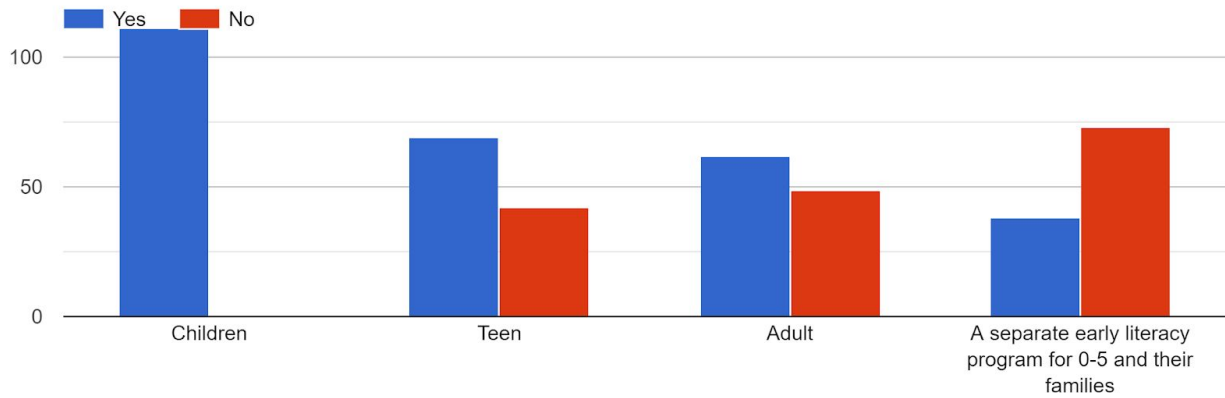


2020 Summer Reading Program Evaluation

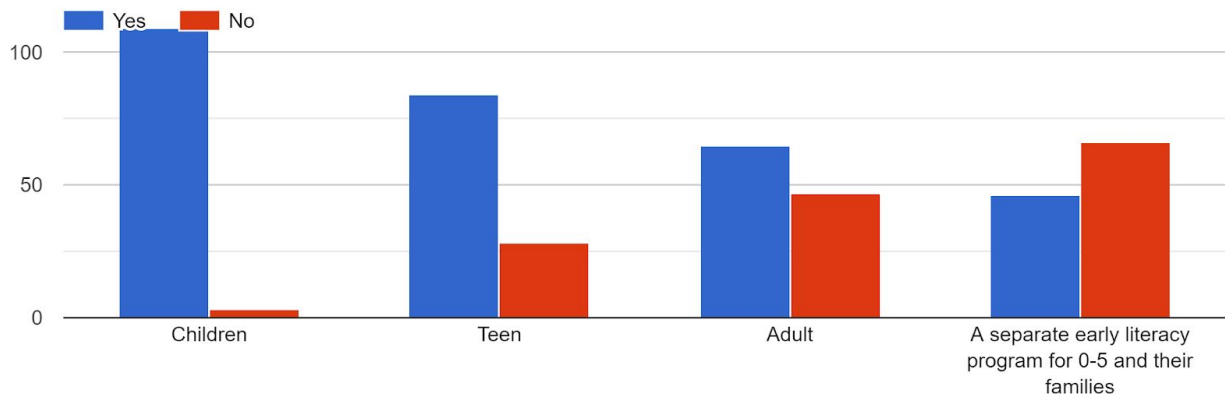
Comparison of 2019/2020:

Did your library offer a Summer Library Program / Summer Reading Program in 2019 for



111 Libraries reported for 2019

Did your library offer a Summer Library Program / Summer Reading Program in 2020 for



