

# HOW PASSIVE PROGRAMS LEAD TO ACTIVE CONNECTIONS



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# STORY WALK ACTIVITIES

- Use the Story Walk for Easter and Halloween
- An activity that requires them to read each Storywalk board to get an answer or a clue
- Complete the activity and get a prize from the front desk
- Encourages connection with front desk and to do the storywalk

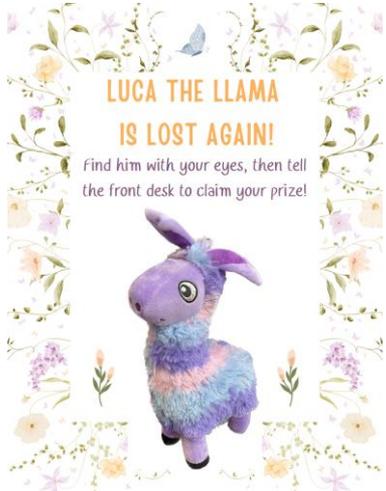


# COFFEE AND KIDS

- Friday mornings 9:30-11(ish)
  - Patrons often stay longer and access other library services
- Provide coffee (and now snacks), set out toys, and let families have an informal playdate for an hour or so
- Average 15 people per week, but have had as many as 40 on some mornings.
- Cost: \$60 a month



# FIND THE HIDDEN ITEM: LIBRARY WIDE



- Runs all day, every day (except during Summer Reading)
- Different item each month
- Item “moves” around the library everyday or every other day and kids find it, tell the front desk where they spotted it, and get to pick a prize.
- Prizes are always a candy option or some small toy
- Estimate is that 95% of all kids who come into the library each day look for and find the item
- Builds connections with circulation staff, builds confidence in navigating the library, and comfort with engaging in conversation or asking for assistance from library staff when needed.
- Cost:\$75-\$100 a month

# BOOK NOOK TO GO

## Adults

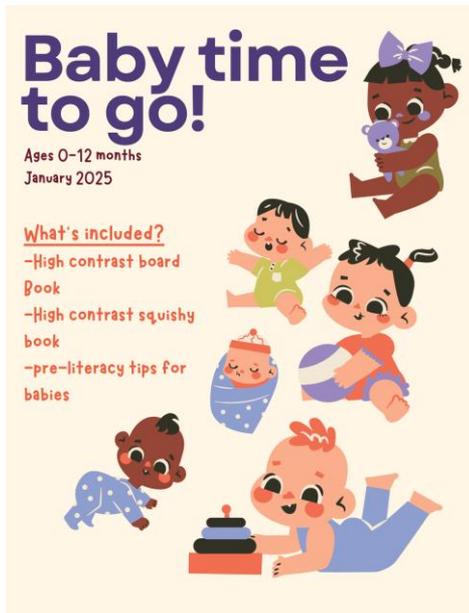
- Pick a genre/theme, order goodies associated with the theme, and make a goody bag with an accompanying book from the collection
- 24 spots each month, always fills up
- For patrons 15+
- Have a group of friends (4 ladies) that have done almost every single month since the start, and they each sign up and then rotate the books between them
  - Some have started attending book clubs
- There are now adults who do it who came from our teen programs
- Cost: \$5 or less per person per month

## Kids

- Kids whose parents get Book Nooks requested it - Jan 2025
- Theme is related to Kids Book Club
- Books are selected based on the child's age and response to the question "Does your child read chapter books?"
- They get candies and trinkets related to the theme they get to keep
- 20 spots - consistently have 8-10 kids sign up
- A chance to get to know the kids
- Cost: ~\$20 a month depending on the prizes. Leftover prizes and trinkets are used for Kids Book Club that month.

# BABY TIME TO GO

- Each month includes a book, a toy, and a sheet of literacy tips on how to use the book or toy to build engagement and preliteracy skills with your baby
- First come, first serve - no registration. Make 20 each month.
- Cost: \$5-6/kit



## Why High Contrast?

Our youngest readers are only starting to develop their eyesight. Babies can't see colors right away, and their depth perception and focus are limited. By using high contrast items, you help baby focus on what's in front of them. It's the perfect starting point for their reading journey. Try positioning familiar, high contrast books in their line of sight during play time, snuggle time, and tummy time.

## Try this:

- position a board book on either side of baby's head while in tummy time, about 6-8 inches away. This gives them the opportunity to look at and engage with something while also physically engaged in tummy time.
- talk to baby about the pictures in the book. There may be no words, but there's still plenty you can tell baby.



