Family and All Ages Programs

The Smart Space is ripe for bringing together community members of all ages to engage in active learning—and it doesn’t have to cost a lot. These programming ideas could work for teens only or adults only but why not get them in the same activity and see what cross-generational magic happens?

- Adult Programs on a 0 budget - A webinar full of great ideas for programming when there is little or not budget for it.
- Murder mystery night - A fun program that can be as hands-off or hands-on as you wish.
  - Murder Mystery Games and Kits
  - Program Model: Creating Original Murder Mysteries in the Library
- Escape “boxes”
  - When you don’t have a whole Escape Room, have Escape Boxes instead! There are lots of (inexpensive!) options for these Escape Room in a Box kits.
- Nerf Blaster Battles
  - Whether it’s BYONB (Bring Your Own Nerf Blaster) or provided at the library, this is a fun event for all ages!
  - Beyond Books: Minnesota’s Rural Libraries find Playful Ways to Remain Relevant
- A Beginner’s Guide to Hosting a Board Game Night
  - This basic primer from librarian John Pappas will help you plan and host a successful game night for any target group or age.
- Library Kitchens and Cooking Programs
  - WebJunction compiled ideas and programs from libraries that are exploring “culinary literacy” or just having fun with cooking.
- Collection of Programming Ideas
  - The Peace Library System in Alberta, Canada, has a collection of programming ideas for all ages - including adults and older adults.
- Let’s Move in Libraries
  - UNC Greensboro’s School of Education put together this resource focusing on movement programs in libraries: chair-based exercise, partnerships with parks, gardening, life-sized board games, etc.
- 24 Hour Library Blog - Program Ideas
  - An extensive list of all-ages programs created and collected by Librarian and Blogger Abby Hargreaves