

# YOUTH SERVICES NOTES

Week of October 24, 2016

No. 261

*From Enid's desk. . .*

## BookPoints

The Library of Virginia will be offering a new software program called BookPoints for Virginia's public library summer reading programs and winter reading programs.

BookPoints is an online tracking system for library reading and learning programs. As the program is supported by a grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS), there is no fee for public libraries to use BookPoints.



BookPoints includes registration, reading logs, gamification, and features learning challenges for which children, teens and adults may earn free electronic badges. Our partners for this project include California Library Association, Science Museum of Virginia, Virginia Health Department, Virginia No Kid Hungry, and the Virginia Historical Society. The program allows libraries to extend the program out into their communities by offering local badges for attending programs and completing activities.

In 2018 we plan to offer an extension of the program by offering an online school readiness program that encourages adults to read 1,000 books to their children before Kindergarten and also to engage in 1,000 activities before Kindergarten. The artwork featured in the school readiness program will be designed by art students in an honors course at the Virginia Commonwealth University. The learning activities will be taken from "Milestones of Child Development" and the "Virginia's Foundation Blocks of Early Learning." We have experts Dr. Betsy Diamant-Cohen and Saroj Ghoting helping us with the project, too. We also want to use your expertise by adding early literacy activities, booklists and fun activities to extend learning in the home and community.

(Continued on page 5)

*American Library Association News*

## New Free Webinar: STEP Into Storytime

ALA Editions announces an exciting free webinar, STEP into Storytime with Saroj Ghoting and Kathy Klatt. This webinar will last one hour and take place at 2:30 p.m. Eastern on Monday, November 7, 2016.



Have you wondered how to adapt an action song or fingerplay for different age levels? Or are you looking for ideas on how to adapt flannel board activities or books for various age levels?

In this free 60-minute webinar, authors of *STEP into Storytime: Using StoryTime Effective Practice to Strengthen the Development of Newborn to Five-Year-Olds* Saroj Ghoting and Kathy Klatt will teach you how! Using theories discussed in their book, they'll provide an overview on how child development informs what we do in storytimes and provide models for presenting mixed age storytime. You'll come out of the webinar with ideas to apply to your storytimes for children of all ages.

Join us for this free 60-minute webinar at 2:30 p.m. Eastern on Monday, November 7, 2016. Participants will receive a coupon for Saroj Ghoting and Kathy Klatt's book *STEP into Storytime: Using StoryTime Effective Practice to Strengthen the Development of Newborn to Five-Year-Olds*. Don't miss your chance—register today!

About the presenters

**Saroj Ghoting** is an early childhood literacy consultant and national trainer on early literacy. She presents early literacy training and information sessions at national, regional and state conferences and training for library staff and their partners. She has been a consultant for the Public Library Association and the Association for Library Service to Children of the American Library Association on the Every Child Ready to Read @ your

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## The Library of Virginia

### Mission

As the Commonwealth's library and archives, the Library of Virginia is a trusted educational institution. We acquire, preserve, and promote access to unique collections of Virginia's history and advance the development of library and records management services statewide.

### Vision

The Library of Virginia will inspire learning, ignite imagination, create possibilities, encourage understanding, and engage Virginia's past to empower its future.

### Finance

The Library's primary funding source is General Fund appropriations. The majority of the Library's General Fund expenses represent transfer payments to local government for state aid to public libraries. Additionally, the Library earns special nongeneral fund revenue from storage fees charged to agencies and courts for document and records storage and from local circuit court records' preservation fees.

**The Library also receives federal grant funding through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) of 1996. This grant promotes access to learning and information resources of libraries.**

### Goals

2014-2016

#### Collections:

Strengthen and Preserve the Library's collections and expand accessibility for the benefit of users.

#### Service:

Deliver courteous, accurate, and efficient information services to our customers.

#### Organizational Excellence:

Position the Library to effectively embrace new challenges and increasing responsibilities.

