**Join the fun!** It’s a way for libraries to welcome and encourage families to become regular library users by celebrating and showing what they have to offer. Connecticut librarians Nadine Lipman and Caitlin Augusta initiated the first Take Your Child to the Library Day on February 4, 2012. This annual celebration will take place on the first Saturday in February.

**Setting the Scene**

Make sure your library is in tip-top shape—clean and tidy with attractive book and media displays, updated bulletin board, and plenty of staff on duty to welcome families. Make a special display of seasonal books (Black History Month, Groundhog Day, Presidents, winter weather, sports and activities, Valentine’s Day, Susan B. Anthony Day, National Girls and Women in Sports Day, and books of interest to families—on parenting; kid-friendly crafts and projects; parental concerns such as saving for college, autism, home schooling; etc. Here are some other things you can do:

- Create a Welcome poster in several different languages including those spoken by residents in your community. You can find several examples online when searching “welcome poster in different languages.”
- Post photos of all library staff around the library.
- Set up a Library Card Sign-Up Table. Decorate a table or the circulation desk where patrons apply for library cards. If you expect large crowds, consider a costumed character or Barker to proclaim “Get Your Library Cards Here.”
- Invite participants to write their names on die-cut rabbit shapes. Hang them from the ceiling.
- Provide bookmarks, handouts, etc. for parents on Early Literacy. If your library or state doesn’t have materials, you can easily get materials and other handouts online, for example at [www.earlylit.net/booklists/index.shtml](http://www.earlylit.net/booklists/index.shtml).
- Provide a Spanish (or other language) speaker/interpreter if needed.
- Celebrate February children’s book creators with displays of their books and a birthday cake to share. February author/illustrator birthdays include:
  - Feb. 1 Jerry Spinelli
  - Feb. 2 Judith Viorst, Eve Rice, Mary Casanova, Rebecca Caudill
  - Feb. 3 Joan Lowery Nixon
  - Feb. 4 Russell Hoban
  - Feb. 5 David Wiesner
  - Feb. 7 Laura Ingalls Wilder, Shonto Begay
  - Feb. 8 Anne Rockwell
  - Feb. 9 Dick Gackenbach
  - Feb. 10 Mark Teague, Lucy Cousins, E.L. Konigsburg, Stephen Gammell
  - Feb. 11 Jane Yolen
  - Feb. 12 Judy Blume, Chris Conover, David Small
Treats
• Rabbit-shaped cookies
• Sheet cakes to celebrate February author's birthdays
• Coffee, hot chocolate

Shelf Talkers
Print and cut out the rabbit-themed shelf talkers on page 7. Fill in with brief comments for books you want to highlight and have them “peeking” out of books.

Special Events & Activities

Games
How many books in the bag? Fill a clear trash bag or large box with books and have attendees guess the number of books. Offer a small prize and post the winners at the end of the day.

How many books in the library? Have participants guess how many books the library owns.

Trivia. Reproduce the trivia sheets, “Children’s Book Trivia” and “Know Your Fairytales & Nursery Rhymes” on pages 8-9 and distribute them. Or, play a trivia game using the questions. These are very easy trivia games and would be easy to update in future years.

Library Bingo. See pages 10-11. You can make up several cards in advance and play the game when you have enough families present. Cut out a set of BINGO images/words to use for calling out. Play several rounds and offer a small prize to winners.

Book Memory Game. Make copies on cardstock of the memory game on page 12. Place them at a table with scissors for parents and young children to play.

Library Game. Reproduce The Library Game on page 13. Give to attendees to complete. Families who complete the sheet may get a small prize or put their name in for a drawing.

Hare and Tortoise Relay Race. You will need a large space for this game. Make pairs of construction paper hares and tortoises, one hare or tortoise per player. On each pair (one hare and one tortoise), write an activity: walk, hop, skip, jump, walk sideways, backwards, crawl, etc. You will have two identical sets. Mix up each set.

Form two teams of players. Place a long piece of string on the floor. Line each team up behind the string and put a stack of hares across the room from one team and a stack of tortoises across from the other team. On “Go,” the first player on each team runs up to a pile and takes a hare or a tortoise. Each player then returns to the end of the line while doing exactly what the paper says. When the first players get back to their teams, the next players go. The team that finishes first wins.

