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Today's Presenters

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Children's Librarian,
Mission Branch,
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Valerie Wonder

Immigrant and Refugee
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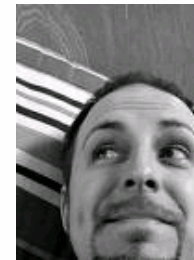
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World Language Story Times at The Seattle Public Library



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BACKGROUND

Demographics

- Approx. 110,000 immigrants live in Seattle, or about 20% of pop.
- About 25% of students in public school are enrolled in ESL classes.
- Seattle Public Schools' most frequently spoken languages (other than English) are Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, and Somali.

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BACKGROUND

Library services

- Talk Time started, 1995
- Study of other systems, Task Force, and community assessments – funding from Friends of the Library, 2002-2005
- Establish Literacy, ESL, & World Language dept, 2004
- Expanding programs for immigrant and refugee families, 2006-2009

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TALK TIME



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APPROACH

Focus on family units

- Cultural programs – Día, Tet, Mid Autumn Festival
- Early literacy– East African Early Literacy partnerships
- School literacy nights/Family festivals– Promote materials and services
- World Language Story Times

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WORLD LANGUAGE STORY TIMES

Goals:

- Engage Chinese language speakers in new ways
- Promote family literacy
- Celebrate cultures of our communities
- Link parents and youth with other library services and resources

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WORLD LANGUAGE STORY TIMES

Considerations:

- Who will lead story times?
- Where will they be located?
- How will we staff story times?
- How will we get the word out?

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WORLD LANGUAGE STORY TIMES

Pilot Project

- Summer Reading Program add-on
- Recruitment through community and library connections
- Training led by Children's Librarian using an existing curriculum
- Boxed story times created to get storytellers started
- Scheduling and gaining buy-in

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WORLD LANGUAGE STORY TIMES

Promotion

- Chinese flier – posted in branches, mailed to language schools and nonprofits, Bilingual public school staff
- Advertisements and articles in Chinese newspapers
- Story teller promotions
- Summer Reading Program fliers

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WORLD LANGUAGE STORY TIMES

Evaluation -- Surveys of parents in English and Chinese, surveys of librarian, unstructured feedback from story tellers, circulation data

Outcomes

- 25% increase in circulation of Chinese children's materials over the same period last year
- 80% of respondents indicated that they speak Chinese, and 100% reported that they enjoyed the program.
- Quality was good, people liked songs and activities
- Requests for ongoing, regular programming
- Ages of children varied greatly

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WORLD LANGUAGE STORY TIMES

Today

- Chinese story times continued monthly for 2 years
- Story tellers have developed skills and found new ways to use them in the community and the library
- Training and communication is streamlined
- January 2009 launched Spanish story times
- April 2009 launched Vietnamese story times
- Story times are part of our normal programming and funding is secure for 2010, and hopefully beyond!

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Toddler Time Bilingual Spanish-English at The San Francisco Public Library

San Francisco Public Library 

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Bilingual (English/Spanish) Toddler Tales

- Format is based on Mother Goose on the Loose and Every Child Ready to Read
- Program incorporates music, movement, child and caregiver interaction
- Regular attendance 300
- Patrons eager for more free library programs for this age group
- Mission Children's Librarians brainstorm various possibilities for new program for this age group

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Ready, Set, Read!

- Extension of Bilingual Toddler Tales Program
- 6 hands-on activity stations
- Each one related to one of the six early literacy skills
- Parents/caregivers encouraged to visit each activity at their own pace
- Bilingual handout is provided that explains the activity and how it helps develop early literacy skill
- Simple activity stations that can be replicated at home
- Program runs for about 1.5 hours during regular storytime session with people coming and going

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Music Instruments

PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS:

The ability to hear and manipulate the smaller sounds of words.

- sing songs and say rhymes
- move body to the rhythm of the music
- shake instruments to rhythm of the song



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Music Station

Lots of fun with music instruments!

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Craft

NARRATIVE SKILLS:

Narrative skills are when a child is able to understand and tell stories, and describe things.

- Ask your child lots of questions
- What colors do you see?
What shapes do you see?
- Ask them to describe what they are doing and what they will do next



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Craft Station

Little hands busy doing art projects.

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Board Books & Book Drop

PRINT MOTIVATION:
Print Motivation is a child's interest in and enjoyment of books.

- enjoys being read to
- plays with books
- likes trips to the library



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Puzzles & Games

VOCABULARY:

Knowing the names of things helps develop vocabulary skills.

- name objects in your child's world
- name objects in simple concept puzzles or while playing games
- “this is a ball and a ball is round”



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Puzzles and Games

Mom and daughter enjoy puzzle activities.

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Letter Awareness

Knowing the names, sounds,
and shapes of letters



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Patron Response & Feedback

- Excited about using library in a different way than they normally do.
- Creates an easy going environment where children and adults can interact, have fun, and learn in both languages.
- Would like to have this type of program more frequently.



Burgeon Toys, Games & Puzzles, craft material, music instruments, etc.

- Office of Children and Youth Services helped fund Burgeon toys, games, and music instruments as a way to support Every Children Ready to Read Program
- Craft materials are ordered once a year centrally by our Office of Children and Youth Services
- CD Player also purchased by Office of Children and youth Services
- Ellison Machine used for craft projects also purchased by Office of Children and Youth Services

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Things to think about...

- Supervisor approval
- Let staff know of change in regular storytime program
- Let patrons know that this will be happening and what they can expect
- Prep time needed
- Room layout for day of program
- Be prepared for lots of clean up after program

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Questions?

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