

Reading BeTWEEN the Lines:

HOW TO REACH AND SERVE TWEENS IN YOUR LIBRARY

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Kenton County Public Library

OUTLINE OF TOPICS

- ▶ SLIME. So much slime.
- ▶ Science!
- ▶ Engineering!
- ▶ Coding
- ▶ Book to Movie Club
 - ▶ Yes, book clubs CAN work
- ▶ Artful Afternoons
- ▶ FUN!!!
- ▶ Do's and Don'ts
- ▶ Any Questions?

SLIME

- ▶ Glow in the Dark
 - ▶ <https://sciencenotes.org/easy-glow-dark-slime-recipes/>
 - ▶ Add in glow in the dark paint
 - ▶ Didn't work very well, but SCIENCE!
- ▶ Glitter
 - ▶ Extra fine glitter works best
- ▶ Confetti
 - ▶ Use multicolor styrofoam beads to mix in
 - ▶ https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0798N2217/ref=oh_aui_search_asin_title?ie=UTF8&psc=1
- ▶ Gold
 - ▶ Use gold watercolor
 - ▶ https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B004DEMY2G/ref=oh_aui_search_asin_title?ie=UTF8&psc=1
- ▶ Magnetic
 - ▶ Use magnet powder, SLIME WILL BE BLACK
 - ▶ Provide VERY STRONG magnets to make the slime actually work
- ▶ Regular
 - ▶ Offer different colors, I use food coloring

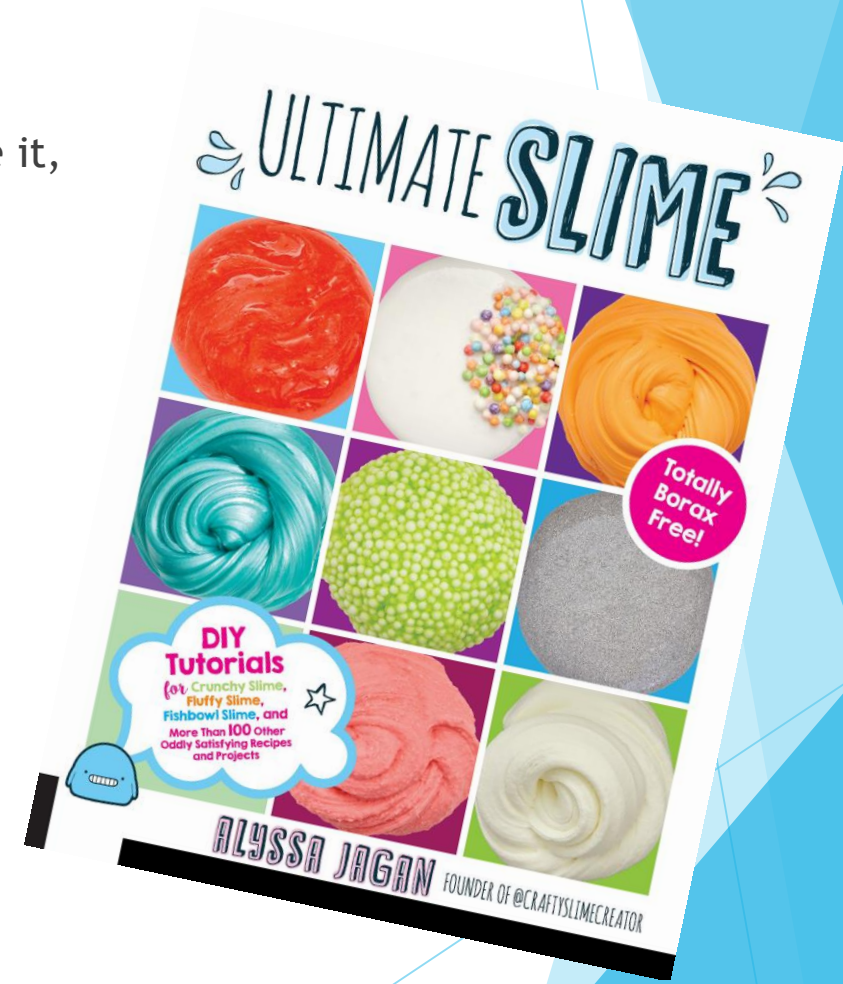
MORE Slime! Tips and Tricks

- ▶ PRE-MEASURE EVERYTHING
- ▶ Cover tables in plastic tablecloths for easy cleanup! (just fold it up and toss)
- ▶ PRACTICE PRACTICE PRACTICE
 - ▶ You'll want to know how to troubleshoot, if necessary.....it will be necessary
- ▶ Be prepared for a giant mess! If you have carpet in your room, BEWARE
- ▶ Have the kids help each other, I have quite a few slime experts who attend

- ▶ Materials I use
 - ▶ Elmer's white or clear glue (I have found that the name brand works best, but any school glue will do)
 - ▶ StaFlo Liquid Starch, or activator of your choice. Can also use borax, contact solution, etc.
 - ▶ Plastic Bowls
 - ▶ Spoons or craft sticks
 - ▶ Ziplock bags to take home
 - ▶ Medicine or condiment cups to measure out add-ins like glitter, foam beads, liquid gold, etc.