#### Educational Readiness and Achievement:

Engage and educate parents, teachers, and learners through programming designed to enhance early literacy readiness and to provide access to quality education resources for prekindergarten and K12 children.

This goal is critical in fulfilling the Library's mission to provide Virginians with access to the most comprehensive information resources and to elevate levels of educational preparedness and attainment of Virginia's citizens.

#### *Associated State Goal*

Education: Elevate the levels of educational preparedness and attainment of our citizens.

#### Education Attainment Objectives

- ◆ Increase the number of children who participate in the Winter Reading Program.
- ◆ Increase the number of children and teens who are served by public libraries through out-of-school programs and summer reading programs.
- ◆ Support the parent as a child's first teacher by implementing Early Literacy Activity Centers in public libraries and providing training on their use.

## Youth Services Notes

is issued weekly by

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**The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums.**

**Through grant making, policy development, and research, IMLS helps communities and individuals thrive through broad public access to knowledge, cultural heritage, and lifelong learning.**

**This newsletter project is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services.**

## New Free Webinar: STEP Into Storytime

*Continued from page 1*

library® early literacy initiative and co-author of four other books on early literacy and storytimes.

**Kathy Fling Klatt** has worked as an assistant children's librarian and program coordinator for 38 years at the Mamie Doud Eisenhower Public Library in Broomfield, Colorado, where she presents weekly baby and family storytimes and is responsible for scheduling arts, science, and cultural programs for children ages newborn through fifth grade. She presents Every Child Ready to Read trainings for parents and grandparents and, most recently, Confident Parenting trainings for parents and children, focusing on social and emotional skills. She taught preschool for 30 years, working with three- to five-year-olds and developed and taught preschool science classes at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. She has also co-presented on early literacy and music for the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the ALA.

*The registration links for this ALA Editions Free Webinar are available here:*

<http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2016/10/new-free-webinar-step-storytime>

ALA Press Release, October 18, 2016 

## Reaching beyond Virginia Regarding the Importance of Play Workshop

First I want to thank Enid Costley from Library of Virginia for alerting me to this opportunity. A while ago, Enid offered some open seats to other states for a six-week online course "Importance of Play" with Dr. Betsy Diamant-Cohen. Only 2 or 3 DE Librarians were able to register in time.

I then contacted Betsy and asked, rather than a 6-week online course, could she develop a 1-day face to face workshop on the topic. The workshop was last Friday and was very well-received.

*With Betsy's permission, I created a LibGuide with her PowerPoint presentation and links to items on her extensive resource list.*

*If anyone is interested in the course, all the materials can be found here:* <http://guides.lib.de.us/delibs/play>

Thanks,

**Patty Langley**

Delaware Center for the Book  
Delaware Division of Libraries  
Dover, Delaware 19901

302-257-3011 / [patty.langley@state.de.us](mailto:patty.langley@state.de.us) 

## From The Office of Senator Mark R. Warner Library of Congress Hosts Online Conference for Educators

*The office of U.S. Senator Mark R. Warner appreciates the chance to share the details of the following opportunity from the Library of Congress. We hope that you will consider passing this information on to outstanding educators in your area.*

### Library Hosts Online Conference for Educators

*As the new school year gets into full swing, the Library of Congress will bring teachers and education experts from across the nation together in its second annual online conference for educators.*

This free two-day event, "**Discover and Explore with Library of Congress Primary Sources,**" will be held **October 25-26, from 4-8 p.m. EDT** and will be open to K-12 educators from across all teaching disciplines. Last year's event brought together more than 1,500 participants for the sessions.

Over the course of two days, there will be 15 one-hour sessions facilitated by Library specialists, instructional experts from the Library's Teaching with Primary Sources Consortium and other recognized K-12 leaders. Session topics will range from assessments and literacy to historical newspapers and kindergarten historians, and all sessions will focus on the effective use of Library of Congress primary-source documents.

According to **Lee Ann Potter**, director of educational outreach at the Library, "Primary sources can capture student attention, and by analyzing them, students can engage with complex content, build their critical-thinking skills and create new knowledge. The Library's online conference for educators will allow teachers to learn how to access Library of Congress resources and to discover new strategies for integrating primary sources into their instruction."