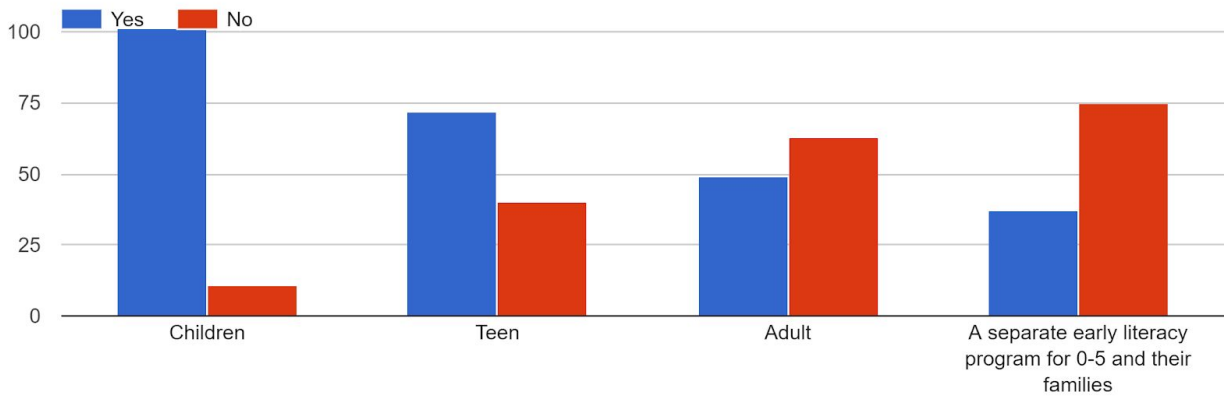
112 Libraries reported for 2020

Attendance:

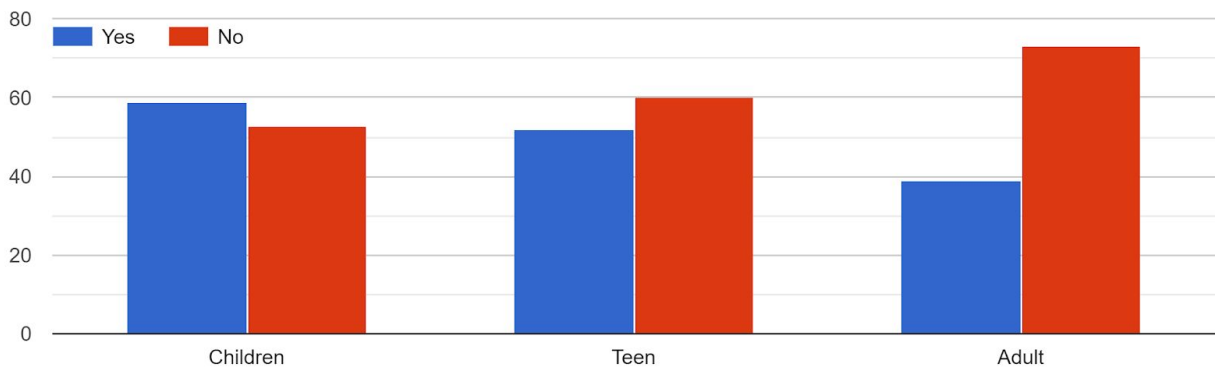
Program	2019	2020	% from previous year
Children	9213	8306	.90%
Teen	1516	1414	.93%
Adult	2749	2710	.99%

Note: There were 15 more libraries reporting summer programs for teens in 2020; 3 more libraries reporting adult programs in 2020; and 8 more reporting a separate early literacy program in 2020.

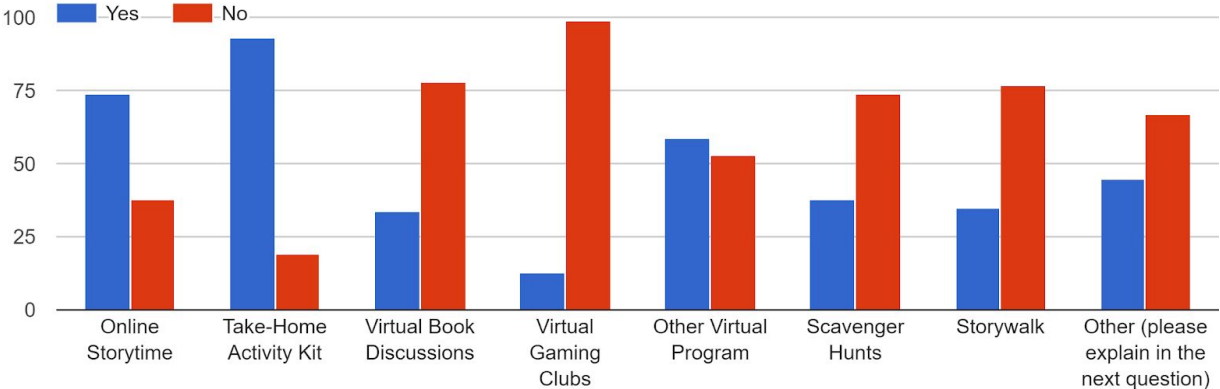
Did you use any element of the "Imagine Your Story" CSLP package (theme, slogan, artwork, manual, and additional resources packet) this year?



