

Pros and Cons of Individual Programs

Benefits

- Increased caregiver-child interaction
- Great entertainment while checking out
- Always something surprising and exciting in the library
- Patron is not tied to time or possibly a place
- Doesn't take too much patron commitment
- Use recycled materials (e.g. repurposed books)
- Our customers engage more readily than in structured programs
- Can reuse programs in a pinch when a big group shows up!
- Good for small rural libraries, as well as large libraries.
- Gets people to linger. Opportunities for them to engage with library collections and services.
- Poll patron interest (surveys, input)
- We use passive bookclubs and they move materials very well. I choose a book and the only rule is that if a customer chooses to read the book that they just stop by and tell us what they thought about it...but they don't have to :)
- Also can be great photo opportunities for social media/website :)

Concerns/Issues

- Rude comments
- Having to monitor inappropriate responses
- Items going missing :(
- At my library DPL, there's a lot of conversation about data/statistics and how to gather it
- Having items be damaged during program
- Keeping count of how many did it
- Technology in the corrections environment always poses security concerns. Technology requires more staff supervision and monitoring.
- Our library is in a not great downtown area. Most come to use computers. Those who come for materials don't stop much.