Find the Bunny. Hide a picture of a rabbit somewhere in sight in the library and challenge visitors to locate it. Give a bookmark or other small reward to those who find it.

Have your picture taken with the librarian. Set up a spot in the children’s section for kids or families to have their pictures taken with the children’s librarian. Print them out and send home with families.

Photo Shoot Set up a photo shoot spot with patrons standing below a sign that says “I love my library.” If you can, locate some wings and a toy bow (and an oversize pair of boxer shorts decorated with hearts for more daring patrons) to wear and hold while having their picture taken. Perhaps your library director or other staff can have pictures of themselves taken in advance and post them by the photo shoot.
Or, set up a photo shoot corner with the Take Your Child to the Library poster. Add a special chair or library-themed props (books, magazines, earphones) or just fun props (crowns, clown nose, funny glasses, etc.). Post the photos after the program. Of course, you can simply have a roving photographer take photos of families involved in activities at the library on this day.

**Children’s Performer.** Invite a singer, magician, puppeteers, storyteller, or other family-friendly performers to do a performance during the day.

**Special Guests.** Invite the mayor, head of board of education, library director, local authors, and/or other community leaders to read stories to families.

**Storybook Character Costumes.** Welcome families in costume—your own or a rented storybook character like Waldo, Lilly, Curious George, or Lyle the Crocodile. Many publishers make book character costumes available to libraries for shipping or shipping/dry cleaning expenses only. For more information visit costumespecialists.com/rentals/childrens-book-characters/.

**Library Orientation.** Share _Read It, Don’t Eat It!_ by Ian Schoenherr with the group or _We’re Going on a Book Hunt_ by Pat Miller. Follow with a tour of the library highlighting various sections, computers, the checkout and reference desk, and the programs and services you offer for families. Does your library have any unusual features or an interesting backstory? Does your library offer any new services or materials, such as lending out eReaders? Share with families.

**Teen Volunteers.** Do you have a teen advisory board or teen volunteers who can help? Ask them to assist at a craft table, perform a skit or puppet show, serve refreshments, or direct families to activities or areas of the library. Invite them to brainstorm ways they might help out.

**Dads & Dinosaurs.** Have a special program for dads and kids with a dinosaur-themed storytime (page 6). Make dinosaur shoes (page 15).

**Truck on In.** Arrange with the city or county or a construction company for a large fire truck, farm or construction vehicle to come to the library, allowing patrons to tour/touch the truck. Add a truck-themed storytime with a guest construction worker to read a story.

**Fun Zone.** Create a section for crafts, Legos, games, and puzzles. Provide construction paper and other materials for making bookmarks and other crafts.

**Reading Zone.** Create a comfortable area for students and parents to read books silently or to each other.

**Scavenger Hunt.** There are lots of ways to do library scavenger hunts. One suggestion: Fill a decorated box or large container with questions. Each attendee or family reaches in and selects a slip of paper with a question or instruction to follow. Examples: Where is the cookbook section in the library? Find the storytime room. Find out the library’s policy on lost library books. Where can you find a newspaper from the day you were born? Where are the fairy tales? (Dewey numbers or location)? You can make duplicates of questions.

When a question is answered, participants take another slip and continue until they have answered three questions. They then put their name in for a drawing. (Solicit prizes from community—gift certificates, books, chocolate, journals, movie tickets, etc.)

**Movies.** With your movie public performance rights license, schedule a family-oriented film to show.

**Sing Along.** Have an old-fashioned sing-along with classic folksy tunes like “Go Tell Aunt Rhody,” “She’ll Be Comin’ Round the Mountain,” “How Much Is That Doggie in the Window?”, “Hokey Pokey,” “Oh Susanna,” “Yellow Submarine,” etc. Provide copies of the lyrics for families.

**Library Poems.** Display a variety of poetry books. Set out paper, pencils or pens, and crayons. Invite children and their families to write a poem about libraries or reading and illustrate their poems. Suggest haikus, limericks, or acrostics. Paper could be large die-cut shapes or just white paper. Post poems on a bulletin board.