### Highlights of the conference:

- The keynote speaker will be the award-winning author **Tonya Bolden**, who will discuss her process of research for writing children's books about historical figures.
- **Library experts** will include specialists from the Chronicling America historical newspaper archives, the historian of the Library of Congress, professionals from the educational outreach division, and more.
- Other presenters will include **Joel Breakstone** from Stanford University, **Dan Rothstein** of the Right Question Institute, and **Kelly Schrum** of the Center of History and New Media.

*Continued on page 4*

## Library of Congress Hosts Online Conference for Educators

*Continued from page 3*

After the live online conference, the Library will make recordings of all sessions available to the public on its website for teachers, <https://www.loc.gov/teachers/>

Teachers will be able to earn up to 15 hours of CEU/PDU by participating or viewing online conference sessions, and certificates will be available for completing each session.

The Library of Congress is the world's largest library, offering access to the creative record of the United States—and extensive materials from around the world—both on site and online. It is the main research arm of the U.S. Congress and the home of the U.S. Copyright Office.

Explore collections, reference services and other programs and plan a visit at <https://www.loc.gov/>, access the official site for U.S. federal legislative information at <https://www.congress.gov/>, register creative works of authorship at <https://www.copyright.gov/>, and use its specialized educational resources at <https://www.loc.gov/teachers/>.

Register for the conference: <https://loc.gov/teachers/professionaldevelopment/webinar/online-conference-2016.html>

Email, October 15, 2016 

## American Library Association News Official 2016 Teens' Top Ten Titles Announced

The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) has announced the official titles of the 2016 Teens' Top Ten.

Teens all over the world voted starting August 15 with voting lasting through Teen Read Week™ (October 9-15, 2016). Altogether, over 28,000 votes were cast for the 26 nominees.

*The official 2016 Teens' Top Ten titles are as follows:*

1. **Alive** by **Chandler Baker**. Disney/Hyperion. 9781484706831.
2. **All the Bright Places** by **Jennifer Niven**. Random House/Alfred A. Knopf. 9780385755887.
3. **The Game of Love and Death** by **Martha Brockenbrough**. Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine Books. 9780545668347.
4. **Six of Crows** by **Leigh Bardugo**. Macmillan/Henry Holt & Co. 9781627792127. 

5. **Everything, Everything** by **Nicola Yoon**. Random House/Delacorte Press. 9780553496642.
6. **Every Last Word** by **Tamara Ireland Stone**. Disney/Hyperion. 9781484705278.
7. **The Novice: Summoner: Book One** by **Taran Matharu**. Macmillan/Feiwel & Friends. 9781250080059.
8. **Illuminae** by **Amie Kaufman and Jay Kristoff**. Random House/Alfred A. Knopf. 9780553499117.
9. **When** by **Victoria Laurie**. Disney/Hyperion. 9781484700082.
10. **Suicide Notes from Beautiful Girls** by **Lynn Weingarten**. Simon & Schuster/Simon Pulse. 9781481418584.

A video and list featuring the winning titles can be found on the **Teens' Top Ten** page.

<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/teenstopten>

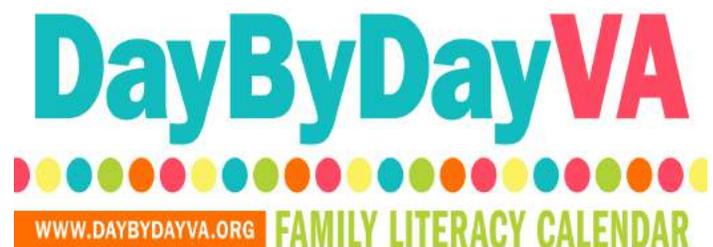
Teens aged 12-18 can nominate their favorite titles to be considered as a 2017 Teens' Top Ten nominee via the public nomination form at

<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/public-nomination-form>

Book title nominations submitted in the current year will be used for consideration of the following year's list of nominees. Teens can submit a book title now through December 31, 2016 to be included in the pool of the 2017 nominee candidates. For books to be eligible for consideration, they must be published between January 1– December 31, 2016.

