

After School Library Club!

An after school Library Club is a great way to get kids to be enthusiastic about libraries and library resources, as well as a way to have fun and get work done.

Library Club meets for one hour after school on Thursdays.

Group size has ranged from 1 to 15 (more difficult with more than 10, especially if there are many newer or younger club members present)

Life skills: aesthetics, communication, social and civic responsibility, thinking & reasoning

Materials: library book processing materials, a book to read aloud, hand sanitizer and snack that isn't too messy, any supporting materials for the quick lesson of that day (such as Dewey Decimal classification information, lists of award winning books, etc.)

Students need no prior knowledge

Library Club activities schedule:

- Students shelf read and straighten up their chosen shelf area (such as letter in the fiction section)
- Group brought in for club cheer
- Announcements (upcoming club activities such as field trips to local libraries)
- "Chores" - check for donations, check for overdue books (includes filling out notices if needed), and shelving returned books
- Lesson of the day – this is a short (2 – 15 minutes) info bit or lesson about libraries, librarianship, or librarians; some example lessons include what is a library, what is found in a library, what do librarians do, kinds of libraries, looking at pictures of beautiful libraries, looking at and comparing library web sites, learning about the Dewey Decimal system and practicing choosing the correct area for books, award winning books, what are series, fiction vs. nonfiction, how libraries are organized, and so on)
- Snack and reading – the kids clean their hands and have water and a small snack while I read a picture book
- Work Time- usually this is processing books, but it also has included having kids look up the Dewey Decimal numbers for books, entering book information in a database, organizing sections of the library, and writing up and posting book reviews and making bookmarks to encourage library use
- Free reading and browsing time (we often don't have time for this, or sometimes the kids chose to continue working until the end of club)

On some weeks we spend the hour visiting a local library and comparing it with our school library. This happens about once each month. Soon we hope to visit the bookmobile!



Strategies for diverse learners: kids who are older and/or more experienced in library club help newer and younger kids. Club members often get to choose the processing activity they want to do each week. Discussions are extended if the kids want or need them to be. Letting the kids share their ideas and related experiences during club assist kids in understanding concepts and give all kids a sense of ownership of their library.

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