**Library Book Sale.** Coordinate with your library friends group to have a small book sale of children’s books and materials in the library.
Family Storytimes

Library-Themed Storytime
For a long list of songs, fingerplays and books for library-themed storytimes, visit https://mail.lis.illinois.edu/hypermail/public/pubyac/6531.html. Note that several of these books are available in Spanish.

Books to Share
• *Bats in the Library* by Brian Lies. Also available in Spanish as *Murciélagos en la biblioteca*. Visit www.brianlies.com/Bats_at_the_library_activities.html for extension activities with this book.

• *Beatrice Doesn't Want To* by Laura Joffe Numeroff

• *Beverly Billingsley Borrows a Book* by Alexander Stadler


• *But, Excuse Me, That Is My Book* by Lauren Child. Also available in Spanish as *Perdona pero ese libro es mio*.

• *I Took My Frog to the Library* by Eric A. Kimmel


• *Lola at the Library* by Anna McQuinn. Also available in Spanish as *Lola en la biblioteca*.

• *Maisy Goes to the Library* by Lucy Cousins. Also available in Spanish as *Maisy va a la biblioteca*.

• *Miss Smith and the Haunted Library* by Michael Garland

• *We're Going on a Book Hunt* by Pat Miller

• *Wild about Books* by Judy Sierra. Also available in Spanish as *Que locura por la lectura!*

Songs
“The More We Get Together”
The more we get together, together, together
The more we get together, the happier we’ll be
For your friends are my friends and my friends are your friends
The more we get together, the happier we’ll be.

“Cuanto más juntos estemos”
Cuanto más juntos estemos
Estemos, estemos,
Cuanto más juntos estemos
Tanto más felices seremos.

Pues tus amigos son mis amigos
Y mis amigos son tus amigos
Cuanto más juntos estemos
Tanto más felices seremos.

Reading Version
The more we read together, together,
The more we read together, the happier we’ll be.
For these books are good books and
We all enjoy books;
The more we read together, the happier we’ll be!

Fingerplays
“Here is My Book”
Here is my book, *(Hold hands together as if a book)*
I open it wide, *(Open hands)*
To see all the pictures,
That are inside.

Craft
Craft Stick Bookmark
What you need:
• Colored craft sticks, 3/8” X 4 ½”
• Foamie flowers
• Buttons
• Glue sticks

What you do:
1. Place materials on a table covered with newspaper.
2. Have children make bookmarks by gluing foamies and buttons to the craft sticks.
Bunny Storytime
After Storytime, play the Hare and Tortoise relay game on page 2.

Books to Share
• A Boy and His Bunny by Sean Bryan
• Carrot Soup by John Segal
• Duck! Rabbit! by Amy Krouse Rosenthal and Tom Lichtenheld
• Little White Rabbit by Kevin Henkes
• The Tortoise and the Hare (your favorite version)
• Who’s in Rabbit’s House? by Verna Aardema

Music and Movement
Funny Bunny Hop
Funny little bunny goes hop, hop, hop!
Funny little bunny please stop, stop, stop!
Wiggle your ears and crinkle your nose.
Then wiggle, wiggle, wiggle
right down to your toes.

Bunny Hokey Pokey
You put your bunny ears in,
You put your bunny ears out,
You put your bunny ears in and you wiggle all about.
You do the bunny-pokey,
and you hop yourself around.
That’s what it’s all about!

Other verses:
You put your bunny paw in…
You put your bunny tail in…
You put your bunny nose in…
You put your whole self in…

Craft: Bunny Hats
What you need:
• White and pink construction paper
• Staplers or tape
• Scissors
• Markers (optional)
What you do:
1. Cut white construction paper into two or three-inch-wide strips to form the headband. You may need two strips stapled together to make a strip long enough to go around a child’s head. Secure with staple or tape. If using a stapler, be sure the ends are on the outside, so they won’t get caught in hair.
2. Cut out and color or decorate the rabbit ears on page 14. Staple or tape them to the headband.
3. Fit the headband around child’s head and staple.

