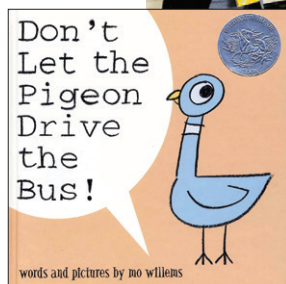


# Serving Our early childhood Community



*Kids enjoying  
library staff  
acting out  
Don't Let the  
Pigeon Drive  
the Bus by  
Mo Willems*

Building early literacy skills among young children has always been one of the important ways public libraries serve their communities. All of our staff who work in Kids take part in this mission—and Holly and Laura coordinate the ways we take that mission outside our building.

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# Serving Our early childhood Community



**Laura**

Currently listening to: *Amari and the Night Brothers* (Supernatural Investigations, 1) by B. B. Alston

Fun fact: My first days as archivist at the Museum of Science and Industry were spent helping ferry across Lake Shore Drive the 727 airplane that now hangs from the second-floor balcony. I thought, "Wow, this job is going to be fun!"

Favorite picture books to recommend for reading out loud to preschoolers:

*When We Are Kind* by Monique Gray Smith

*Bear Snores On* by Karma Wilson

*Wait, Rest, Pause: Dormancy in Nature* by Marcie Flinchum Atkins

## Serving families

Holly and Laura often lead family literacy nights, when they share early literacy tips directly with parents and caregivers. They also host occasional family engagement events at the library in conjunction with specific schools or programs.

More ways we help include preparing specialized book lists for parent support groups and donating withdrawn books to schools, to the park district's little free libraries, and to the Niles Township Food Pantry.

## Serving our early childhood teachers

We prepare about 120 bags of books and related materials for early childhood centers based on themes the teachers request.

To the right are some of the fun, favorite themes for these bags that supplement materials the teachers and caregivers might already have.



Last April, we held an interactive workshop on storytime engagement strategies for 18 local early childhood teachers. The workshop helped them become more confident in creating engaging and age-appropriate storytimes, and we hope this pilot can be expanded over time to reach more teachers and child care providers.

Laura writes a monthly email for about 300 teachers alerting them to topical or seasonal resources for their classrooms and providing other early literacy tips. And because we are aware of great new books being published for kids, we share that awareness with teachers through periodic book talks. The bookmobile also makes special stops at early childhood centers when feasible.



**Holly**

Currently reading: *A Place Called Surrender*  
by Dan Roelofs

Fun fact: I once had a collection of more than 200 plush storybook characters. I've given many away, but I recently bought Lowly Worm in his applecar (or apple-shaped car) because I can't find the felt Lowly Worm doll my mother made for me when I was little.

Favorite books for reading aloud to kids:  
*A New House for Mouse* by Petr Horáček  
*Cat up a Tree* by Ann Hassett  
*Knock, Knock! Who's There?* by Tad Hills

*Holly is chair of the Early Childhood Alliance (ECA) Steering Committee. The ECA seeks to ensure that all young children in Niles Township reach their full potential through collaboration among township organizations.*

## Serving young children directly

We visit early childhood centers between 15 and 25 times a year, and interns and staff members lead storytimes, preschool puppet playtime, dance parties, early math storytimes, and more.



[skokielibrary.info/earlychildhood](https://skokielibrary.info/earlychildhood)



If you had to guess, you'd probably think a librarian sits in front of a group of kids, holds the picture book to the side facing the kids so they can see the pictures, and reads the story, right?

Well, turns out that your guess would be correct, but not complete! Yes, the librarian does that. And, the librarian does a whole lot more. Storytimes are designed to build lots of early literacy skills. Every storytime will include a selection of the items listed below—not all, because the kids can only focus for so long at once. But come to a number of storytimes, and your child will be exposed to all of these fun, and important, building blocks toward a lifetime of reading and learning.

## What Goes into a Storytime

reading

good songs

action rhymes

engaging books

movement

something to hold and shake

asking questions

listening

responding to questions

silly librarians



Find a storytime that suits your style and your schedule, either in-person or online.