Slime Resources

- ▶ Google is your friend!
 - ▶ I often think of something I'd like to try with slime, google it, and odds are someone has done it
 - ▶ Can give inspiration for new types
- ▶ Recipe I use:
 - ▶ ½ cup glue
 - ▶ 3-4 Tablespoons liquid starch
 - ▶ CAN add in ¼ cup foaming hand soap (I exclude this)
 - ▶ OR CAN also add in ¼ cup water (I also exclude this)
- ▶ Ultimate Slime by Alyssa Jagan book
 - ▶ Provides basic recipes
 - ▶ Sections on beginner, intermediate, and advanced slimes
 - ▶ Section on troubleshooting
 - ▶ Provides inspiration



Science!

- ▶ Make science FUN
- ▶ Ice Cream in a Bag
 - ▶ MESSY
 - ▶ <https://www.instructables.com/id/How-to-Make-Homemade-Ice-Cream-in-a-Bag/>
 - ▶ Buy the nice ziplock bags—YOU WILL WANT THEM
 - ▶ Will be salty, due to leaks, just trying to transfer to bowls
 - ▶ I pre-measured most ingredients to prevent major spills and messes
- ▶ Mad Scientist Mayhem
 - ▶ Elephant toothpaste
 - ▶ Film Canister rockets
 - ▶ Simple baking soda/vinegar experiments

Engineering!

- ▶ Rube Goldberg/Crazy Contraptions
 - ▶ Look up videos on YouTube
 - ▶ Similar to Mousetrap
 - ▶ VERY LOW BUDGET
 - ▶ Bring in recycling
 - ▶ Tape, scissors
 - ▶ Can show videos for inspiration
 - ▶ IMAGINATION!!
 - ▶ Open Building/Working Together



Image from boyslfe.org
<https://boyslfe.org/hobbies-projects/projects/159359/how-to-make-a-rube-goldberg-machine/>

Coding, yes you can do it!

- ▶ Ozobots/Spheros/Robots
 - ▶ If you can afford them, use them!
 - ▶ Very simple and easy to learn if you don't know how
 - ▶ Pros: kids love them and learn basic coding principles while having fun
 - ▶ Cons: many schools now have these items so kids might think it's "boring," combat this by making competitions or specific goals—provide prizes!
- ▶ Code.org
 - ▶ If you have a lab, laptops, etc. Use this website!
 - ▶ I've just shown it on a projector and had us work through some of the games as a group
- ▶ Crafty Coding
 - ▶ Can't afford expensive tech? This is much more budget friendly!
 - ▶ Kids that love crafts will still learn coding—a new way to think about it
 - ▶ Coding is lots of patterns!
 - ▶ Graph paper coding, binary bracelets, DIY spy decoders, etc.

Crafty Coding!

Yes, it's a thing!

▶ Graph Paper Coding

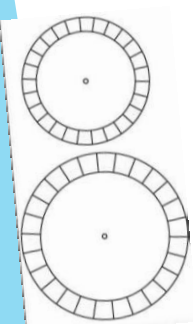
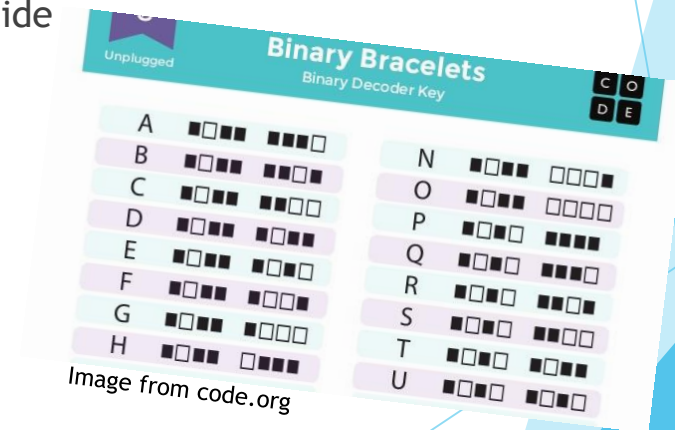
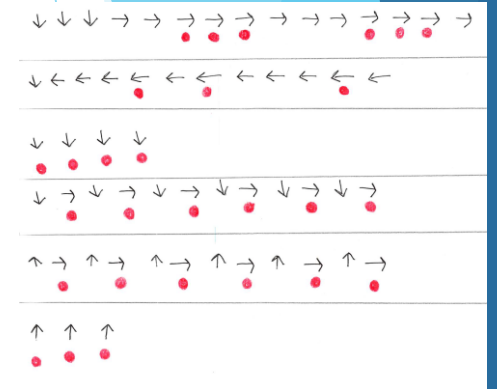
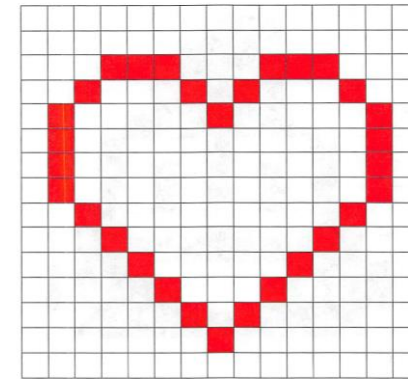
- ▶ Emoji pictures! I made these in word, can create new ones if you'd like
- ▶ Wrote out instructions by hand and copied, it was easier
- ▶ Materials: paper, colored pencils. That's it!