The Teens' Top Ten is a "teen choice" list, where teens nominate and choose their favorite books of the previous year. Nominators are members of teen book groups in sixteen school and public libraries around the country. Nominations are posted on the Thursday of National Library Week and teens across the country vote on their favorite titles each year.

ALA Press Release, October 17, 2016 



## BookPoints

*Continued from page 1*

The program was piloted by six library systems this past summer: **Chesapeake Public Library System, Colonial Heights Public Library, Handley Regional Library, Newport News Public Library System, Portsmouth Public Library, and Radford Public Library.** The new software includes a pre- and post-quiz for those who have completed 3rd and 5th grades, which was developed with the help of the Virginia Department of Education. The quiz will offer data on the impact of the summer reading program at your local level. We are also offering badges for learning activities to capture informal learning that takes place in your community as well as your library.

**We are waiting for enhancements such as, a new set up for prizes, a dashboard of reports, an improved page for listing badges and other features our pilot libraries have suggested.** We are expecting the improvements to be ready by late November. We will be offering online training through a webinar in December. We will also need a signed "Memorandum of Understanding" (the MOU form is attached) before we can set up library sites to provide access and offer face to face and hands-on training for your library. We will also set up a "sandbox" site of the program, which may be used to practice with the software, to train, and to demo the program. 



## From No Time for Flash Cards Trick or Treat Ideas!

Hey - Halloween is just around the corner, and it's SUCH fun time of year for kids (and grown-ups) to get creative and learn together.

Dressing up, decorating pumpkins, playing make-believe, **CANDY**—What could be better?



*How about a huge bag of Halloween ideas and activities? Parents, I got you covered:*

### 50 Halloween Crafts for Preschoolers

<http://www.notimeforflashcards.com/2014/09/halloween-craft-ideas-for-preschool.html>

### Halloween Board books for 2 and 3 year-olds

<http://www.notimeforflashcards.com/2016/10/halloween-board-books-2-3-year-olds.html>

### Halloween Books with crafts to match

<http://www.notimeforflashcards.com/2013/10/halloween-crafts-and-books.html>

### Rice Krispie treat monsters

<http://onelittleproject.com/rice-krispie-treat-monsters/>

*Teachers, I've got some ideas for you too:*

### 11 Halloween STEM activities for kids

<http://www.notimeforflashcards.com/2015/10/11-halloween-stem-activities-for-kids.html>

*Email from Allie (and her kiddos) - No Time For Flash Cards, October 19, 2016 *

## Norfolk Public Library

### Homeschool Programming at Norfolk

**Norfolk Public Library offers a variety of STEAM programming for Hampton Roads homeschoolers.**

The **Academic Enrichment program** at **Slover Library** is a weekly homeschool group open to school agers, tweens, and teens. Most of the program topics and activities are selected by the students themselves, which allows them to share their interests with their peers or learn about something completely new. Some of our past program topics include architecture challenges, parachute drops, painting and sculpting projects, robotics, and online scavenger hunts using the library's databases.

*Submitted by Liz Powell, Teen Library Associate *



Homeschoolers get a hands-on lesson with one of Slover's 3D printers



Our partner from the Nauticus museum brings science to life with liquid nitrogen and combustion experiments

