



Youth Services Subdivision

Iowa Library Association

MESSAGE FROM MERRI MONKS

Summer is at its height, according to the calendar, but the Iowa Library Association conference will be here before we know it . . . our outgoing Chair, Arielle Loy, and our Awards Chair, Zach Stier, have arranged some wonderful sessions geared to youth services librarians at the ILA Conference, and we hope to see many of you there. Arielle and her husband have relocated to Wisconsin, and I want to thank her for all her work in planning for the upcoming ILA Conference.

Over the next year in my role as Chair of the YSS, Danielle Day and I will be working together to expand Danielle's program, Bridge to Reading Dubuque Picture Book Award, to a statewide children's choice award, to be sponsored by the Youth Services Subdivision of the Iowa Library Association.

YSS did very well financially, as the result of Katie Dreyer's work on the silent auction at Kids First. The auction raised about \$1,000 to benefit YSS, and that money is earmarked for youth services programs at the ILA conferences. **Thanks, Katie!**

Zach Stier and I will be meeting in August to get ready for the ILA conference and our annual YSS meeting there. I'm very much looking forward to serving as your Chair over the coming year. I'll be stepping into that role a bit early and will be facilitating our meeting at ILA in October. I hope to see many of you at ILA, in the exhibit hall at our booth, at our programs, and at our annual meeting.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Merri M. Monks

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Coming Spring 2014 - Bridge to Reading Picture Book Award

We have the Iowa Children's Choice Award (grades 3-6), Iowa Teen Award (grades 6-9), Iowa High School Award (grades 9-12) and the recently added Goldfinch Award (K-3) sponsored by the Iowa Association of School Librarians. Youth Services Subdivision of ILA is pleased to announce the creation of the Bridge to Reading Picture Book Award for the state of Iowa for Kindergarten age and younger. Children's librarians across the state work with preschool children doing story times and teaching early literacy skills. This award is meant to be implemented by librarians and childcare providers at story times as well as through families in the community to introduce great new picture books in a read aloud setting.

The book award was piloted in Dubuque, Iowa with an overwhelming positive response. Thirty-five childcare facilities and thirteen elementary schools participated, reaching over 2000 children and introducing them to new quality picture books. The award successfully achieved its mission statement and it is ready to be implemented statewide.

Mission Statement: The purpose of the Bridge to Reading Dubuque Picture Book Award is to promote early literacy and reading to children through the introduction of quality picture books nominated by a committee of librarians, teachers, preschool and early literacy leaders. The award book will be chosen based on quality and characteristics of a good "read aloud". The award will engage children in the voting process and develop a lifelong love of books and reading.

Intrigued? What to learn more? Join Danielle Day, Youth Services Librarian at ILA Conference this fall for a breakout session and check out www.bridgetoreading.com.



The Art of Play

The art of play is a topic of conversation that needs to be addressed. As Children's librarians it is important to remember that we are active agents towards helping children and their families prepare for school. As we prepare our programs, we make sure that we spend time putting together a combination of materials and activities that showcase the excitement reading can have. However, I challenge us to enhance our programs by providing opportunities for children and families to be involved in play.

Play is a fundamental and essential for infants, toddlers, and preschool age children for a healthy development. The art of play provides children the opportunity to learn about themselves, work with others and learn about the world around them. Play is a general term and emphasis can be added to it. There can be an emphasis on basic play with a variety of objects that can include blocks, books, puppets, hand objects, and boxes. This art of play is important for all children however, it is a great opportunity to introduce to younger children to allow them to learn to observe their environment. However, another form of play that is important is educational play.

For me, educational play is the opportunity for children and families to be introduced to a topic and then they are given time to complete various activities to enhance their understanding of the topic. Educational play allows children to work on the process of inquiry by first observing and predicating before completing an activity and the opportunity to complete the activity and review their results. Inquiry is another large topic that I would enjoy discussing but maybe next newsletter.

This description can sound like educational play is geared towards elementary children but it can also include PreK children. Education play can be thought of as a Montessori type approach to learning. Montessori calls upon an environment that is prepared for children based upon their developmental needs. This is why educational play can vary and why it is important to introduce it before children begin school. Children need the opportunity to be spontaneous learners within an environment that respects where they are developmentally.

At the Ericson Public Library we are working on continuing this model of programming in our storytime and our family fun program. I would be happy to answer and discuss about the topic of play, our programs, or anything around children's services.

-Mr. Z

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Iowa Library Association

<http://www.iowalibraryassociation.org/index.php/youth-services-subdivision>

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2013 Goal Setting Meeting

On February 26th a collection of Youth Services Subdivision members met to discuss and set goals for 2013. The meeting was held via WebEx which is a useful service graciously provided by the State Library. The following three goals were the result of this discussion.

1. Encourage the incorporation of early literacy skills and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) skills in youth programming in Iowa libraries.

We will strive to achieve this goal via the promotion of early literacy and STEM skills in conference sessions, workshops, and newsletter articles.

2. Encourage the greater use of the Youth Services Subdivision mentoring program.

3. Maintain membership numbers and encourage increased participation.

We can encourage participation by improving communication and being enthusiastic about subdivision events. However, members will participate only if the subdivision is doing things they want to be involved in! So, share your ideas with the officers!

YSS Mentoring/ Networking Chart

YSS sponsors a mentoring program which has also been referred to as the "Gmail Email Group." This is essentially a chart that is available through Google Drive which can be accessed and edited by YSS members. This chart is intended to be used as a way to network, communicate, and mentor other Iowa librarians serving youth. Add your information to the chart and, when you're looking for information or guidance, check the chart for librarians with expertise in that area.

To access the spreadsheet go to

<http://bit.ly/11MyHtg>

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