

SCHOOL-AGE PROGRAMS

Many libraries offer the greatest number of programs for school-age children in the summer, since that is when these children have a plethora of free time. Ideally the programming is linked to the summer reading club theme, but children are not required to be in the club to attend the programs. Special programs are an exciting way to involve children in library activities and invite them to join the reading club.

Title: Penguin Power

Target Audience: Grades K-3

Books to Share and Display:

Geraghty, Paul. *Solo*.
Guiberson, Brenda. *The Emperor Lays an Egg*.
Lester, Helen. *Tacky in Trouble*.
Lester, Helen. *Tacky the Penguin*.
Makert, Jenny. *Penguins*.
Markle, Sandra. *Growing Up Wild: Penguins*.
Perlman, Janet. *Cinderella Penguin, or the Little Glass Flipper*.
Pfister, Marcus. *Penguin Pete and Pat*.
Tatham, Betty. *Penguin Chick*.

Poem:

“Every Morning in Fort Meyers.” *The Frogs Wore Red Suspenders*, pg. 50.

Activities:

Read aloud *Penguin Pete and Pat*. Have on hand a sheet of yellow tissue paper and a sheet of medium blue (not navy) tissue paper. Shine a flashlight behind each color separately and then behind the two colors together to demonstrate how yellow and blue make green.

Play Flashlight Tag

Shine a flashlight on the floor. Have children try to “catch” the light with their hands on the spot of light on the floor. Then move the circle of light to another spot for them to “catch” it again.

Craft: Penguin Family Picture

Materials:

9- by 12-inch blue construction paper
8 ½- by 11-inch white paper
Waxed paper
Crayons or markers
White craft glue or glue sticks
Iceberg pattern
Penguin patterns, large and small

Directions:

On waxed paper, trace and cut out the icebergs.

On white paper, copy and cut out the three penguins.

Color the penguins.

In conjunction with *Penguin Pete and Pat*, color one penguin with a yellow beak, one with a blue beak and the small one with a green beak.

Crumple each iceberg lightly, then smooth it out.

Glue the icebergs onto the blue construction paper.

Glue the penguins on the icebergs.

Professional Resources:

Prelutsky, Jack. *The Frogs Wore Red Suspenders*. Greenwillow, 2002.

Title: Growing Up: Brothers, Sisters, Friends and Foes

Target Audience: Grades K-3

Books to Share and Display:

Blume, Judy. *The Pain and the Great One*.
Ciavonne, John. *Carlos, Light the Farolito*.
Gibbons, Faye. *Night in the Barn*.
Hamilton, Morse. *Little Sister for Sale*.
Hanrahan, Brendan. *My Sisters Love My Clothes*.
Heide, Florence Parry. *Day of Ahmed's Secret*.
Hoffman, Mary. *Amazing Grace*.
McDonald, Megan. *The Potato Man*.
O'Neill, Alexis. *The Recess Queen*.
Rael, Elsa. *What Zeesie Saw on Delancy Street*.
Rattigan, Jama Kim. *Dumpling Soup*.
Schwartz, Amy. *Annabelle Swift, Kindergartener*.

Poem:

“My Sister Ate an Orange.” *Something Big Has Been Here*, pg. 147.

Activity:

Play “Huckle Buckle Beanstalk.” While children cover their eyes, hide a crayon. If you’ve read *Annabelle Swift, Kindergartener*, make it a bright blue crayon. The children search for it, and the one who finds it shouts, “Huckle Buckle Beanstalk,” and becomes the next person to hide the crayon.

Craft: Crayon Holder

Materials:

Coffee cans
Crayons or markers
Tape
12-inch by 18-inch construction paper in a variety of colors, 1 sheet per child
Small stickers of your choice

Directions:

Cut the construction paper to fit around the can.
Cut ½ inch off the top of the paper so the can top will fit.
Draw pictures of family members, friends or pets on the paper.
Color the drawings.
Add the stickers.
Wrap the pictures around the coffee cans.
Tape the first edge directly to the can.
Tape the closing edge to the first edge.

Professional Resources:

Prelutsky, Jack. *Something Big Has Been Here*. Greenwillow, 1990.

Title: See How We Grow

Target Audience: Grades K-3

Books to Share and Display:

Cross, Verda. *Great Grandma Tells of Threshing Day.*

Bunting, Eve. *I Have an Olive Tree.*

McDonald, Megan. *The Great Pumpkin Switch.*

McPhail, David M. *Farm Morning.*

Moore, Elaine. *Grandma's Garden.*

Mora, Pat. *Pablo's Tree.*

Parkinson, Kathy. *The Enormous Turnip.*

Peterof, Nancy. *A Plant Called Spot.*

Polacco, Patricia. *The Trees of the Dancing Goats.*

Pulver, Robin. *Nobody's Mother Is in Second Grade.*

Taylor, Judy. *Sophie and Jack Help Out.*

Poem:

"I am Growing a Glorious Garden." *Something Big Has Been Here*, pg. 12.