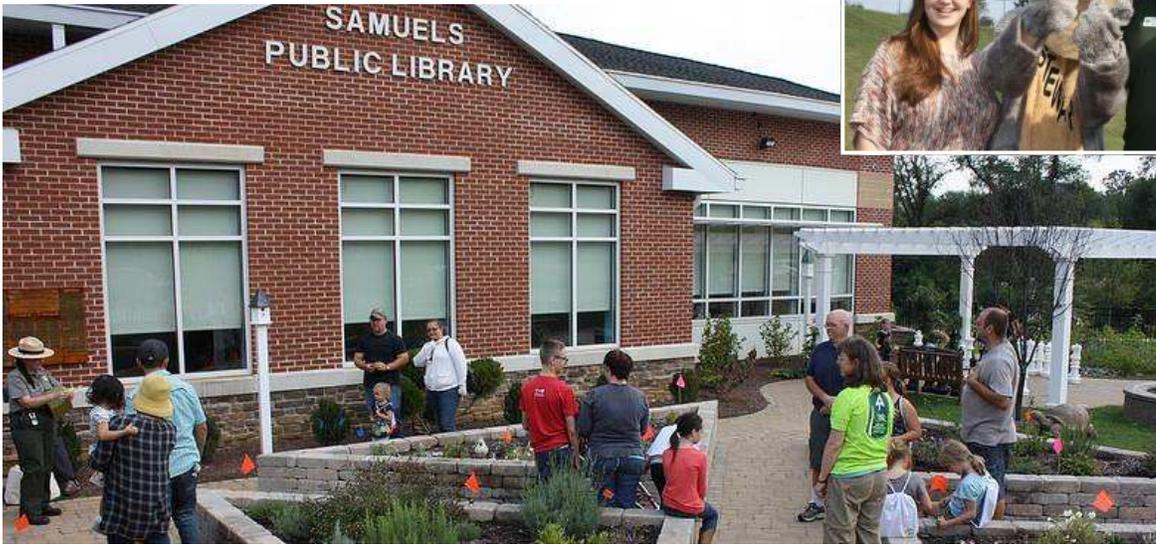
## Samuels Public Library

### Family Race to Leave No Trace

On Saturday, September 24, Family Hiking Day, the Front Royal/Warren County Appalachian Trail Community committee hosted the Family Race to Leave No Trace!

Shenandoah National Park Ranger Regina Cardwell lead three low-impact outdoor games and activities for families and kids on the grounds of Samuels Public Library.

Activities took place from 10:00 to 11:30 A.M., followed by a Q&A in the Children's Garden on the life of a National Park Ranger. Every participant received a goody bag and Seven Local Fall Foliage Hikes for Beginners. Submitted by Kathy Jacob, Youth Services Assistant





## Dates to Remember

### Virginia Conferences

October 26-28, 2016..... VLA Annual Conference..... Hot Springs

### National Conferences

October 27-29, 2016..... Association for Rural & Small Libraries Conference..... Fargo

November 4-6, 2016..... YALSA's 2016 YA Services Symposium..... Pittsburgh

January 20-24, 2017..... ALA Midwinter Meeting..... Atlanta

June 22-27, 2017..... ALA Annual Conference..... Chicago

### Workshops

November 3, 2016..... STEM Training..... Wytheville

November 4, 2016..... STEM Training..... Richlands

November 10, 2016..... STEM Training..... Woodbridge

### Library Observances, Celebration Weeks & Promotional Events

#### November

Picture Book Month..... <http://picturebookmonth.com>

Check every morning to read inspiring essays about why picture books are important

National Adoption Month..... <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/adoption/nam/>

Aviation History Month..... <http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil>

Visit the National Museum of the US Air Force

Native American Heritage Month..... <http://tinyurl.com/pfuvqbk>

The Library of Congress created a Pinterest board to share resources from their collection.

November 8..... Election Day

November 11..... Origami Day

November 19..... International Games Day

*Thanks* for the photos and information!

- ◇ **Patty Langley**, Delaware Center for the Book, Delaware Division of Libraries
- ◇ **Liz Powell**, Norfolk Public Library, Slover Library
- ◇ **Kathy Jacob**, Samuels Public Library
- ◇ No Time for Flash Cards
- ◇ The Office of Senator Mark R. Warner
- ◇ The usual resources - ALA

#### There are two attachments:

1. **The Memorandum of Understanding for the BookPoints program.**
2. **"Apps and Your Prereader" brochure produced by the Hennepin County Library (Minnesota).**

# Memorandum of Understanding

This agreement is between the Library of Virginia and \_\_\_\_\_, hereafter referred as [Library]. For and in consideration of their mutual promises as herein set out, and for other good and valuable consideration, the parties agree as follows.