[skokielibrary.info/storytime](http://skokielibrary.info/storytime)

## Storytime Calendar

### Book Babies Storytime

Babies to 11 months who are not yet walking

Wednesdays

Indoors: 9:30–10 am

Outdoors: 10:30–10:50 am

### Wonderful Ones Storytime

Age 1

Wednesdays

Indoors: 10–10:20 am

Outdoors: 11–11:20 am

### Storytime

Thursdays, 1:30–2 pm

### Weekend Storytime

Saturdays, March 4, 18,  
April 1, 15, 29, 10:30–11 am

### Family Fun Storytime

Wednesdays in April  
(except April 19),  
6:30–7 pm

### Terrific Twos Storytime

Thursdays in April  
(except April 13)  
10:30–11 am or  
11:15–11:45 am



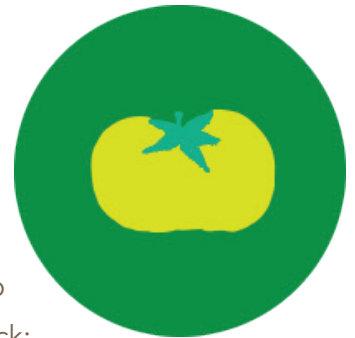
# Grow a Reader

Who wouldn't want the children in their lives to love learning and reading? Studies show that families that start reading aloud to their children early and often help strengthen their children's language skills and build their vocabularies. You don't need an official program to accomplish this—just read to your little one every day. We can help make it even more fun if you join Grow a Reader.

Sign up at the Kids desk. You'll get a set of sturdy activity cards on a ring—it fits nicely on a diaper bag—and a "seed packet" booklet. Color a seed in the booklet for each book you read. If you'd rather join online, sign up and track your progress using Beanstack:

[skokilibrary.info/growareader](http://skokilibrary.info/growareader). For every 100 books, you can put your child's first name on a wall at the library. You'll also get a fresh seed packet and a new activity card. There's a special prize at 1,000 books.

Reading 1,000 books sounds like a lot, but if you read a book a day, it will take less than three years. Three books a day? Less than a year! All books count. Little ones sometimes want to hear you read the same book over and over, and that's fine. It is not a competition. Just getting into the habit of reading every day will set your child up for a lifetime of loving books. We have thousands of board books and picture books to choose from, and an expert staff happy to help find the books your child will love.



# KIDS & FAMILIES

Check the online calendar for added events, and sign up at [events.skokiellibrary.info](https://events.skokiellibrary.info). Capacity for individual events is limited.

## Small Hands Crafts

Mondays, 10:30–11 am

## Library Dance Party

Tuesdays, 10:30–11 am

## Preschool Puppet Playtime

Wednesdays, March 1, April 5,  
10:30–11 am (online)

## Family Yoga

Thursdays in March, 10:30–11 am



## Adventure Club

Tuesdays, 4:30–5:15 pm

Paris

March 7

Guadalajara

April 4

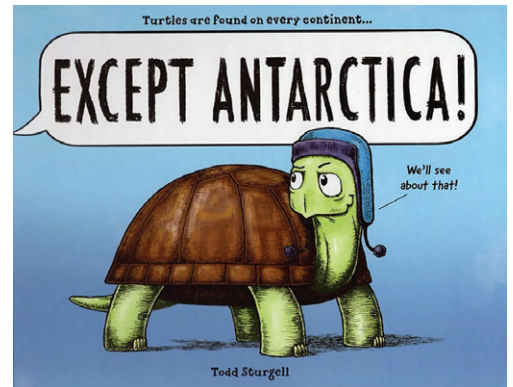
## Family Book Club

Grades 1–3 with an adult



## We Are Water Protectors

Wednesday, March 8  
5:30–6:30 pm



## Except Antarctica

Thursday, April 20  
6:30–7:30 pm

## Be the Chef: Pizza Night

Fridays, March 10 or 17, 6:30–7:30 pm

## STEAM Engines

Thursdays, March 2, April 6,  
4:30–5:15 pm



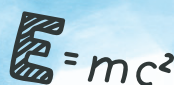
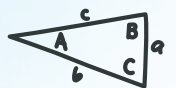
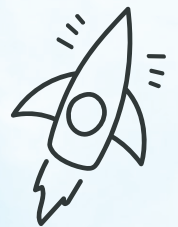
## STEAM Saturday

For kids younger than 6

Saturdays, March 11, 25, April 8, 22, 10:30–11 am

## STEAM Exploration

Friday, March 3, 1:30–2:30 pm



# STEAM



### Be the Scientist

Tuesdays, 4:30–5:15 pm

Orchids  
March 14

Soil Science  
April 11



### Jewish Comfort Food

Matzah Ball Soup

Wednesday  
March 15  
6:30–7:30 pm

### Family Movie

DC League of Super Pets

Friday, March 24  
1:30–3:30 pm

Howl's Moving Castles

Thursday, March 30, 6:30–8:30 pm



### Kate DiCamillo Celebration

Enjoy crafts, a film, and a game.

