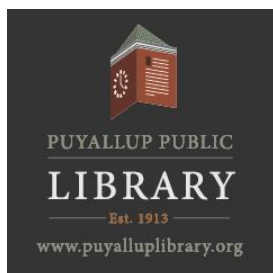


Can We Do That? Practical Programs That Won't Break the Bank

Low cost (and no-cost) program ideas, and what to add when you have the funds.

presented by

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What makes up a low-cost or no-cost library program?

Need very little money to implement.

Use supplies you already have on hand. Paper is cheap!!

Take advantage of the skills of your volunteers and other staff members.

Your community is a great resource for donations, bringing items in (beehive), or presenting programs!

Borrow from another library – Or even exchange programs.

Stories and activities around a central theme: Perfect for children 2-7 years old.

Start off by reading or telling a story or two to the whole group.

Release the group to move between 2 to 5 stations. Try to make one station art/craft related, one that's math or science related, and one that's a simple game or something to get them moving.

Themes include:

Popular storybook or television character: Olivia, Amelia Bedelia, Fancy Nancy, etc.

Favorite Book: The Mitten by Jan Brett, Jumpstart's yearly "Read for the Record" book, etc.

Something fun: Chicken dance, Ladybugs, Fishy Fishy in the Sea, Instrument Petting Zoo.

Unusual holidays: Pi Day, National Cookie Day, National Engineers Week.

Make and take crafts: a.k.a. easy passive programming.

Usually a type of papercraft.

Can be left out on a table.

Needs very little staff involvement.

Examples:

Bookmark Monsters (just paper or old envelopes!)

Crowns.

Elephant finger puppet (trunks made from party blowers are nice if you have money.)

Sun visors.

Paper plate maracas (a humongous 25 pound bag of popcorn kernels is cheap and lasts for years!)

Tangrams- kids can color their own set.

STEM / STREAM and other educational programs: It's easier than you think!

Airplane Science with paper airplanes.

Edible Engineering.

Scratch programming.

Hour of code.

Ladybug release (\$20 for 1500 bugs.)

Spiders.

Caterpillars & Butterflies (Hatch in library if you have \$25, release at butterfly themed program.)

How to use a compass (Utilize a boy scout to lead this one!)

Babysitters Bash.

Kids Cooking without a Stove.

Secret Codes and Ciphers.

Making Fossils (with used coffee grounds, flour, salt, and water.)

Magical Melting Dough- equal parts cornstarch and baking soda. Mix with tempera paint (or just water) until it makes a dough. It will hold shapes while they work with it, but as soon as they stop it starts to “melt” and ooze. (It is a non-Newtonian fluid.) Bonus: watch what happens when you spray with vinegar.

Little Engineers (build with empty boxes, or a package of plastic cups)

Go outside your doors -- or bring the outside in:

Chalk the walk (Use butcher paper to enjoy indoors.)

Stories in the garden.

Teddy bear picnic.

Hopscotch (Use masking tape or large sheets of butcher paper for indoor fun.)

Crafts for varying ages -- could be older elementary age, teen, adult, or family: Some crafts require more skill and manual dexterity. Look at Pinterest for crafting ideas.

Crafts for elementary school age kids- There is nothing wrong with creating a program just for the older kids, say in 4th through 6th grades. Sometimes they like it better that way!

Examples:

Bead a binary bracelet.

Duct tape wallets and other creations.

Origami- sea serpents, paper cranes, the story of Sadako.

Papercrafts- quilling, dream keeper/tiny treasure box, paper airplanes.

Teens also like to do craft stuff- Our teen librarian has started a monthly “Crafternoon.”

Crafternoon: Fan stuff-based around anime, movies, tv shows, or books with lots of fan appeal, e.g. Dr. Who.

Book art with stuff you are weeding.

Perler beads.

Bookmarks and Magnets.

Teens want a place to hang out and do stuff with other teens: Don’t forget to ask the teens themselves for suggestions. A Teen Advisory Group is a great place to get ideas.

Ideas to try:

Movie paired with... a craft or a discussion (**requires a movie license**).

Beautify Your Library- Duct tape Chairs, Decoupage coffee table, CD mobile.

Life sized version of a game (Battleship, Clue, Chess) with people as the markers, acting it out.

Geeky Tea Blends- (Popular with adults too) Have a local tea shop lead this one.

Fandom Panels.

Make book trailers. If you –or teens-have tablets there are great apps for making videos.

Teen groups with similar interests: We all like to be with other people who share our interests

Meet regularly. Food helps!

Teen Advisory Group/“League of Teen Advisors”

Gaming group programs- There might be a one-time cost. Don’t need a console. Can be done with card or board games.

Writing group.

Fan groups.

Anime group.

Speakers: Partner with community groups and citizens. Use the teens and adults in your community to talk about topics of interest. You might be surprised by what you find.

Find people through your community businesses, i.e. comic shop.
Local clubs - Tacoma Astronomical Society offers star parties with stomp rockets and telescopes.
Master Gardeners- Butterflies in the garden, Plant a shoe, Creepy Crawlies, Frogs and tadpoles.
Local public works department- Pierce County Public Works has offered classes about Compost critters,
 Be a toxic investigator, Recycling Superheroes, etc..
Beekeepers- Bring a live hive to a Winnie the Pooh party.
Humane Society- Pet care tips, choosing a pet.
Read with a therapy dog (Therapy Dogs International, Delta Society/Pet Partners, Humane Society)
Service Animals- Ever wonder how a service animal is trained? Come talk to handlers.
Horse owner or stable- Live horse at the library!
Art Museum/local artist/art teacher.
Teen speakers share their passions- For example: Cosplay.
Genealogy Society- Shake your family tree! Learn how to get started in genealogy.
Local high school or college ASL instructor- or experienced student- Introduction to sign language.
Someone who speaks another language (doesn't need to be a teacher)- Teach basic phrases and words.
Local calligrapher- Beginning calligraphy.
Martial Arts- Demonstration from self to defense to board-breaking.
Dance school- demonstrate different types of dance.
Police officer at storytime- Read stories, share Halloween safety tips, explore a police car.
Photography- Teen speaker combined with Makankosappo "Special Beam Cannon" pictures, or local
photographer talking about how to take the best digital photographs.

Have a party that takes over the library! Drive everyone crazy... and have fun doing it

Día de los Niños.
Pirate party/Superheroes party.
Mini Convention ("Con") on any fan favorite.
Scavenger hunt/treasure hunt.
Stuffed animal sleep over.
Book party- Choose a favorite book to celebrate: Harry Potter and Quidditch, Gregor the Overlander,
Captain Underpants.
Teen lock in (evening or overnight).

Think BIG! Nationally recognized events. Big or small... go ahead, take advantage of them!

Take Your Child to the Library Day (February)
National Poetry Month (April) How about some Diamante Poetry? Or a Poem in Your Pocket Day
bookmark?
National Library Week (April)
Día de los Niños/Día de los Libros (April)
Screen Free Week (May)
Star Wars Reads Day (October)
Read for the Record (October)
International Games Day (November)

Favorite blogs with great programming ideas:

www.MissMegsStorytime.com

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/tech/making-stuff.html>

Carol's personal blog: Magical Library Bookbug <http://librarybugb8te.blogspot.com>

Other great websites to help you out:

<http://makeitatyourlibrary.org/>

Diamante Poems: <http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/diamante>

Coffee Ground Fossils: http://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/information/kids_geozone/Pages/fossil.aspx