Did you use Readsquared for all or some of the program:

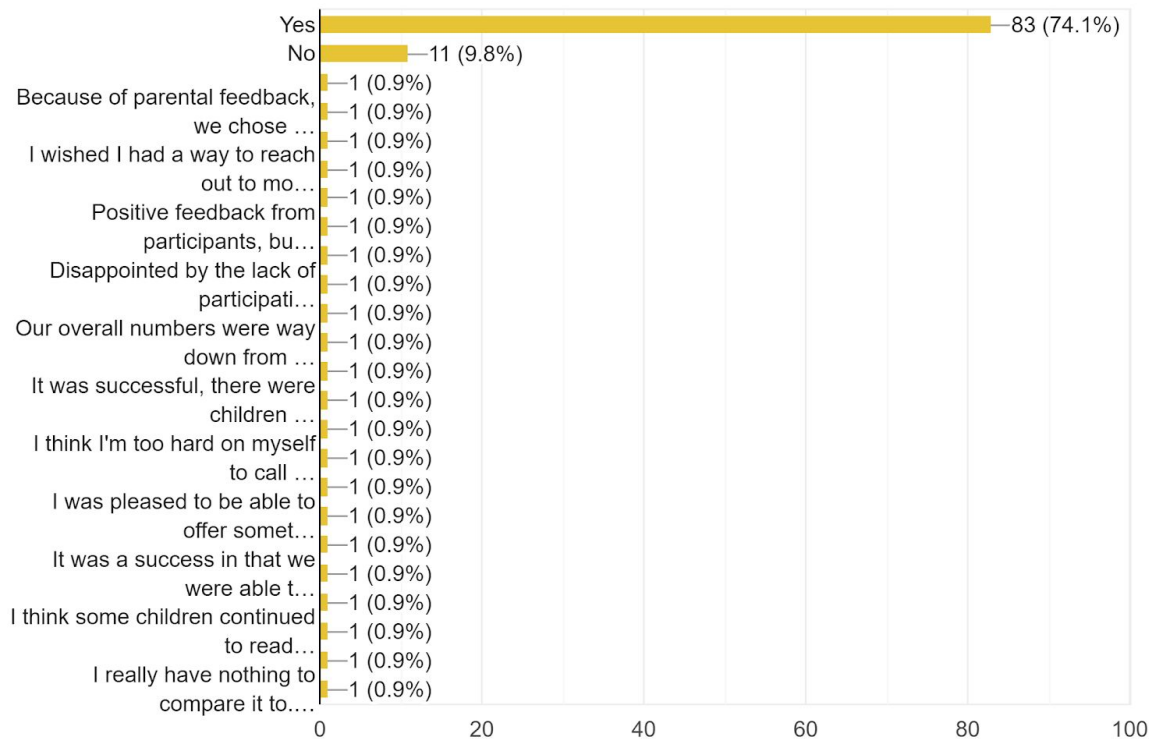


Did you provide any special events, library programs, self-guided experiences, etc. in conjunction with your SRP?



Would you consider your 2020 Summer Library Program a success, given the circumstances?

112 responses



COMMENTS:

We can all agree--it was a challenging year:

- It just wasn't popular because parents didn't want their kids on the computer during the summer.
- ReadSquared was not particularly useful, although being free was a plus. I think it would be more effective as an adjunct to a normal SRP than it was as a replacement. Still not thrilled with the CSLP. We miss the old NH Summer Reading Programs!
- I hope we never have another summer as challenging and isolating as this one was.
- What a weird summer!
- We have had very little feedback and it has been discouraging. I miss the children.
- Creating three programs ourselves each week was very time consuming for staff, compared with other years where we had different speakers come in each week. While some patrons were very happy with our weekly bags of items, participation was down from previous years.
- I hope we won't have to provide the SRP virtually next year.