# SEED LIBRARY

- Patrons can get 2 seed packets per visit
- Teen volunteers help sort the seeds and package them
- March-September
- Some seeds are donated
- Approximately \$200 per year



## STEM Kits

- Summer of 2024 on a weekly basis
  - Moved to a monthly basis.
- Kits are 1 per household and have enough to do the project 2x
- Began w/ 30 kits and moved to 60 as demand rose.
- Incorporated them into summer reading program choices
- Costt: \$1-\$3 per kit depending on the activity and materials we already have at the library

## Craft Kits

- January 2025
- Began w/ 30 kits and moved to 60 as demand rose
- 1 per household w/ enough materials to do the project 2x
- Try to use materials that are leftover or we have a lot of
- For the first 5 months the kits cost almost no money because I was using leftover materials
- Have used purchased craft kits a couple times that were more expensive
- Cost: \$1-\$2 per kit depending on activity and materials



## 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

- Kicked off in January of 2026.
- Prizes given for every 100 books, with bigger prizes given at 500 and 1,000.
- Rocket/space themed; kids have a rocket that they move up from the launchpad as they “blast off” into reading.
- Patrons typically handle moving their own rockets; some staff help with getting prizes.



# Bowser's Bookmarks

- Our Library's pet is Bowser the Turtle and he is very social.
- Created a reading program for him, where he picks "favorites" that sit on a display by his tank each month.
- Bookmark was created from a bookmark contest, printed with Canva
- Kids have to read 5 books
  - Can be any book
  - They turn the bookmark in for a small prize
- Started in November of 2024 when we ordered 1,000 bookmarks
- Just did our 2nd annual bookmark contest
- Cost: 1,000 bookmarks were \$150 from Canva, about \$200 on turtle themed prizes



Read 5 of Bowser's Books, record the titles here, and turn in for a small prize.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



Artwork by  
Kady Clark



## Question/Activity Stations

- Patrons “vote” w/ stickers
  - Count participation w/ number of stickers
- Butterfly program
  - Weekly activities w/ information put up in the kid’s section of the library
  - Questions on the table next to the butterfly habitat
  - Then there was an unscheduled butterfly release that we announced on facebook
- I made the information and activity sheets myself
- Cost - printing and caterpillars
  - Reused the butterfly habitat from last year
- Pumpkin Jack same but cost was the pumpkin



## Pokemon Free Play

- No instructions
- Pokemon activities put out
- Kids can play or trade
  - We do specifically tell parents that we do not endorse or control trading
- Pokemon Free Play brings people to Battle Academy to learn how to play



## Lego Club

- Put out Legos and trays
- Kids can display their creations in the library
- Clean up and prep has been very simple

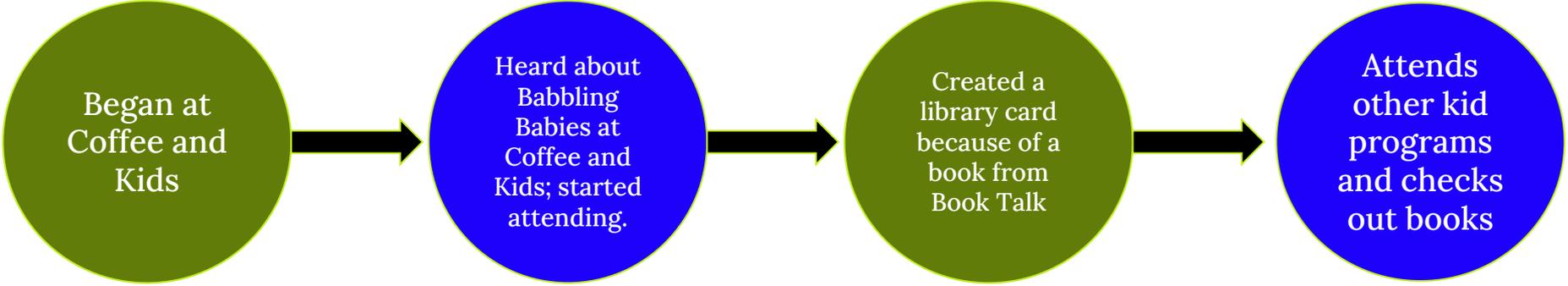
# PATRON EXAMPLE 1

Began at  
Coffee and  
Kids

Heard about  
Babbling  
Babies at  
Coffee and  
Kids; started  
attending.

Created a  
library card  
because of a  
book from  
Book Talk

Attends  
other kid  
programs  
and checks  
out books



# PATRON EXAMPLE 2

Began as a patron coming in with three kids and only checking out books.

Signed up for Book Nook to Go for herself.

Started attending other adult programs (Book Tastings, Artsy Craftsy)

Signed her children up for Kids' Book Nook to Go each month. Attends homeschool programs.

Kids are more active in library, interacting with library staff due to finding the hidden item each time they come in. Able to ask for help and suggestions comfortably.

# QUESTIONS?



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