## Overview

Summer reading programs are a core program that libraries provide to keep children occupied, learning, and safe and off the streets when schools are not in session. Other agencies, such as parks and recreation departments, museums, religious organizations, and other profit and non-profit organizations, provide out of school learning opportunities and services to children and teens in the community.

When we put summer reading programs in this greater context of summer learning, it enables us to collaborate and partner with other like-minded organizations. It also places summer reading in the context of promoting healthy communities.

The Library of Virginia will provide a statewide tracking system for the summer and winter reading programs, school readiness programs as well as local and regional reading programs coordinated by Virginia public libraries.

We will be using BookPoints, an open source software program designed to manage summer reading programs, for this project. It was developed by the Galecia Group in partnership with the California Library Association. The software provides a way for libraries to manage and to track reading activities online, award prizes for reading, and also award electronic badges for reading. In addition, children may earn badges for attending library programs, completing tasks/challenges within the library or in the community. The program also includes a reading comprehension quiz provided by the Virginia Department of Education for children completing third and fifth grades. The quiz, which is offered as a simple pre-test and post-test, may be used to show impact of your summer reading program.

## Badges

The Library of Virginia will provide a collection of badges which may be used for the online program. [Library] may create customized badges using <https://www.openbadges.me/>

## Artwork/Theme

The Library of Virginia will be using the art from iREAD for the artwork and gaming features in the program. If [Library] wishes to use other artwork, [Library] will need to obtain copyright permission in writing and provide permission statements to the Library of Virginia for its records. Due to the complexity of some of the program features, it is advisable to have these conversations early. There may be a fee for the customization.

## Training

Initial training began in the fall of 2016 with the National Summer of Learning Association. This will be followed by online training, and face to face training for library staff.

## **Data**

The [Library] will collect data in the standardized format and only that requested by the Library of Virginia: First name, last name, password, age, school district, school name, primary library of use and branch, email, patron classifications (young child: birth–5 years old, child: 6–12 years old, teen: 13–17 years old, or adult: 18 years or older), number of pages read, the time spent reading, number of books read, and titles of books read (book titles are not required to be in standardized format), badges earned, activity and programs attended. Responses to quizzes will also be collected.

[Library] will comply with the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 and all other federal laws, as well as “2.2-3803: Administration of systems including personal information; Internet privacy policy; exceptions” and all other laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia with regard to privacy laws. This prohibits, but is not limited to, any actions which are threatening, obscene, defamatory, or which violate trade secret, copyright or patent protection, right of privacy or publicity, or which result in the spread of computer viruses or other damaging programs or data files, or which violate any export restrictions (including making non-exportable information or software available to foreign nationals as may be prohibited by law). In the event [Library] is suspected of any such violation, Host reserves the right to immediately suspend or terminate that [Library]'s account.

[Library] will create a password for each person given access to the tracking system. Passwords will not be shared nor will access be given to unauthorized persons.

Facebook and/or other social media connections linked to the tracking system will not be featured to anyone under the age of 18.

Additional data that [Library] wishes to collect through the tracking system must be approved in advance and in writing by the Library of Virginia. [Library] will have to submit its own privacy statement, have the link added to its program website with their own local contact. This customization may have a fee associated with it.

If [Library] wishes to change the website theme/format provided by the Library of Virginia, it may do so at [Library]’s own cost. Cost is \$150 per hour.

Failure to adhere to these rules and guidelines may result in an immediate loss of the use of the tracking system as well as possible legal consequences.

[Library] is responsible for any materials passed via Host's system to other networks, and agrees to comply with any restrictions posed by the other network's terms of service or acceptable use policies.

## **Confidentiality**

The Library of Virginia will protect to the best of its ability the confidentiality of any files and electronic mail stored on or exchanged over the system, except as may be necessary to provide the requested Internet services, or as may be necessary to preserve the security and proper operation of system, or to protect Library of Virginia rights or property.

