES
BY MASTER GARDENERS

- Flexibility
 - For libraries
 - For families
- Creativity
 - Marketing
 - Programming
- Relationships
 - Through weekly playgroups and 1:1
 - Through new partnerships

Beloit Public Library



Jeni Schomber

jschomber@beloitlibrary.org

Play and Read Playgroup

- Hit the ground running
- Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays
 - Morning, early afternoon, late afternoon
- Loved it!
- Tweaked it!



Success at the Library

- Parents loved it!
- Facebook page
- Early Literacy mini-grant
- Play and Read Express - summer library club

Success in the Community

- Day Care Centers
- Farmer's Market Story Time
- Bushel and Peck's Story Time
- YMCA Story Book Walk



- Beloit College Bookstore
- Pinterest
- Headstart
- Elementary schools (stayed tuned...)

ABC (All Beloit Children) Playgroup

- It started with a dream...
- ...and a lot of enthusiasm...
- ...and then it became a reality
 - With a lot of help (and some \$\$)

ABC (All Beloit Children) Playgroup Community Partners



All Beloit Children is a growing task force of volunteers and the following community partners:

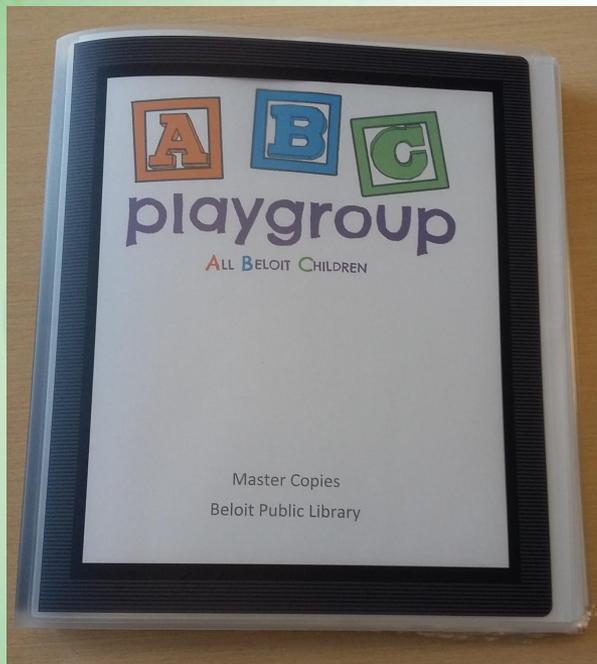
Beloit College	Beloit Head Start
Beloit Public Library	Beloit Public Library Foundation
Blackhawk Technical College	Community Action
Neighborhood Works	School District of Beloit
Stateline Family YMCA	Stateline Literacy Council
Turtle Creek Bookstore	UW Rock County
WIC	

ABC-123 Approach

- One playgroup at the library
- Two playgroups at local day care centers
- Three playgroups at elementary schools
- 4k afterschool programs

- Funding
 - Beloit Library Foundation
 - Grants, grants, grants!
 - In-kind volunteers from the community

Binder and a Box of Shiny Stuff



ABC Playgroup in Action



Partnerships Are What You Make Them!



Emily Zorea

Brewer Public Library

ezorea@swls.org

Richland Center Play & Read Structure

- Programs twice a day, 2-3 days a week,
- Programs only held at library,
- 2-4 kids in each program,
- 8 week sessions,
- Flexibility in program attendance



What Made Our Site Successful

- Show volunteers they are part of the library team,
- Staff use a “Yes...and!” vocabulary,
- Stay in close contact with everyone,
- Keep detailed records of everything!



Play & Read Promotion

- Flyers printed and given to schools,
- Local radio interviews,
- Personal conversations,
- Adding programs to library calendar,
- Facebook! :)



Begin Your Own Program!

- 100 pages of lesson plans, activity sheets, and interactive early literacy activities developed at Richland Center's Play & Read!
- Happy to share!

Email me at:

ezorea@swls.org



Lessons Learned



Jen Fait

jfait@mykpl.info

KENOSHA
PUBLIC LIBRARY
WHERE KENOSHA CONNECTS

Playgroups

- Fall 2015: 4 12-week playgroups
- Spring 2016: 7 12-week playgroups
- Summer 2016: 6 6-week playgroups
- Held at all four KPL branches
- Daytime, evening, and Saturday sessions offered

Sample Program

Theme:	Zoo	K,S or St
Goals:	Z is for Zoo	
Supplies:		
Opening Song:	We Wave and Say Hello	
First Book:	Stop Snoring, Bernard	
Storytelling Activity:		
Second Book:	Ellie	
Movement Song:	Old McDonald Had a Zoo	
Third Book:	A Sick Day for Amos McGee	
Song/Rhyme:	Guess Who Zoo	
Fourth Book:	A Possum's Tail	
Literacy Activities:	Do-a-dot Z Connect-the-dot Z Coloring sheet	
Craft:	Zebra Mask	
Play:	Animal Yoga: You Are a Lion!	

