



the more we get together
a storytime share

presenter contact info

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Springfield Public Library

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crook county profile

barratt miller (birth-3 storytime)

tell me about yourself

- Assistant Director at Crook County Library since 2012; MSLIS from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Trained to provide Music Together Family Music Classes for children age birth to 5 and their caregivers
- Leisure time activities include spoiling my elderly, neurotic dog (a Maltese named Lucy) and collecting unicorn stuff

tell me about your community

- Service area: 20,815 people over 3,000 square miles
- Incorporated cities: Prineville (9,235)
- Library branches: One library branch in Prineville, one bookmobile
- Poverty level: 20% of residents live below federal poverty level
- Overall health factors: #31 out of #34 in Oregon (www.countyhealthrankings.org)
- Highest unemployment rate in Oregon: 10.5% (mill lost 200 jobs due to snow damage in 2014)
- Greatest barriers to library use: limited Internet, transportation access

tell me about your birth-3 storytime

- Calling all busy babies and tireless toddlers! Wee Read is a time for the youngest children to learn, play, and grow as we sing, dance and share stories together. Storytime is followed by a 30-minute playgroup.

tell me about your biggest challenges with birth-3 storytime

- Babies and toddlers are still developing self-regulation and communication skills, which can lead to disruptive behavior during storytime
- Babies and toddlers have short attention spans and are still developing their motor skills, which means I have to select and arrange books and activities thoughtfully

tell me your favorite thing about birth-3 storytime

- My "littles" and their families! I try and talk to everyone during playtime, which allows me to get to know my regulars fairly well. I love how much fun we have together every week and getting to watch the kids grow throughout the year.

tell me about your favorite birth-3 storytime activities

- Book: Is Everyone Ready for Fun? by Jan Thomas
- Rhyme: This Little Boy Found an Egg
- Song: Ridin' in the Car by Music Together



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springfield profile

emily david (preschool storytime)

tell me about yourself

- At Springfield Public Library since 2009. Positions held – Latino Liaison, Teen Services Librarian, Public Services Associate Manager (current)
- MSLIS from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2008.
- Worked two years as school librarian in k-5 Elementary, 3 years for Multnomah County Library as a bilingual clerk, 5 years as stay home mom, 6 years as Head Start teacher with Mt Hood Community College Head Start

tell me about your community

- We are a single locations city library serving a population of 60,000.
- The largest ethnic minority in Springfield is Hispanic at 17%.
- Poverty level; 21% of residents live below the federal poverty level
- Greatest barrier to use of library: People who live in unincorporated areas who do not qualify for “free” card or people in temporary housing or transient status that cannot qualify for card.

tell me about your preschool storytime

- Preschool storytime focuses on our 3 years and older crowd and their adults. We focus on having fun and developing skills needed for learning and school. We have been focusing on talk, sing, read, write, play, but are expanding to include the other kindergarten readiness skills. We do this through books, songs, finger plays and other rhymes, flannel board stories and games, puppets, movement, and crafts.

tell me about your biggest challenge with preschool storytime

- Addressing the different comprehension levels.

tell me your favorite thing about preschool storytime

- Apart from sharing all the fun books, I love watching the kids develop and learn the routine of storytime over time. I also like watching all the positive adult-child interactions that happen as the families gather for this fun time together.

tell me about your favorite preschool storytime activities

- I really like sharing non-fiction books with the kids and introducing them to or talking about science concepts. Even if it is just highlighting a few pages from a n/f book.
- Telling stories or reading books with a lot of group participation. (3 Billy Goats Gruff, Snip Snap, Pickin’ Peas, etc)
- Favorite hello song: Bread & Butter, Marmalade & Jam. Favorite movement song: My Fingers are Starting to Wiggle. Calm down: Deep breathing and talking about calming our bodies down.