Activity:

Cut 40 or 50 construction-paper flowers from the pattern attached. Hide them around the room. Have children find them. A variation for older children is to divide participants into teams. The team that finds the most flowers wins. Each child receives a coloring page or bookmark for participating.

Craft: Tissue-Paper Flower

Materials:

9-inch by 12-inch brown, green and brightly colored construction paper

3-inch squares of tissue paper in green and assorted bright colors

White craft glue or glue sticks

Flowerpot, leaves and flower patterns

Directions:

Trace the flowerpot on the brown paper and cut out.
Trace the leaves on green paper and cut out.
Trace the flowers on any color construction paper desired.
Lay out the flowerpot, leaves and flowers on a background piece of paper.
Glue the pieces to the paper.
Lightly ball up the pieces of tissue paper.
Glue green tissues on the leaves, other colors on the petals.

Professional Resources:

Prelutsky, Jack. *Something Big Has Been Here*. Greenwillow, 1990.

Title: How Does Your Garden Grow?

Target Audience: Grades K-3

Books to Share and Display:

Congdon, Vicki. *Gardening Fun: Indoors and Out.*

Demi. *The Empty Pot.*

Ernst, Lisa Campbell. *Miss Penny and Mr. Grubbs.*

Fleischman, Paul. *Weslandia.*

Greenstein, Elaine. *Mrs. Rose's Garden.*

Maurer, Tracy. *Growing Flowers.*

Maurer, Tracy. *Growing Vegetables.*

Smith, Maggie. *This Is Your Garden.*

Stevens, Janet. *Tops and Bottoms.*

Stewart, Sarah. *The Gardener.*

Poem:

“The Cherries’ Garden Gala.” *The New Kid on the Block*, pg. 80.

Activity:

Ball Roll

Children sit in a circle. Roll the ball to one child. The child receiving the ball says his/her name, then rolls the ball to another child who says his/her name. When all of the children have had a turn, change the game to naming favorite flowers, fruits or plants.

Variation on the above: Use a large ball of string instead of an ordinary ball. As each child catches the string, he/she holds onto it, then states her/his name, etc. Child holds onto the piece of string when she/he rolls the ball to the next child. At the game’s end, the children will have made a “web.”

Craft:

Cupcake Flower

Materials:

Construction paper in various colors

Paper cupcake liners

White craft glue or glue sticks

Crayons or markers

Scraps of a variety of colors of tissue paper

Directions:

Select two different cupcake liners per child.
Cut slits from the top of the fluted edge to the flat bottom of the liner that is to be the outside of the flower. Cut several slits around the liner to make petals.
Glue the bottom of the liner to the construction paper.
Flatten the petals.
Glue the second liner inside the flattened one.
Select a hand full of tissue paper.
Crumple the tissue paper.
Glue the different colors of tissue paper to the inside of the flower.
Repeat procedure for the second flower.
Draw in stem and leaves.

Professional Resources:

Prelutsky, Jack. *The New Kid on the Block*. Greenwillow, 1984.

Title: America Grows

Target Audience: Grades 4-6

Books to Share and Display:

Bartone, Elisa. *Peppi the Lamplighter*.
Broyles, Ann. *Shy Mama's Halloween*.
Friedman, Ina R. *How My Parents Learned to Eat*.
Estes, Eleanor. *The Hundred Dresses*.
McDonald, Megan. *The Potato Man*.
Maestro, Betsy. *Coming to America: The Story of Immigration*.
Yezerksi, Thomas. *Together in Pinecone Patch*.

Activities:

Discuss your ethnic background with the children, bringing in old photographs of family if you can. Ask children what their ethnic groups are. Ask about their foods, holiday customs or music. Point out on a map of the world where the United State is and where New Jersey is located. Then show them where their families come from on the map in relation to the United States.

Craft: Statue of Liberty Scratch Craft

Materials:

Scratch and Sparkle Glitter Board, 5 ½ by 8 ½ inches, 1 piece per child
Metallic poster board, 22 by 28 inches
White poster board, 22 by 28 inches
Wooden orange sticks (or any type of slender, wooden dowel that is pointed at one end) or other type of wooden stylus, 1 for each child
Black yarn cut into 8-inch pieces
White craft glue or glue sticks
Statue of Liberty pattern

Directions:

Make several copies of the Statue of Liberty.
Trace the statue onto the scratchboard with the orange stick.
Hand draw the Statue of Liberty details.
Draw fireworks or other designs as a background.
Cut 8-inch by 10 ½-inch squares out of the white poster board.
Cut a second square the same size out of the metallic poster board.
Cut a square opening in the metallic poster board measuring 4 ½ by 7 ½ inches.
Glue the scratch-craft drawing onto the white poster-board square.
Glue the metallic poster-board square over the drawing to frame it.
Tape a loop of black yarn to the back of the picture for hanging.