▶ Binary Bracelets

- ▶ Provide sheet with binary in black and white squares, have them decide what to put on their bracelet—initials, name, etc.
- ▶ Materials: beads, string, clasps (if you want them). I got everything from Michael's or Amazon

▶ DIY Spy Decoders

- ▶ It's a basic cypher wheel
- ▶ Find a template online, or create your own (find mine attached)
- ▶ I provided blank ones and ones with the alphabet written in by me
- ▶ Materials: cypher wheels printed on cardstock, metal brads, colored pencils, scissors
- ▶ Make the wheels, explain how they work, then let them send secret codes to each other!



Book to Movie Club!

- ▶ Summer worked best for me
- ▶ Would only attempt if you have a following, know you have an interest
- ▶ Setup:
 - ▶ First date (early June): selected books—gave options and allowed suggestions
 - ▶ Pulled book discussion kits/copies of books I thought might be selected in advance
 - ▶ Distributed books for first selection—wrote down book number, took child's name and phone number
 - ▶ Second date (end of June): Watch film based on book, then discuss differences, which they liked better, etc. If child didn't read or finish the book, I'd still let them attend.
 - ▶ Collected first book, handed out copies of the next book
 - ▶ Third date (end of July): Showed film for second book selection, same as first time
 - ▶ Any books not collected, told to bring back soon. After a few weeks I had only one book not returned, gave them a call and got it back
 - ▶ Kids told me they'd keep coming, tried in October and December, to low/no attendance
 - ▶ Books THEY selected: *Wonder* for June and *Holes* for July. I selected *James and the Giant Peach* for October and *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* for December
 - ▶ Provide snacks!!!
 - ▶ THIS IS NOT SCHOOL. IT SHOULD BE FUN!

Artful Afternoons

- ▶ DIY Sharpie Mugs
 - ▶ Dollar Tree mugs
 - ▶ Paint Pens
 - ▶ Draw a design, send home with instructions (let it dry 24 hours, then bake it to set)
- ▶ Mosaics
 - ▶ Mosaic tiles (or jewels, sequins, whatever you have. IMPROVISE!)
 - ▶ You'll need more than you think
 - ▶ \$1 wooden picture frames from Michael's. I painted the base white.
 - ▶ Tacky Glue
- ▶ Canvas Art
 - ▶ EXPENSIVE
 - ▶ Acrylic paint, 8x10 canvases (I bulk buy at Michael's—40 canvases for \$40).
 - ▶ I required registration
- ▶ Crafts and a Movie
 - ▶ Leftover crafts from mugs and mosaics, scratch art, sharpie pencil pouches, coloring pages
 - ▶ Gave them movies to choose from (ex: The Sandlot, Shrek, Jumanji, etc.) They selected the OG Jumanji



Miscellaneous FUN STUFF!

- ▶ **Totally Tween Tie-Dye!**
 - ▶ Require registration, ask t-shirt size
 - ▶ I buy packs of white tee's in quantities needed from Walmart
 - ▶ Dye—I use the tulip one step kits
 - ▶ MESSY. Warn kids the dye will stain their clothes (duh, but.....expect them to know nothing)
 - ▶ COVER YOUR TABLES (obviously)
- ▶ **Pizza Party**
 - ▶ Chill, hang out night. Usually bring out games and coloring pages.
 - ▶ Occasional surprise popsicles/candy at the end
- ▶ **Board Game Night**
 - ▶ Self-explanatory
 - ▶ Popular games: Jenga, Monopoly, Connect 4, Trouble, Uno

MORE Miscellaneous FUN STUFF!