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springfield profile

taylor worley (outreach/gradeschool storytime)

tell me about yourself

- New-ish librarian (about 2.5 years)
- MLS from Emporia State University, 2012
- Studio & Art History Background
- Leisure time includes knitting, video games (mostly RPGs and a MOBA), art, and spoiling rotten my dogs, a pug and pug-bulldog (Gregorovich & Olivander, or Gregory and Oliver for short)

tell me about your community

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tell me about your outreach/gradeschool storytimes

- It's all about adaptation, even more so than a normal storytime
- Be prepared for lots of situations and come with either a) natural energy and a sense of humor or 2) a large coffee
- While I usually stick to a traditional lapsit, toddler, or prek storytime (intro, songs and rhymes, book, song song rhyme, book, etc.) with the older kids I pretty much let them run the show unless it is my very first visit with them
- On a first visit to a location/organization or on a first visit in about a 4-6 month stretch, I treat it as a “very first visit from the local librarian” and select stories and songs about books, libraries, etc. and we even talk about taxes

tell me about your biggest challenges with outreach/gradeschool storytime

- The unknown. You really can't tell all the time what you will be walking into and what the other adults will be like.
- I got over the biggest hump with outreach and grade schoolers when I “got over myself” and just had fun with it. The kids learn more and I make a positive and more lasting impact.

tell me your favorite thing about sensory storytime

- The kids are so happy to see me! Plus, with gradeschoolers, you can use allll those books you want to use with your younger crowds but shouldn't because they are a bit too complicated.

tell me about your favorite sensory storytime activities

- See my handouts! (too long to put here)



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eugene profile

debby laimon (sensory storytime)

tell me about yourself

- I am actually not a librarian! I am an Early Childhood School Psychologist that worked with children ages birth to five with special needs and their families for 15 years. What I repeatedly heard over this time was that parents of children with special needs had nowhere to go in the community with their children where they felt safe and welcomed. When I stopped working 4 years ago, I wanted to create a space where these parents could go. I combined my interest in early literacy with my love of children with special needs, and approached the Eugene Public Library with a proposal to offer Sensory Storytime. We started offering it every week for 6 months of the year, but last year started offering it on a weekly basis year round. This past fall, I approached the Springfield Public Library with the same proposal, and we started offering Sensory Storytime twice a month.

tell me about your community

- Eugene has a population of approximately 160,000, 5% of whom are between the ages of birth to five years (8,000). Of this population 414 children have been identified with special needs (19 with autism, 107 with communication delays, 258 with developmental delays). In Springfield, 425 children have been identified with special needs (34 with autism, 86 with communication delays, 298 with developmental delays).

tell me about your sensory storytime

- The main objective of sensory storytime is to provide an opportunity for young children with special needs and their families to attend an early literacy program in a community setting where *all behavior is acceptable in a safe and nurturing environment*. I typically get between 5-8 children between 2-5 years, some with disabilities and some without. However, I often get younger siblings as well as older home schoolers. With this size, I am able to individualize and get to know each child and family intimately. I use a visual schedule as well as picture cues to help the children know what activities are coming up next, and we follow the same order every week so it is very predictable. I also use the same puppet, and sing the same hello and goodbye song every week. The books, songs, and surprise box change each week, but are always designed to provide sensory stimulation, interaction, and a chance to move around. Children are free to move around and all behavior is accepted in a warm and nurturing manner. There is time at the end of storytime for children to play with sensory toys and for parents to visit with each other. I have an email list of parents who want to be contacted each week to remind them of the upcoming storytime.

tell me about your biggest challenges with sensory storytime

- My biggest challenge of sensory storytime is getting children to come on a regular basis. Parents and caregivers of children with special needs face unique challenges that often prevent them from engaging in desired activities. These challenges can include but are not limited to:
 - Child (and parent!) didn't sleep the night before
 - Child is having a difficult day (depends on disability)
 - Child has difficulty transitioning between activities and locations (e.g., home to car, car to library, etc.)
 - Child has difficulty managing in stimulating situations (e.g., parking lot, lobby of library)

tell me your favorite thing about sensory storytime

- I get to meet great kids and their families! I love watching children grow developmentally over time, like observing a non-verbal child start to talk, or a child who does not want to participate start to focus for short periods of time. I also love to see parents of children with special needs connect with each other and form supportive relationships.

tell me about your favorite sensory storytime activities

- I love blowing bubbles and jumping on bubble wrap! I love lift-the-flap books, musical instruments, and things that light up! I love any book, song, or poem that children can interact with, or can be adapted to a felt story.