

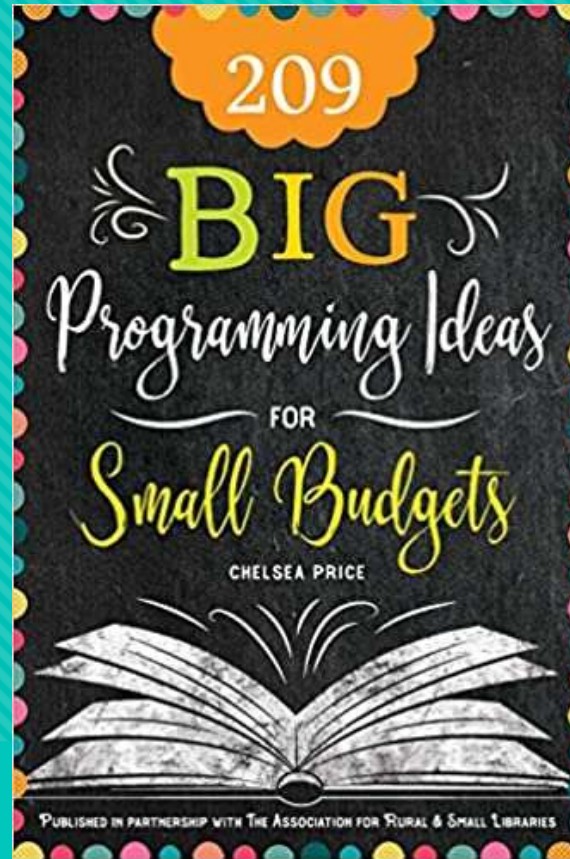
Big Impact, Small Budget:

After-School Ideas That Cost
Next to Nothing

Chelsea Price

Library Director

Meservey Public Library



Meservey, Iowa

1.5 sq. miles

**Population
approx. 220**

**School closed
in 1983**



2-person staff

**Everything 15+
minutes away**

**Free
entertainment**

**Think about the phrase
“after school.”**

What feelings does it bring up?

Do I Really NEED an After-School Program?

And Other Questions to Ask Yourself

**Where are my
community's kids
after school?**

**Is there a third
space in town for
kids to hang out?**

**Do I want to do the
program as
outreach?**

**Are there other
existing after school
programs nearby?**

**What gaps could
this fill?**

What are my goals?

Benefits of After-School Programs

**Safe & structured
environment**

Social interaction

Access to resources

Benefits parents/family

Exposure to new ideas

**Close the achievement
gap**

**Encourage lifelong
learning**

Reduce risky behaviors

Meservey's After-School Program

How it Started + How It's Going!

Early-out Wednesdays

My nerves = shot!

**Kids needed
something to do**

**Had never had after-
school program**

First year = burnout

**Second year = guests
galore!**

Huge range of ages

Different school districts

Ideas for After School

Partnerships We've Created/Nurtured

Photography studio*

Cooking group*

Dog groomer*

Tattoo studio*

Dog training group*

Nature center

Police department*

Extension office

Partnerships We've Created/Nurtured

Local artist*

Music teacher*

Local crafter*

Meteorologist*

Gardening club*

Lamb farm*

Local baker*

Apple orchard*



Free/Low-Cost Ideas

Library scavenger hunt*

Bookmark contest*

Playdoh creation guessing game*

Free crafting*

Rock painting*

Obstacle courses*

Fort building

Card-making*

Glue ornaments*

Minute to win it games*

Air dry clay challenges*

Plan future programs

Board game tournament

Egg drop contest

Mini golf*





Ideas for a Larger Budget

Taste tests*

Candy sushi

Tiny art show

**Make your own butter/
Ice cream**

Slime lab*

Candy science

Perler beads

Diamond art

Shrinky-Dinks*

Any kind of art class*

Owl pellets*



Tips & Suggestions

Build relationships

**Make kids/teens feel
valued/worthy**

**Remember: library
does not = school**

ALL THE FOOD

**Garage
sales/consignment
stores**

Amazon wishlist

**Don't reinvent the
wheel**

Rely on partners

Questions??

Feel free to contact me at
meserveylibrary@gmail.com OR on our library's
Facebook page (Meservey Public Library)!

THANK YOU!