Valentines Storytime

Books to Share
• Froggy’s First Kiss by Jonathan London
• Happy Valentine’s Day, Mouse! by Laura Joffe Numeroff
• If You’ll Be My Valentine by Cynthia Rylant
• Love, Splat by Rob Scotton
• My Heart Is Like a Zoo by Michael Hall
• Roses Are Pink, Your Feet Really Stink by Diane deGroat
• The Valentine Express by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace
• Will You Be My Valentwine? by Teresa Bateman

Song
Print the words to this song and give to families.

“Skidamarink”
Skidamarink a dink a dink,
Skidamarink a doo,
I love you.
Skidamarink a dink a dink,
Skidamarink a doo,
I love you.

I love you in the morning
And in the afternoon,
I love you in the evening
And underneath the moon;
Oh, Skidamarink a dink a dink,
Skidamarink a doo,
I love you!
Fingerplay
A Kiss
There's something in my pocket,
Could it be a moose?
Could it be a train with a bell and a caboose?
Could it be a snake or some sticky glue?
Right here in my pocket is a KISS from me to you!

Craft
Heart-y Mouse
This easy mouse can serve as a bookmark or just a little friend to tuck away in a pocket and remind children of their visit to the library.

What you need:
- Colored construction paper, approximately 5” square
- Yarn, about 6” long
- Crayon or markers
- Scissors
- Glue

What you do:
1. Fold the paper in half and draw a half a heart along the folded edge.
2. Cut the heart out. This is the body of the mouse.
3. Cut two small half-heart shapes on folded scraps of paper for the mouse’s ears.
4. Draw an eye on each side of the mouse and color in the nose.
5. Glue the small folded ears on either side of the mouse’s head.
6. Place the yarn along the inside fold for the tail.
7. Glue the heart closed. If you like, add construction paper whiskers.

Dinosaur Storytime
Have a Dinosaur Romp on Take Your Child to the Library Day.

Books to Share
- Dinosaurumpus by Tony Mitton
- Dinosaur Roar! by Paul and Henrietta Stickland
- Saturday Night at the Dinosaur Stomp by Carol Diggory Shields
- How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight? by Jane Yolen

Song: If You’re a Dinosaur
If you’re a Dinosaur and you know it roar like this: Roar! Roar!
If you’re a Dinosaur and you know it roar like this: Roar! Roar!
If you’re a Dinosaur and you know it and you really want to show it
If you’re a Dinosaur and you know it roar like this: Roar! Roar!
Repeat, substituting “Stomp! Stomp!”

Activity
Make the Dinosaur Feet on page 15 and practice the dinosaur stomp.

More Crafts
Doorknob Holder
Reproduce copies of the doorknob holder on page 16 and invite patrons to color them and take home.

Origami Hearts
There are dozens of ways of folding paper hearts. Visit www.origami-resource-center.com/origami-hearts.html and print out directions for several folded hearts with different levels of difficulty so that patrons of all ages can participate. Try the very easy Super Simple Heart and more advanced heart bookmarks or 3-D hearts. Or check out the book Valentine’s Day Origami by Ruth Owen. Supply directions and paper at a table. Teens or someone proficient at origami might assist.

Make Valentines
Supply paper, stickers, glitter, doilies, foamies and other craft materials, plus scissors and glue sticks, for families to make valentines.
Print and cut out these rabbit-shaped shelf talkers and fill them in with a few comments about books you want to feature or showcase. Place them in books you’ve displayed on tables or shelf tops or in books on shelves with covers out (as often seen in bookstores).

I cotton to this tale because
_____________________
_____________________
_____________________

I cotton to this tale because
_____________________
_____________________
_____________________

Hare’s a Hoppin’ Good Tale:
_____________________
_____________________
_____________________

Hare’s a Hoppin’ Good Tale:
_____________________
_____________________
_____________________
Children’s Book Trivia

Complete the following:

1. *Mike Mulligan and His ________________ ____________* is a book by Virginia Lee Burton.

