

# UHLS Youth Services Advisory Council

June 8, 2023

10 – 11:30

**Attendance ZOOM(9)** : Mary Fellows (UHLS), Amy DuBrey (UHLS) , Amy Caccia (VAFL), Suzanne Cardinal (NASS), Colene Phoenix (EGRN), Jen Lubbers (EGRN), Alex Bernat Cardinal (APL), Sarah Stanwicks (APL), Lee Ackerman- Sawyer (WSTR)

## UHLS updates

- Expedition number: Will top 16,000 today!! [Update: 17,254 6/13]
- RIF – books will arrive later this week or beginning of next

## Focus on picture books

Practice picture books:

- Problem: caregivers want their toddlers/preschoolers to move past board books and into picture books, but they're concerned that the books are too delicate for their child's use.
- Solution: practice picture books. Deleted picture books that are engaging and interesting and already a bit worn
- Process: Label to delineate the books from others in the collection; sign that alerts patrons that these books are free to be loved– and to not worry if they are damaged.
- <https://www.alsc.ala.org/blog/2023/04/practice-picture-books/>
- Supporting SEL in storytime:
  - o What SEL is: According to the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL), “Social Emotional Learning (SEL) is the process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships and make responsible and caring decisions.”

- o We can help with SEL in our storytime kids through asking SEL questions before, during, and after reading.

Before Reading (share the cover and title of the book):

How do you think the characters will feel in this story?

During Reading:

(Small group): Can you share a time when you felt like the main character?

How does the character express their feelings?

(Small group): How are you feeling right now?

After Reading:

(Small group): How do you feel now? Why?

From: <https://www.alsc.ala.org/blog/2021/07/meeting-the-social-and-emotional-needs-of-children/>

### **How do you bring in SEL in your work?**

The group shared the following:

- Talking through emotional situations that develop during programs
- Naturally during storytime, labeling facial expressions or emotions
- Narrating what is happening to ourselves. Show how you deal with a particular emotion.

### **Deeper YS support from UHLS – your ideas (please contact Mary with any suggestions)**

- Training – virtual or in-person? On what?
- Big loanables – i.e: [Big Blue Blocks](#), museum exhibits, signs with new literacy tips
- More tangible helps – like what?
- Grants
- Parenting classes- self-care
- tween/teen programming, ways to drum up interest
- character costumes/ rental?
- flannel board stories

## Programming

- Edible sensory activities for toddlers and preschoolers
  - o <https://www.funathomewithkids.com/2013/10/safe-edible-non-chokable-mini-water.html> also flax and chia seeds work well. Also make a really good slime!
  - o <https://team-cartwright.com/taste-safe-sensory-play/>
- [Stuffed animal taxidermy](#) plus information about taxidermy (DIY or find a local one); examples ([Jenny Lawson, Mental Health, and Weird Taxidermy – Fourth and Sycamore](#))
- [Adopt a houseplant](#) plus [flower letters](#)

**Level up! Consider using sensory activities for older children as well!** Peep Slime: microwave peeps, cornstarch and oil. Homemade playdough- coffee scented,

### Other Programming Ideas:

Replant veggies like carrots and green onions, celery etc.

Pruning Workshop at a local garden center.

Air plants: make your own pinch pots out of clay and then dye with food coloring.

Mini flower pots paint and seeds and soil take home kit

Stuffed animal vet clinic

### Mary's Picks from the Book Review (JUNE):

[The Windeby Puzzle](#) by Lois Lowry

[The Girl I was, Am and Never Will Be: A Speculative Memoir of Transracial Adoption](#)

by Shannon Gibney

[Juneteenth: A Picture Book for Kids Celebrating Black Joy](#) by Van Garrett

[How to Be a \(Young\) Antiracist](#) by Ibram X. Kendi

[The Bright Side](#) by Chad Otis

[Finding My Dance](#) by Ria Thundercloud

[The World and Everything In It](#) by Kevin Henkes

**Good to share!**

- presenters, programs, apps, reads, listens, views

[Legendborn](#) and [Bloodmarked \(Legendborn #2\)](#) series by Tracy Deon

[A Flag For Juneteenth](#) by Kim Taylor

[Let's Celebrate Juneteenth](#) by Tonya Abari

**Upper Hudson Youth Services**

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**Quote of the day:**

It's easy to operate on the assumption that the main point of picking up a book – a non-fiction or work-related book, at any rate – is to add to your storehouse of data, hoarding information and insights like a squirrel hoarding nuts, ready for some future moment when you'll finally take advantage of it all.

But that's a recipe for living permanently in the future, never quite reaping the value of life in the present moment. Better, I'd say, to think of reading not as preparation for living later on, but as one way of engaging with the world, one way of living, right here in the present.

By all means let your reading shape your thinking over the long haul, and generate or improve your ideas for future projects. But consider also the possibility that spending half an hour reading something interesting or moving or awe-inspiring or just amusing might be worth doing, not only for some other, future reason, but for the sake of that very half hour of being alive.

Oliver Burkeman