▶ Fandom Nights

▶ Harry Potter

- ▶ Make wands
- ▶ Get sorted
- ▶ Quiz competition (I do this at the beginning and let them fill it out during downtime between other activities in case not everyone wants to participate)
 - ▶ PRIZES!!! I gave out a pop keychain of Harry Potter for the winner
- ▶ Golden snitch craft
 - ▶ Ping pong balls, gold foil, white feathers, hot glue
- ▶ Themed snacks
- ▶ Etc.

▶ Superheroes!

- ▶ Made capes and masks, decorated with their own designed logo OR pre-printed logos from beloved heroes (Batman, Wonder Woman, Spiderman, Captain America, etc.)
- ▶ Trivia
 - ▶ PRIZES!!! Again, I gave out a pop keychain of Wonder Woman
- ▶ Super snacks
- ▶ Hulk Smash
- ▶ Etc.

If you build it.....will they come??

- ▶ The hardest part
- ▶ SHAMELESSLY SELF-PROMOTE
 - ▶ Go to schools? Talk it up, take flyers, etc.
 - ▶ Promote it in other programs—even if it's not the targeted audience the parents/adults may have kids that age or know people to tell, etc.
 - ▶ Have co-workers promote it in their programs
 - ▶ Tell teacher contacts
- ▶ FOOD IS KEY. FEED THEM. SNACKS ALWAYS WIN.
- ▶ Very fun stuff early on to gain a following. (think pizza party, tie dye, slime, etc.)
- ▶ Know your community—is Pokemon super popular? Painted rocks? Harry Potter? Fortnite? Plan a program around your specific kids.

How to keep up once they're coming!

- ▶ Keep up to date on current trends
 - ▶ TALK TO THEM
 - ▶ Look at new books, check out new movie releases targeted to them, video games
 - ▶ If you have natural interests in pop culture it will help. My natural interests include big movie releases (Marvel, DC, Disney, Harry Potter, etc.)
 - ▶ If you don't have this natural interest, that's ok!!! Find a co-worker who is into it, or just look up new things online about established popular areas of interest
- ▶ Survey!
 - ▶ If they're coming, have them fill out a survey to see what they liked the best, what they'd like to do again, etc. Ask their opinion—they'll tell you what they want to do
 - ▶ Can also do this verbally, esp. with a smaller group

What NOT to do...

- ▶ Make it feel like school. WE ARE NOT SCHOOL. You might want them to work in groups, but they don't know anyone else there and want to work alone. I only force it when ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY
 - ▶ Ex: Halloween toilet paper mummy wrapping game. It lasts one minute, then they can sit down
- ▶ Treat them like little kids
 - ▶ They are people, too. Talk to them like people. I don't treat them like little kids unless they do something to warrant it (e.g. throwing slime so high it hits the ceiling)
- ▶ Make them be TOO quiet, esp. in a designated program space
 - ▶ Once again, WE ARE NOT SCHOOL. They've had to sit and be quiet all day. They don't want to do that now. Set boundaries, but let them be a little crazy.

What to do!

- ▶ Joke with them
- ▶ Talk to the parents if they come
- ▶ Play music (I have a go-to Disney playlist on Spotify I play)
 - ▶ I have created custom playlists based off song requests (library-friendly versions of course)
- ▶ Let them push your boundaries—to a limit
 - ▶ They're at the age where they're testing it, let them do it
- ▶ Be real with them
- ▶ **HAVE FUN WITH THEM!** They can tell if you're enjoying your time

Google Drive!

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1_gQTtBDyBEiaAA9lVxW1gpf8-qiDRPjs?usp=sharing

- ▶ I compiled links, resources, instruction pages, and more into this handy google drive file
- ▶ Included: slime recipes and specific materials used for some of them
 - ▶ Slime recipes and specific materials used for some of them
 - ▶ Ice cream in a Bag instructions
 - ▶ Elephant Toothpaste
 - ▶ Rube Goldberg Videos and pictures (from my program!)
 - ▶ Binary Bracelet Instructions
 - ▶ Graph Paper Coding (Emojis!)
 - ▶ DIY Spy Decoders
 - ▶ DIY Sharpie Mug Instructions
 - ▶ Tie-Dye care instructions

Questions??

► Contact information:

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Enjoy this awkward bathroom mirror selfie I took at the ALSC Institute in September.

If you see me at a KDLA/ALA/ALSC event (or for you northerners a SWON event), come say hi!

About me:

I'm a children's librarian at the Kenton County Public Library, Erlanger Branch. I serve on the Kentucky Bluegrass Award Committee for 3rd-5th grade books and just began an appointment on the ALSC Notable Children's Recordings Committee. I love pop culture, running, singing, and baking.