Variation: This craft can be done by substituting black poster board for the scratch-craft paper and using gel pens to draw the Statue of Liberty.

Title: Tales that Keep Growing

Target Audience: Grades 4-6

Books to Share and Display:

Beneduce, Ann Keay. *Jack and the Beanstalk.*
Berenzy, Alix. *Rapunzel.*
Brooke, William J. *Untold Tales.*
Collodi, Carlo. *The Adventures of Pinocchio.*
Hyman, Trina Schart. *The Sleeping Beauty.*
Kellogg, Steven. *Jack and the Beanstalk.*
McKinley, Robin. *Rose Daughter.*
Napoli, Donna Jo. *Jimmy the Pickpocket of the Palace.*
Napoli, Donna Jo. *Prince of the Pond.*
Paulsen, Tim. *Jack and the Beanstalk and The Beanstalk Incident.*
Vosar, David. *RAPunzel.*
Zelinsky, Paul O. *Rapunzel.*
Zelinsky, Paul O. *Rumplestiltskin.*

Craft: Rapunzel's Tower.

Materials:

3 cardboard tubes, 3 inches in diameter and 8 ½ inches tall, or 4 tubes if they are smaller in diameter
Green construction paper for grass and shrubs and any dark color for the roof
Black markers
Fabric glue
Roof pattern

Directions:

Glue the cardboard tubes together.
Cut a circular roof for the tower.
Decorate the tower by drawing in stones or bricks on the tubes.
Draw in windows, tiles for roof and other details.
Cut a slit in the roof, as indicated in the pattern.
Pull the edges of the cut circle together to form a cone.
Glue the edges together.
Glue cone to the roof.
Decorate bottom of tower with green grass cut from patterns.

Title: Legos Up!

Target Audience: Grades 4-6

Books to Share and Display:

Bash, Barbara. *Urban Roosts: Where Birds Nest in the City.*

Bunting, Eve. *Night of the Gargoyles.*

Greenberg, Jan. *Frank O. Gehry: Outside In.*

Isaacson, Philip M. *Round Buildings, Square Buildings, and Buildings That Wiggle Like a Fish.*

Macaulay, David. *Building Big.*

Macaulay, David. *Castle.*

Macaulay, David. *Cathedral: The Story of Its Construction.*

Macaulay, David. *Rome Antics.*

Macaulay, David. *Unbuilding.*

Steiner, Joan. *Look-Alikes.*

Wilkinson, Philip. *Eyewitness Books: Building.*

Activity: Lego Building Contest

Choose several people, preferably not children's room staff members, to judge this contest. If a local architect is willing to judge, that's a great addition to the program. Advertise in local papers and send flyers to the schools.

Each child brings in his or her own Legos or other building blocks.
The entries must be original, not made from the instructions that come with the toy.

No papers or diagrams can be brought into the library.

The entries must be assembled in the library, not brought in pre-assembled.

Children may work in groups of up to 6.

Judges determine the winners while children are having a snack.

Prizes are awarded in several age groups, for example, preschool-kindergarten, grades 1-3 and grades 4-6.

Have a small prize for each contestant.

Title: Bead It!

Target Audience: Grades 4-6

Books to Share and Display:

Ackerman, Karen. *The Tin Heart*.
Bender, Robert. *Toads and Diamonds*.
Doney, Meryl. *World Crafts: Jewelry*.
Gryski, Camilla. *Friendship Bracelets*.
San Souci, Robert. *The Talking Eggs*.
Steptoe, John. *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters*.

Crafts: Handmade Bead Necklace

Materials:

Cover stock in neon colors, 8 ½ by 11 inches
Fabric glue
Markers, crayons, glitter glue
Black yarn or cotton twine cut in 1-yard strips

Directions:

Cut neon paper into strips 1 inch wide.
Cut a second set of strips 2 inches wide.
Each piece of paper will yield eight 1-inch strips and 16 half-inch strips.
At least 10 to 12 beads will be needed for each necklace.
Roll strips around a round pencil or ¼-inch dowel.
Pull the bead off the pencil.
Glue the end down with fabric glue.
Wipe excess glue off with a paper towel.
Hold the bead end down until it sticks.
Set aside.
When dry, decorate the beads with markers, crayons and glitter glue.
After beads are finished, wrap the tip of the yarn with masking tape to make threading easier.
Thread the beads onto the yarn in any pattern, then tie the ends.

Professional Resources:

Sadler, Judy Ann. *Beading: Bracelets, Earrings, Necklaces and More*. Kids Can Press, 1996.