Saturday, March 25, 1:30–3:30 pm

### Fun with Rainbow Therapy Dogs

Sundays, March 19, April 16, 11:15 am–noon

### Lego Challenge

Thursdays, March 23, April 20, 4:30–5:30 pm

### Open Chess

Sundays, March 26, April 30, 2–4 pm

### Wiggleworms

Wednesday, March 29, 6:30–7 pm

### Louise Bourgeois Retrospective

Thursday, March 30, 12:30–1:30 pm

### Wangechi Mutu Retrospective

Friday, March 31  
1:30–2:30 pm

Women's History Month



# FOR ADULTS



Check for event details and sign up at [calendar.skokieliibrary.info](http://calendar.skokieliibrary.info). Registration opens March 1 except for events during the first week of March, which are already open.

## ESL Café

Wednesdays, 12:30–2 pm (drop in)

## Low Income Energy and Transportation Benefits Assistance

Thursday, March 16, 1–4 pm

Tuesday, March 21, 1–4 pm

## High School District 219 Art Exhibit Reception

Thursday, March 16, 6–7 pm



## Introduction to Yoga

Fridays, March 17,  
April 21, 1–2 pm



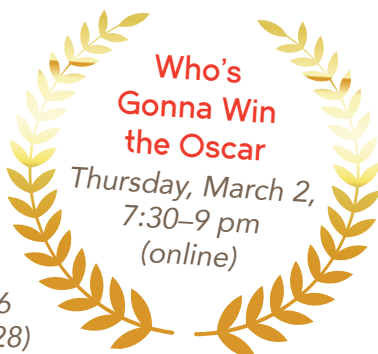
## The Weird and Wonderful World with Mary Roach

An entertaining evening with this *New York Times* best-selling science author

Wednesday, March 1, 7–8 pm (online)

## ELL Literacy Circle

Tuesdays,  
10 am–noon  
March 7–May 16  
(except March 28)



## Ruthless Book Release Celebration

Thursday, March 9, 6:30–8:30 pm

## Low Vision Support Group

Tuesdays, March 14, April 11, 1:30–2:30 pm

## Practice Citizenship Interviews with HIAS

Tuesday, April 4, 6:30–8 pm



## Matisse: The Russian and American Connection

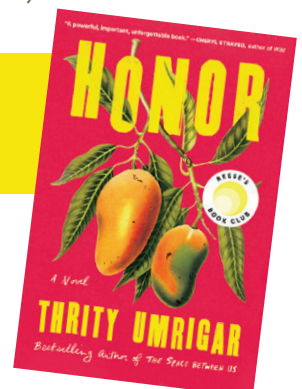
Thursday, April 13, 1–2 pm

## Getting What You're Worth (online)

Monday, April 24, 7–8:30 pm (online)

## An Evening with Thrity Umrigar (online)

Wednesday, April 26, 7–8 pm





## Book Discussions

### Talking Books Discussion Group

Wednesdays,  
1:30–2:30 pm

*The Pull of the Stars*  
March 15

*The Book of Hope*  
April 19

### LitLounge

Wednesdays  
7:30–9 pm (online)

*The Reading List*  
March 8

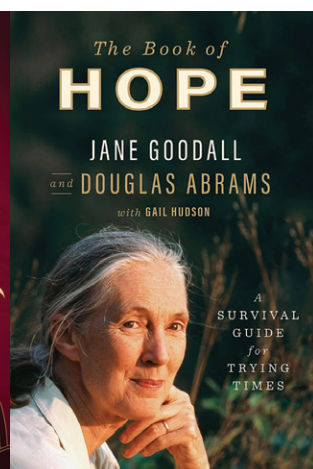
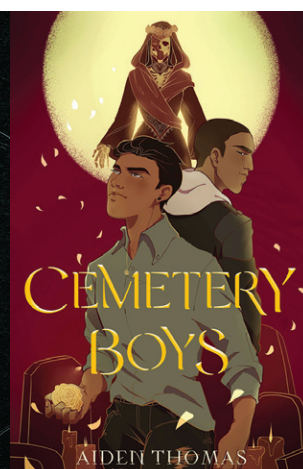
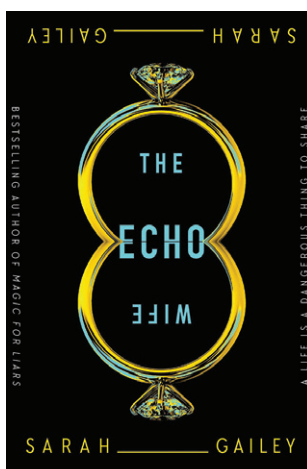
*The Echo Wife*  
April 12

