



summer reading club WORLD of CURIOSITIES

Artist Meena created this year's appealing program materials for children to track their reading. The reading log folded together so that it opened like you would a cabinet to display a shelf where children put their stickers and checked off their daily reading goals.

Readers Spotlight



Children were encouraged to take home a reader's spotlight. They were asked to draw a picture of themselves, tell us about what they enjoyed doing, and pick five books to recommend. I created posters for display and shared them on social media. The children also received a copy to take home.



Goals of Summer Reading Club:

- Engage children/families in fun, free summer programming that supports literacy.
- Connect children with a range of reading materials best suited to their needs and interests.
- Increasing their enthusiasm and confidence in reading.
- Enhance community interaction, support family bonding and contribute to the personal growth of participants.





Prevention of Summer Learning Loss

- Summer reading club helps maintain and enhance literacy levels by encouraging regular reading throughout the summer using the creative material provided to us through the provincial reading club programme.
- Handing out the reading log and stickers at the same time rather than having children come to the library is much more successful, as families are often away for some weeks, and children are more likely to complete the reading record if they don't miss weeks.

Development of Reading Habits

- The summer reading club material provides an attractive, ready-to-go structure yet flexible framework to encourage regular reading habits.
- The reading log is adaptable to accommodate each child's reading goals. Families are encouraged to create and include their child(ren) in creating their summer goals. Reading goals look different for a 3-year-old who is being read to, an emerging reader getting motivated to read, or an avid teen reader who still enjoys being part of the club because of fond memories of past reading clubs.
- Track progress by offering small rewards like stickers, a medal, and a completion certificate.

Fostering a Love for Reading

- Summer reading club offers freedom of choice, selecting books to match their interests, which promotes a love of reading.
- Exposure to a wide range of books and reading materials, develop interests in different subjects and enhance overall knowledge.

Family and Community Engagement

- Family participation is encouraged; parents and caregivers are invited to read alongside their children, creating a supportive reading environment at home.
- Hosting activities in the library and drawing families into the library setting fosters community engagement.

Enhancing Library Usage

- Summer reading club increases foot traffic to libraries (visitors from out of town) and introduces new families to resources available as well as to the community especially as other family places shut down for the summer months (ie Strong Start, schools etc)
- Exposure to library services they may not have been aware of (digital and audiobooks, reading apps), etc.



Arts & Crafts & Play/Lego

Participants: 53 registered children, with 6 to 15 participating each week.

The arts and crafts and play sessions were tailored to two age groups. On Thursdays, activities were geared toward children aged 6 and older, while Saturdays were dedicated to children aged five and under.

For the younger age group, the activities were focused on play and creativity, including hands-on projects like painting and crafting basic items such as beading etc. Children also had free play time to explore Lego and other toys, providing a social environment for families to interact. Parents were expected to stay and participate with their younger children.

The crafts were more complex for children aged six and older, allowing them to explore various techniques and materials such as beading, origami, optical illusion thaumatropes, and clay. These activities encouraged creative thinking and artistic expression. After completing these activities, the children built Lego, creating fun creations to work on from week to week.



Library Scavenger Hunts

Participation: A total of 75 children took part, with between 28 and 42 children participating each week.

The library scavenger hunts challenged participants to explore the library and find hidden items based on the weekly themes, such as mythical creatures, optical illusions, nature and more. During the first week, children completed the scavenger hunt and received a wooden medallion to paint and a cord to hang it on. In the following weeks, they would collect different beads to add to their medallion. This event turned out to be very popular and engaging. The scavenger hunt was accessible throughout the library, allowing visitors with children and local families to participate in library programming at their convenience.





Magic Show with magician Leif David Participants: 90-100

As part of the summer reading club programme on Thursday, August 8th, Magician Leif David visited and performed for the children, captivating the audience with his magical skills and engaging personality. The event attracted a large turnout of children and parents, creating an exciting and enjoyable atmosphere. Magician Leif David's performance was both entertaining and educational. This event was at Front Street Park, which, being in a central location, helped draw in library people and people off the street.



Movie Matinees Bad Guys: 19 children How To Train Your Dragon: 20

We also hosted two movie matinee events, selecting films based on popular books to connect the thrill of cinema with the pleasure of reading. The chosen films catered to a wide range of ages, and we received overwhelmingly positive feedback for both events.

Take-Away Kits & Activity Booklets

Created three takeaway kits for families: Dragon's Eggs, Thaumatrope, and Crystal Suncatchers. During the evacuations, we printed out the weekly activity sheets and colouring-in pages to make booklets. We dropped them off at the Legion and also made them available for takeaway at the library.

Outcomes:

- Children participating in summer reading club often return to school with their reading skills intact or improved.
- Children exhibit greater confidence in their reading abilities and higher engagement levels.
- Participants are likely to establish long-term reading habits and become lifelong learners.
- Exposure to a wide range of books and reading materials develops interest in different subjects.
- Increased enjoyment of reading leads to more frequent visits to the library.
- Strong bonds formed between families who engage in reading activities together.
- Creating a space where families can connect, share resources and participate in social events.
- Increased circulation of the young adult, juvenile fiction and early reader books.
- Participants more likely to return for library events throughout the year
- Increased exposure to the library's role as an essential community resource.



Feedback/ Survey



How did your family hear about Summer Reading Club?

81% library staff -- 27% website -- 45% social media -- 10% friends/family

What age groups participated from your family?

18% (0-4) -- 73% (5-9) -- 36% (10-14)

Did the reading log/tracker encourage your child(ren) to read more than usual over the summer?

27% much more than usual -- 27% a little more than usual -- 45% about the same
0% less than usual

Were the activities and events organized by the library engaging for your family?

100%

Please share any additional feedback about your family's experience with Summer Reading Club

“The reading logs with a promise of a prize at the end were great for motivating my kids to stick to their reading goals, and helped my almost-7-year-old to make the transition from seeing reading as a chore to something that he actually got into and did for enjoyment sometimes.”

“we love our local library!”



“Devoted personal”

“We love the in-person arts and crafts sessions. The scavenger hunts are a fun addition to our library visits too. The reader spotlight was fun, and we loved seeing my child’s published. Thank you for all of your efforts to engage families!”

“Was something to look forward to each week.”

What improvements, changes or additions would you like to see in our next years Summer Reading Club?

“Better prizes at the end. My kids didn't care that much about the various paper take-home activities, but they were motivated by interest in seeing what they'd get. Then the medal and certificate were a bit of a let-down.”

“We appreciate all that was offered and look forward to participating again next summer. I’m so thankful to have a free space to visit the library and engage in fun activities. Thank you for making our library so welcoming to children.”