

# Suggestions and Tips from Cass & attendees at the 2018 Storytime Workshops

## **PLANNING TOOLS**

- Plan ahead! Cass planned 10 weeks in advance. She bundled all of her materials for the entire storytime and had them on a shelf, in order of ST date, ready to go.
- Always plan more than you hope to do in a storytime. That way you can be flexible.
- Reflect on what worked/did not. Adjust.
- [Join Storytime Underground on Facebook.](#)
- [Sur La Lune has great themed storytimes.](#)
- The Department of Libraries has MANY storytime planning books. Put them on hold or give Cass a call and she will help you find what you need.
- [JBrary](#) has fabulous ideas for storytimes, videos of songs, stories, etc
- [Perry Ohio Library storytime](#)
- [Storytime Katie](#)
- [Dorothy Alling Memorial Library Storytime Website](#)
- Some librarians plan monthly themes and each week they do a variation on that theme.
- [Use the National Day Calendar to help with theme ideas.](#)
- Have an alphabet year: Each week of storytime features a letter of the alphabet.

## **FAMILY STORYTIME TIPS**

- Plan for a wide-range of stories, good for the very young and older. Pack in lots of songs, fingerplays, flannel, and movement.
- Make families comfortable by letting them know they can get up, move about, or leave the storytime room if they need to do so.
- Always welcome latecomers.
- Provide chairs with arms for folks who may need them.
- Have a nursing corner.
- Try [Kamishibai](#)! Julie from Stowe has one. It's very special.

- Give storytime jobs to older kids.
- Consent activities: “We are going to shake our shakers until Angela says, STOP! Because she is the Queen of the Shakers.
- Use tray (like one that goes under a washing machine) for any kind of messy activities. It’s easy to clean and contains mess.
- Sensory Tables—use 2 crates and a dishwashing tub.

### **BABY STORYTIME (0-18 months)**

- Repetition!
- Encourage adult and baby to bond.
- Scatter board books on floor before storytime.
- Story time blanket for babies.
- Scarves and music!
- Bubbles and music!
- Model baby bounces with a stuffed animal or doll.
- Use Big Books
- Promote collection to new parents.

### **TODDLER STORYTIME (18 months-3years)**

- Lots of songs, fingerplays, movement.....
- Same opener and closer for the series.
- Bubbles!
- Shakers!
- 20 minutes or less.
- Language skills are developing unevenly so ask or do physical responses.
- Make sounds.

### **PRESCHOOL STORYTIME (3-5 YEARS OLD)**

- Same as above but:
  - Augment stories with non-fiction or fictionalize non-fiction.
  - Rhythm sticks
  - Jingle Bells

## **ADVERTISING/MARKETING**

- Find people who are connected in your community and tell them about your storytimes.
- Post on Library's Facebook page---You can create multiple posts at once and schedule them to automatically appear on your page.
- Canva.com is a great graphic resource.
- [Tech Soup](#)
- Local paper
- Mail Chimp Newsletter
- Hoot Suite-multi-platform social media manager
- Post pics and videos often on your library Facebook page. Encourage patrons to like your posts.
- Newsletter—digital and paper.

## **ACTIVITIES AND CRAFTS**

- Coloring sheets.
- Have a “Stay and Play” playtime session after every storytime.
- Open-ended play: one library has a tent set up and kids make it what they want: a bear den, for instance, if the storytime was about bears.
- [Jan Brett masks](#)
- [Process art—Check out Pinterest](#)
- Finger paint in a ziplock bag.

## **OPENING SONGS**

- Hello, Friends. Goodbye, Friends. Abby Adams from Platt Memorial uses this one. 😊
- We Clap and Say Hello/Goodbye.
- Open & Shut Them.
- I Wake Up My Hands.
- These Are My Glasses.
- Hello, My Friends, Hello!

## **CLOSING SONGS/BOOKS**

- [Wave Goodbye book by Rob Reid](#)
- Bread & Butter
- Hokey Pokey

## **Great Songs to Use for Dancing or Shakers or???**

- Good Morning to You (Happy Birthday Song)
- You are my Sunshine (try it with some bubbles at the end of baby storytime)
- Bye Bye...Shaker or Scarves” (Abby Adams from Platt sings this with the kids to encourage them to give back the items.
- They Might Be Giants—Here Come the ABC’s album and Here Come the 1-2-3’s album.
- Jazz for Kids: Sing, clap, wiggle and shake. The whole album is great! (Cass’s favorite)
- Caspar Babypants
- Rick Charette
- Laurie Berkner
- Hap Palmer

## **OUTREACH IDEAS**

- Community spaces:
  - Museums
  - Walk-in clinic/med center
  - Laundromat
  - Farmer’s markets
  - Halloween “Safe” House (chill spot with bathroom)
- Preschool spaces
- Town meeting
- Town events
- Books to go (themed kits that circulate for daycares/schools, etc)
- Hotels

## **BEHAVIOR IDEAS**

- Each child gets a “storytime buddy” stuffed animal. It’s their responsibility to make sure the stuffed animal behaves.
- Have kids help you during the storytime.
- Name the behavior—give it a positive outlet
- Plan ahead
- Understand the needs of kids at this age
- For misbehaving parents:
  - Host a playtime BEFORE storytime to give kids and parents a time to play/talk. This gives parents time to share with each other and gets kids acclimated to the space.