Resources:

<https://storytimekatie.com/2011/09/28/zoo/>

<https://loudestlibrarian.com/2013/06/20/going-to-the-zoo/>

<https://www.oercommons.org/authoring/9468-zoo-storytime-lesson-plan/view>

<https://yogibrarian.wordpress.com/2016/05/24/dear-zoo-yoga-storytime/>

Books:

A Possum's Tail by Gabby Dawney & Alex Barrow

Stop Snoring, Bernard! By Zachariah O'Hora

A Sick Day for Amos McGee by Philip Stead

Never Ever Shout in a Zoo by Karma Wilson

The View at the Zoo by Kathleen Long Bostrom

Additional Components:

- Handouts
- Monthly Newsletter
- Take-Home Literacy Activities
- Family Visits

Preschool STEM Programs

Topics:

- Building
- Colors
- Weather
- Water
- Human Body
- Animals

Format:

- 3-4 science stations
- free play activities
- craft



In the Community

Head Start:

- 2 playgroups during spring session
- Spanish translator
- Average attendance of 11 children per week



Lessons Learned



Brooke Newberry

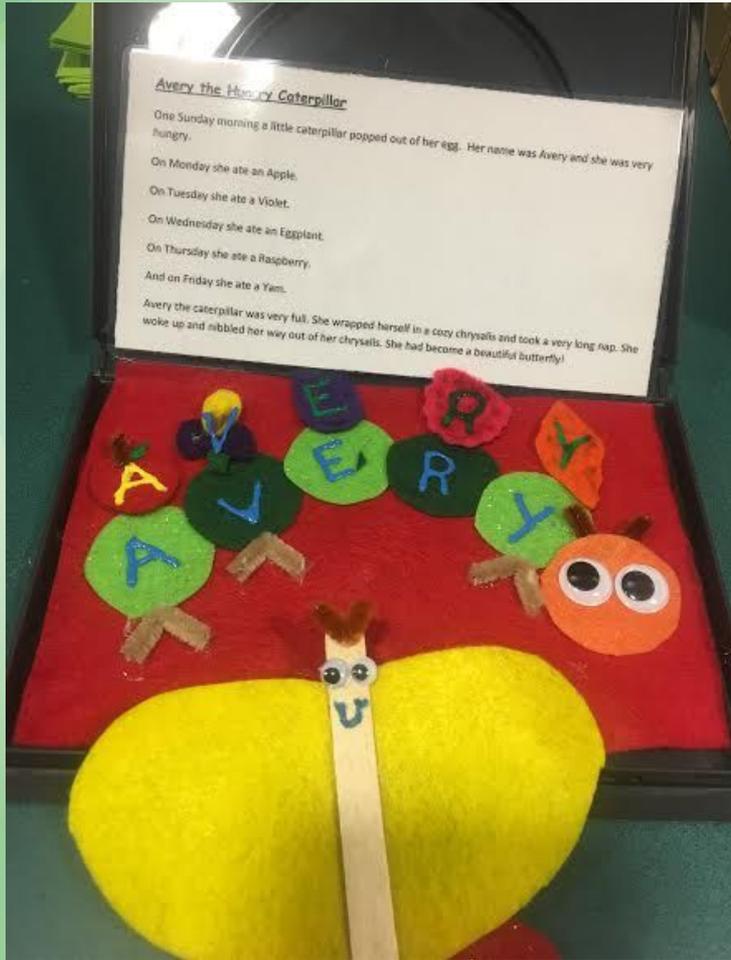
bnewberry@lacrosselibrary.org

Playgroups

- 6 groups
- 23 kids
- 3 locations
- Daytime and nighttime hours offered



Playgroups



Outreach

- 15 centers
- Farmers Market
- 630 people visited in one quarter!
- Did it work?



Future?



Session Check-in

Did you learn about...?

- The Play & Read project
- How different libraries responded to community needs
- The impact trained volunteers can make
- The importance of actively building relationships

Questions?