- It was a tough year and a lot of our community had "computer screen burnout" so we had a tough time engaging anyone but our most dedicated readers. Hopefully this is a good starting point for creating a plan for the future.

But we made the best of it:

- Not many participants, but the ones who did participate had fun and read a lot! That's what matters.
- The free books on the meals vans were particularly impactful to a group that usually does not have books of their own, and does not even engage with the library. The feedback (they sent us particular stories) from the van drivers was really heartwarming.
- It was extremely helpful that the State provided the software needed to provide virtual summer reading this year. It helped our small library to provide SRP in a way we would not have been able to accomplish on our own. Thank you very much to everyone at the State Library for their excellent leadership and support.
- Facebook live stories commented on as being entertaining by all ages.
- So happy I was able to do something!
- Because we were publicizing so much on social media, we were able to connect and engage teens and tweens who are not regular library users, which is a great feeling.
- It was nice that patrons were willing to use the ReadSquared site to log their reads even after spending countless hours online for remote learning. They valued the SRP experience enough to spend time logging this information.
- Our Take & Make program was as popular or more popular than our regular Summer Reading programming. We will definitely be doing more of this.
- Our patrons were thrilled we were able to still offer the program amidst all the craziness.
- ReadSquared was easier than we thought it would be to use. We're thinking of trying some sort of winter program while we have access to it.
- Parents and grandparents were appreciative that we held the program even if it couldn't be done in person this year.
- I think that the way we set up our program caused families to spend more quality time together reading, creating and working together.
- We continually look for creative ways to help the youth in our community become passionate about literacy and public library usage.
- As mentioned before, the parents were the driving force behind us abandoning any SRP although we were willing to offer Read Squared and other online activities.
- It was short and simple, with something for everyone who wanted to participate.
- I believe families were intentionally, understandable, staying offline for the summer, thus impacting our summer reading program.
- One parent told me that the summer reading program really helped motivate her kids to keep reading over the summer. Families loved the Dragon Quest

Scavenger hunt, which allowed them to explore together at their own pace. One mom told me her kids were excited to do the craft/activity kits each week. Although I missed interacting with families in person, ReadSquared was helpful in that many families uploaded pictures of their kids doing different activities. We have gotten lots of positive feedback in our story walk log as well. Providing families with activities that can be done at their own convenience is a great thing!

- I do know some of the children really enjoyed the take home activities. I sent a survey out to participants and they said they would be interested in more take-home activities.
- Since this year was virtual, I tried to emphasize having families doing things outside and engaging with nature-- hopefully some families found some new favorite spots in the area to explore and the kids took a greater interest in the natural world around them.
- This was the first SRP we have offered in 5 years. It was a difficult year because of the online everything, but the participants were glad we included some outdoor activities that they could receive points for.
- Thank you for Read Square. It really helped make the program easier.
- Much lower numbers, but satisfying to have put on virtual programs that participants really liked and appreciated the efforts. We used some materials from CSLP, though not as much as past years - we came up with STEAM programs that worked virtually but might not have followed the theme. Altered original story time selections a little bit too.
- Folks need fun these days and SRP is fun.
- Parents noted that the takeaway kits were very helpful as they had all the pieces that were required for experiments/crafts.
- Henry set a goal to read 100 books before starting 2nd grade. I think he did it.
- Our story walk turned into a inter-generational, community wide activity. People from every stage of life participated in an activity that promoted literacy, exercise and spending time outdoors.
- Impossible to know how many adults and teens used our bingo sheets because they could pick up or print out at home. Children also had a bingo portion that we can't count, but the number above correlates to how many craft kits were picked up.
- We received heartfelt thanks from tween parents for having a weekly tween hangout.
- We have had many compliments about the kits we sent home with kids. We were not able to have programs at the library, but were glad we were able to reach out into our patrons homes to bring the programs to them!
- For the children's program participants who turned in reading logs, they completed 12,470 minutes of reading from mid-June through July. The library also received many messages of appreciation from the families for what we were able to offer.