2. Who wrote the Betsy-Tacy books? ________________.

3. What color is the dog named Clifford in the books by Norman Bridwell? ____________.

4. How does Max get to the island of the Wild Things in the book by Maurice Sendak? ____________

5. Where does Winnie-the-Pooh live? ____________________________.

6. What phrase does the Little Engine keep repeating? ________________.

7. Curious George has many adventures with the ________________.

8. What did the very hungry caterpillar eat on Monday? ____________.

9. What did the cat, the dog, and the mouse keep saying to the Little Red Hen when she asked for their help? ________________.

10. Little Miss Muffet/Sat on a ________.
    
    Eating her ________________.

Bonus question: The story *Make Way for Ducklings* by Robert McCloskey is set in what city? ____________.
Know Your Fairytales & Nursery Rhymes

1. Little Red Hen
2. Brer Rabbit
3. Red Riding Hood
4. Bremen Town Musicians
5. Three Little Pigs
6. Three Billy Goats
7. Humpty Dumpty
8. Queen of Hearts
10. Johnny Cake

a. Eaten by a fox
b. A trickster
c. Marched his men up the hill and down again
d. Fell off the wall
e. Visited Grandma
f. Had tarts stolen
g. Got no help from the farm animals
h. Drove the robbers away
i. Threatened by a troll
j. Built houses
Library Bingo

Cut out the squares below. Glue each one to a different space on the BINGO board on page 11, and you'll be ready to play.
Book Memory Game

Cut out the books on two sheets. Flip the books over, and see how many matches you can make.
The Library Game

Name__________________________________________

1. Complete six of these activities.
2. Get this sheet punched/stamped for each completed activity.
3. Turn this in for a surprise!

- Write a poem.
- Make a craft.
- Draw a picture of a favorite book or book character.
- Get a library card (or show your library card).
- Tour the library.
- Complete an activity sheet.
- Read a Dr. Seuss book to a child, parent or sibling.
- Check out a book or other library item.
Rabbit Ears Template

Cut out the rabbit ears, color, and staple the ends to the completed headband.
Make Dinosaur Feet

Use two copies of the pattern. Cut along outside lines, then cut along inside lines.
Slip over feet. Roar like a dinosaur!
Make Doorknob Holders

Color and cut out doorknob holders.

I went to the Library!

I went to the Library!
Resources

Books
Aardema, Verna. *Who’s in Rabbit’s House?* Puffin, 1992. 32 p. (978-0140547245, pap.) Based on a Masai folktale, this is the story of Rabbit, who has been locked out of her house by someone who won't let her in.

Bateman, Teresa. *Will You Be My Valenswine?* Albert Whitman, 2005. 24 p. (978-0807591956) A sad piglet named Polly searches the pasture, forest, and barnyard for someone to love her, only to discover that her valenswine has been there all along.


Bryan, Sean. *A Boy and His Bunny*. Arcade Publishing, 2011. 32 p. (978-1611450231) One morning, a boy wakes up with a rabbit on his head and, although his mother is skeptical, he soon discovers that he can be fed, ride a bobsled, and even look cool with a rabbit on his head.


Fleming, Candace. *Muncha, Muncha, Muncha*. Atheneum, 2002. 32 p. (978-0689831522) After planting the garden he has dreamed of for years, Mr. McGreely tries to find a way to keep some persistent bunnies from eating all his vegetables.

Garland, Michael. *Miss Smith and the Haunted Library*. Dutton, 2009. 32 p. (978-0525421399) When Miss Smith brings her students to the public library, they not only meet Virginia Creeper, the librarian, but also a host of frightening creatures that emerge from the pages of the “Incredible Storybook” as Ms. Creeper reads her favorite tales.

Hall, Michael. *My Heart Is Like a Zoo*. Greenwillow Books, 2009. 32 p. (978-0061915109) Depicts in rhyming text how love can be many different things, such as eager as a beaver, steady as a yak, or silly as a seal. The story features twenty animals made from shapes, including hearts. Directions for making lions are on the back cover of the book.

