Let 'Em Be!

Passive Programming for Adults Summer 2023

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Agenda

- Summer learning... so why adults?
- Passive Programming 101
- Let 'Em Be Mini-kit from Colorado State Library
- Partners & More Resources

Why Adults?

- Historically, summer learning/ reading focuses on children but...
- Children don't come alone
- Adults are the majority of your library users
- Theme is universal & multigenerational
- Adult engagement with staff, library, and fellow users can build community – drive repeated visits & increase value

Passive Programming aka...

independent programs

environmental engagement

unprogramming

antiprogramming

Willley & Amaral, 2021

Low Effort/ High yield

- Low cost (printing, some materials)
- Very low-to-no staffing
- Some planning but not time-consuming or requiring monitoring/ facilitation
- High engagement potential in high traffic areas
- Adaptable return/ recursive elements
- Statistics can demonstrate use
- Opportunities to promote upcoming programs
- Social media marketing potential from attractive output

Resonant Themes / Related Programs

- Facilitated discussions with Living Room Conversations or using "Let Them Talk" CO State Library Resource Kits
- Hosting a Community Recipe Swap/ Recipe Library
- Community care kits creation, food drives, book donation drives, holding "Volunteer Days" with panel of volunteer organizations
- Themed book discussions and/or film screenings with discussion – CSLP booklists available
- Collaborative crafting or crafting meet-ups, art/ creation classes in Makerspaces

Mini-Kit (Materials)

Contents

- Print-outs and master copies of activity materials: puzzles, bingo, origami, recipe cards
- Magnetic poetry & mat
- Binder & USB with activities descriptions, ideas, resources

Recursive / Engagement Elements

Community Magnetic Poetry

- Each visitor creates a line
- Staff member captures line on white board, bulletin board... whatever works
- Community collaboratively builds stanzas
- Library shares week's community poem on social media

Kindness Bingo Wall

- Print & place Kindness Bingo cards, stickers or stamps... whatever works
- Place in books from CSLP reading list for finding later on
- Place on tables... whatever works
- Create signage to encourage people to take, fill out, and return for display
- Display on banner/ garland, post on bulletin board, pin to wall... whatever works
- Prizes or CSLP swag to visitors who return with BINGO or completed cards

Origami Community Zoo

Could You Spare...?

- A "Creators' Space"
- A display case or table to display origami animals
- A laptop, tablet, or monitor/ screen to run origami tutorials
- Plenty of colored (or not) paper
- Some origami manuals from your collection
- "Artist card" for contributors
- Maybe you don't like animals... maybe you find other origami patterns

Community Cooks - Recipe Library

Could You Spare...?

- A box you can fashion into a Community Recipe Box
- A photo printer (a regular printer works too)
- A place you can display photos of your community cooks' prepared dishes and maybe even their recipe cards
- "Recipe Cards" for contributors (make your own or find online, print on card stock or not, half-page size or 3x5... whatever works)
- Maybe you can host a community cook-off, pot luck, cooking class...
- Maybe you can connect with a local grocer for gift cards, cooking classes...

Inspired by/ borrowed from https://programminglibrarian.org/blog/cultural-cooks

Capture Data with a highly interactive passive program!

- Polls – Whiteboard/ dry erase markers, easels and stickers
- Felt/ cotton balls dropped into two transparent jars
- Post-its on a bulletin board or wall
- Slips of paper into buckets/ clear boxes
- (Count the # of engagements – responses to prompts or take-aways)

Resources

- Colorado State Library Resource Kits https://cslkits.cvlsites.org/ (* Look for "Programs" category)
- Random Acts of Kindness https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/kindness-at-home
- World Wildlife Federation Together origami patterns https://www.worldwildlife.org/pages/origami-patterns
- Passive Programming Playbook: 101 Ways to Get Library Customers Off the Sidelines (Paula Willey & Andria L. Amaral, 2021)
- See the Candy Corn Question webinar on the Georgia Library Assn. Carterette website at https://gla.georgialibraries.org/carterette-series-webinars-archives/
- Programming Librarian https://programminglibrarian.org/

www.coloradovirtuallibrary.org/email/

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