### Adult Book Discussions

Tuesdays on  
Instagram Live  
7:30–8 pm (online)

*Siren Queen*  
March 28

*Cemetery Boys*  
April 25



## Technology

### Microsoft Excel 2021 for Beginners

Saturday, March 11, 10:30–11:30 am

### Microsoft Word 2021 for Beginners

Friday, March 17, 4–5:30 pm

### Browsing Internet Browsers

Sunday, March 19, 3–4:30 pm

### Microsoft PowerPoint 2021 for Beginners

Tuesday, March 28, 5–6 pm

### Introduction to Google Sheets

Saturday, April 1, 10:30–11:30 am



### Introduction to Google Photos

Tuesday, April 4, 3:30–5 pm

### Style Points with Microsoft Word

Sunday, April 16, 3–4:30 pm

### Getting Started with Gmail

Thursday, April 20, noon–1:30 pm

### Windows Computer Basics

Wednesday, April 26, 10–11:30 am



# Performances

*Tickets given to those present starting at 2:30 pm*

## Young Steinway Concerts

Christian Esteban, Piano, and Lily Sullivan, Violin  
Sunday, March 5 at 3 pm

Lauren Kim, Violin, and Clara Zhang, Piano  
Sunday, April 2 at 3 pm

# Movies

(drop in)

## Morning Movie

Wednesdays at 10 am

Dora and the  
Lost City of Gold  
March 8

The Greatest  
Showman  
April 12



## Haitian Music for Change

Crossing Borders Music

Sunday, March 19 at 3 pm

## Chez Butter: Old-School Soul Concert

Sunday, April 23 at 3 pm

## Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre

Saturday, April 29 at 2 pm



## Friday Film

Fridays at 1:30 pm

Easter Sunday

March 10

Top Gun Maverick

April 14

## Movie Night

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

The Rose Maker

March 22

Breaking Fast

April 26

# Make Things



## Laser Engrave a Wood Food Container

Wednesday, March 1, 6:30–8 pm

## Learn to Sew

Thursday, March 9, 7–8:30 pm

Thursday, April 6, 7–8:30 pm

## Learn to Use the

# EMBROIDERY MACHINE

## Dish Towel

Friday, March 17, 4:30–6 pm

## Cloth Placemat

Wednesday, April 26, 6:30–8 pm



## Laser Engrave a Glass

Friday, April 14,  
4:30–6 pm



## Teens

Check the online calendar for added events or events that can include teens, along with other ages. Sign up at [events.skokiellibrary.info](https://events.skokiellibrary.info).

### Teen Summer Service

An online interest survey will be available starting April 24 for service opportunities that will begin the week of June 12. More info:

[skokiellibrary.info/volunteer](https://skokiellibrary.info/volunteer)

### Teen Library Collaborative

Grades 6–12

Friday, March 9, 5:30–6:30 pm

Thursday, April 6, 5:30–6:30 pm



### Newcomers Club

Mondays, March 13, April 10, 5:30–6:30 pm

### Anime and Manga Appreciation Club

Wednesdays, March 29, April 26, 6–7:30 pm

## Building Early Literacy Skills with Young Children

You might be surprised how much the simple things you already do with your child every day help get them ready to read!

talk

Your child loves your voice, and they need to hear language in order to learn it. Describe what you see, hear, smell, and taste like a sportscaster! Ask your child questions and respond to what they say.

sing

It doesn't matter if you can't carry a tune! Music teaches rhythm, which is an essential part of language. Sing the alphabet song and nursery rhymes. Make up silly songs about what you're doing. Listen to the radio and clap along.

read

Read whatever books you have at home, or pick some up at the library. Read aloud in whatever language you're most comfortable with. It's ok to reread the same book again and again! Ask questions about the pictures and follow the words with your finger.

play

Through play, your child can put thoughts into words and talk about what they are doing. And because it's fun, your child loves doing it. Try peekaboo or I-spy!

write

Scribbling, drawing, and learning the shapes are all part of recognizing patterns, and that leads to reading. Any kind of mark making is fine. And make sure your child sees you writing so they can learn by example.