

Lincoln Public Library Storytime Guidelines



Please try to be on time. Arriving on time is important. It is a good idea to allow extra time for parking and visits to the bathroom. Children can be easily distracted and late arrivals often become the focus of their attention! Also, kids arriving late might miss out on some key components of storytime. If you do arrive late, please wait for a break between stories, songs or acts before joining the group, otherwise you may replace the story presenter as the main focus and break the spell of the story.

Please Limit Distractions. Please do not bring snacks, drinks or toys; their presence provides a diversion for all from the program. And, please turn all cell phones or pagers off or set them to vibrate. Ringing phones are designed to be distracting! If you need to take a phone call, please take it outside of the Children's Room. If your child does not enjoy the program or you must leave, please do so in a manner that is least disruptive to others.

Please stay with your child during storytime. Storytime is a special time for children and parents/caregivers to bond. If your child is under 3 years of age, please stay with them at all times. If your child is over 3 years of age, please stay within eyesight of your child – kids can get scared or upset when they are separated from their parent/caregiver, and we want storytime to feel like a safe and fun time for them!

Please socialize before and after the program. Storytime is a great opportunity for parents to meet other parents in the area. Parents are encouraged to come early or stay after storytime to chat with each other outside the storytime room. During storytime, please help each other set a good example for the children by listening to the stories and songs.

Please listen, sing, dance, and craft with your child! By participating, you encourage the children to join in the storytime fun! If your child isn't interested in dancing or crafting, you can inspire them to try it out by taking the lead! Adults model good audience behavior for children by being attentive and participating. Sitting with a parent or caregiver helps younger children, 3-4 and under, to focus upon the program.

Please Take a Break. If your child becomes restless or upset, step outside for a moment. Taking a quick break will give the child a chance to calm down, and then you can both return to storytime ready to enjoy the next story and song. This will also help the other children stay focused on the storytime activities. If your child loses interest or needs to leave before the day's full storytime session is over, feel free to leave early, but please come back and give it another try the next week! It is not advisable to force children to remain in storytime while they are distraught or having a tantrum. If the children in your care become upset please remove them until they are comfortable and ready to listen, then quietly re-enter and try again. If your child has consecutive episode of tantrums or disruptive behavior you will be asked to take a break from storytime for several weeks up to several months to allow your child time to mature.

Please relax and have fun! It is not expected that kids will sit still and participate in each activity! Children are welcome to enjoy the storytime experience whether they want to shake their sillies out or just watch the dancing.

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