The Library of Virginia, except as otherwise provided for in this Agreement or as required by law, will use its best efforts to avoid disclosing the contents of private electronic mail to anyone other than

addressees, authorized recipients, or those to whom such disclosure is necessary to assure forwarding or delivery.

[Library] acknowledges that no system on the Internet can be guaranteed safe from unauthorized intrusion, and therefore any confidential information stored on or transmitted through Host's system is stored or transmitted at [Library]'s own risk.

**Security**

[Library] is responsible for choosing a secure password and for keeping it secret.

[Library] may not attempt to bypass any security mechanisms in place on Library of Virginia system, or use any of Library of Virginia systems or services to attempt to bypass any security mechanisms in place on any remote system. This includes, but is not limited to, running any password cracking software, or attempting to access a system that any Library staff knows or reasonably should know he or she is not authorized to access in the manner or to the extent attempted.

Sign and return documents to:

Library of Virginia  
Paranita Carpenter - LDND  
800 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

If you have any questions or concerns please contact:  
Enid Costley [enid.costley@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:enid.costley@lva.virginia.gov) or 804.692.3765

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Library System

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Library Director (signature)

Date

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Library of Virginia (signature)

Date

For Library of Virginia

Received documents from Library System \_\_\_\_\_

Contacted to set up account: \_\_\_\_\_



Make “tech time” an engaging, language-rich experience. Interact with each other as you interact with apps.

Your child will learn more from your interactions together than from an app alone.

Like a print book, an app is just a jumping-off point for conversation and imagination.



## Choosing Apps for Your Child

### Look for apps with:

Clean, uncluttered displays, not so busy they will be distracting

Meaningful interactive elements

Plain, clear, highly legible fonts, especially when letter or number recognition is part of the action

Intuitive wayfinding that is not too complicated for children to puzzle through with minimal adult help

### Avoid apps with:

Loud, busy, cluttered displays

“Interactive elements” that don’t add value

Ads or in-app purchases that are not easily ignored or keep popping up

A primary mission to gather coins/points/etc. to purchase or unlock more features

More video than interactive experiences

“Coloring book” features; instead, choose apps that allow free-drawing



Minnesota Department of  
**Education**

*Made possible, in part, by funding from the Minnesota Department of Education through a Library Services and Technology Act grant (LS-00-13-0024-13) from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.*

HCL B7 6/2014



# Apps and Your Prereader

## Tips for parents and caregivers

Exploring carefully selected apps together with children can help them get ready to read.



Hennepin County  
**Library**

[www.hclib.org](http://www.hclib.org)

**Talk, sing, read, write and play** as you explore apps with your child. It's fun and can supplement the non-digital ways you spend time together.

### Talk together

Make sure you two are doing the talking, not the app. Ask questions, have conversations and ask your child to recount the action of the app later, when the device is turned off. Children learn oral language when you talk with them. Studies have shown that oral language cannot be learned from prerecorded voices or screens.

### Sing together

Learn new songs or enjoy well-loved classics as you use singing apps, then keep singing together long after the device is turned off. Singing slows down language so children can hear the different sounds that make up words, and it teaches children phonics, vocabulary and general knowledge about the world.

### Read together

Enjoy eBook apps together as you would print books. Let your child take the lead and talk about what's happening in the story. Always read eBook apps aloud, disabling prerecorded options to promote interaction. Reading together is the number-one way you can get your child ready to read and ready for school.

### Write together

Look for apps that ask your child to do more than simply tap the screen. Using fingers to draw, pinch and expand on screen helps develop small-motor control, an essential skill for learning to write. Writing with a finger is a great way for children who haven't yet mastered holding a crayon or pencil to start down the path to learning to write.

### Play together

Look for play apps that allow children to pretend, create, investigate and problem-solve, and ask them to describe what's happening. Play gives children a chance to use words and explore concepts that may not come up otherwise. They learn about their world through play, and they learn best when they play with you.