Henkes, Kevin. *Little White Rabbit*. Greenwillow, 2011. 40 p. (978-0062006424) As he hops along, a little rabbit wonders what it would be like to be green as grass, tall as fir trees, hard as rocks, and to flutter like butterflies.

Resources


London, Jonathan. *Froggy's First Kiss*. Viking, 1998. 32 p. (978-0670870646) As Valentine's Day approaches, Froggy thinks that he is falling in love with the new girl in class, but his feelings change when she gives him their first kiss.

Miller, Pat. *We’re Going on a Book Hunt*. Upstart Books, 2008. 32 p. (978-1602130074) Adapted from the chant “We’re Going on a Bear Hunt,” the story features animals that show how to quietly select a book that’s just right and using good book etiquette along the way.

McQuinn, Anna. *Lola at the Library*. Perfection Learning, 2006. 16 p. (978-1580891424, lib. bdg.) Every Tuesday, Lola and her mother visit their local library to return and check out books, attend story readings, and share a special treat. Also available in Spanish as *Lola en la biblioteca*. Charlesbridge, 2008. (978-1580892148, pap.)

Mitton, Tony. *Dinosaurumpus!* Scholastic, 2009. 32 p. (978-0439395168, pap.) A rhyming tale of Triceratops, Brontosaurus, and even Tyrannosaurus gathering at the swamp to dance.

Numeroff, Laura Joffe. *Beatrice Doesn’t Want To*. Candlewick Press, 2008, reprint ed. 32 p. (978-0763638436, pap.) Beatrice doesn’t like books or libraries until on one forced visit to the library with her brother, she discovers the children’s room.


Segal, John. *Carrot Soup*. Margaret K. McElderry, 2006. 32 p. (978-0689877025) Two unseen characters argue about whether the creature they are looking at is a rabbit or a duck.
Shields, Carol Diggory. *Saturday Night at the Dinosaur Stomp*. Candlewick, 2008. 32 p. (978-0763638870, pap.) When it’s rock ‘n roll time during the prehistoric era, many different kinds of dinosaurs gather to twist, twirl, and tromp at a Saturday night party.


Sierra, Judy. *Wild about Books*. Knopf, 2004. 40 p. (978-0375825385) A librarian named Mavis McGrew introduces the animals in the zoo to the joy of reading when she drives her bookmobile to the zoo by mistake. Also available in Spanish as *Que locurapor la lectura!* Lectorum, 2006. (978-1930332850)

Stadler, Alexander. *Beverly Billingsley Borrows a Book*. Harcourt, 2002. 32 p. (978-0152025106) Beverly is thrilled to finally check out a book with her own library card, but when she accidentally keeps the book too long she worries that she’ll have to pay a huge fine or go to jail.


**Websites**

Activities for Book! Book! Book!  

**Brian Lies. Bat Activities.** [www.brianlies.com/Bats_at_the_library_activities.html](http://www.brianlies.com/Bats_at_the_library_activities.html). This site offers activities to go with *Bats at the Library*.


**DLTK.** [www.dltk-holidays.com/valentines/mcrown.htm](http://www.dltk-holidays.com/valentines/mcrown.htm). Directions for making a simple Valentine’s Day crown or hat.

**Jan Brett.** [http://janbrett.com/put_the_animals_in_the_mitten.htm](http://janbrett.com/put_the_animals_in_the_mitten.htm). Print and make the “Put the Animals in the Mitten” craft.

Resources

Pubyac. Library Card Storytime Suggestions Compilation. [https://mail.lis.illinois.edu/hypermail/public/pubyac/6531.html](https://mail.lis.illinois.edu/hypermail/public/pubyac/6531.html). This archived list of fingerplays, songs, and books about libraries, books, and library cards is quite extensive.


Answers

Children’s Book Trivia

1. Steam shovel
2. Maud Hart Lovelace
3. Red
4. Boat or sails
5. Hundred Acre Wood
6. I think I can.
7. Man with the yellow hat
8. One apple
9. Not I!
10. Tuffet; curds and whey

Bonus Question: Boston

Know Your Fairytales and Nursery Rhymes

1. g
2. b
3. e
4. h
5. j
6. i
7. d
8. f
9. c
10. a