- We saw very high engagement and a lot of community appreciation. We had so much positive feedback that we also received donations to continue the kit programming in the fall.
- The children loved receiving their individual packets.
- Best part- setting up a Private Group Facebook page and seeing all the photos posted- everyone enjoyed that!
- Our storybook walk was an engaging activity for many in our community during the pandemic. Since March many families have participated in the walk and continue to visit on a weekly basis. It has been a great addition to the library.
- This was the first year that we had Adult SRP. It was enthusiastically received with 41 participants. Due to this number we look forward to having Adult SRP next year!
- I am grateful that we were given the READsquared program which allowed us to proceed with the SRP, even in a pandemic. Thank you! :)
- Our families were very appreciative of our efforts to provide them with activities they could do as a family.
- Families were very appreciative of the SRP and said it was a bright spot during the pandemic.
- Positive input from parents. We shared and helped each other identify photos of lizards, snakes and insects, etc that we saw on our walks this summer.
- We actually had more families participate. I believe, partly, because they could pick it up and complete them on their schedule. Families are busy and kids are busier at summer camps than 15 years ago. For whatever reason, I'll rethinking my summer programs for the future. I steered away from accumulating minutes to have fun reading and doing the activities with your family.
- We actually had more participants this summer than we've ever had!
- Many parents told us their children were excited about the program and that getting their weekly activity bags and books from the library (via curbside) created a sense of "normalcy" in uncertain times. Ripping into a huge bag of books was akin to "Christmas" according to one mother.
- Parents reported that the kids loved the Pride Chains and other wearable rewards we used (beads, Brag Tags, amulets). Our top readers got competitive and our winner, in reverse of what normally happens, set an alarm clock the minute she got UP to help keep track of her reading time and jumped right into her books.
- The take home bags with a craft, Stem activity, small toys, stickers were very popular.
- This was our first year offering an adult program and it was very successful! I feel that Readsquared is user friendly.
- Randolph collaborated with Gorham Public Library to create our summer reading experience this year. It was a great partnership that I hope will continue.
- Although still much lower participation than usual, it went pretty well. For some adults, developing an online component for participation helped. Others appreciated being able to still pick up book logs & review sheets at the Library's

Curbside Pickup station. A few of the adults, who were new to our library and the SRP, were so tickled to win prizes.

- It was a crazy year but our patrons rolled with the changes! Got some great feedback from the kids who were most active. Take-home activities were definitely more popular than virtual programs.
- People were not very interested in anything online. Craft bags were big!
- One parent thanked us for the list of suggested activities included in the registration packet. Each child that completed 16 of the activities was awarded a prize. Examples -- have a picnic, perform a random act of kindness, write a letter to a friend or family member.
- The online Summer Reading Program enabled our library to offer something fun for our patrons to do when they could not come in to the library in person.
- This summer we were reading to support our local animal shelter, so those who participated were excited. The children loved the kits. I didn't have much success with readsquared.
- My library re-opened to the public at the beginning of June. While our attendance and participation was down this year, my patrons were thrilled that they were welcomed back to the building, and my circulation reflects that. The ReadSquared program helped immensely -- especially for those families that weren't quite ready to come in.
- I hope we don't have to do it again this way ever! Happy to provide online registration and logging for those who want it, but I need in person interaction. We did have many parents who expressed their gratitude for what we offered.
- We had a super successful program. People were very engaged and loved the mailings we sent to the kids. Each year I find the Summer Reading items provided dull and they don't work in engaging our community. The program needs an overhaul, IMO. We often go with the theme or a similar theme, but we never use the items on the disc. We have much better luck looking online and using Pinterest to come up with our ideas or ideas we can alter to work for us.
- "I would definitely include a Story Walk every year - the Loudon families LOVED it!
- For an 8 week program, with 24 'activities', I averaged 27 people per activity - I would say it was a successful summer (even if we were dealing with Covid)."
- We reached a lot of patrons by doing online storytimes.
- It was very challenging and required a lot of out of the box thinking. I believe it was very beneficial for our community members to have the consistency of the summer reading program during these times.
- The participants had a great summer this year despite the circumstances. We introduced brag tags as a reward incentive and they were well received.
- I found that this summer I reached far more readers and families than I would in a traditional summer reading program. Patrons went back to my virtual offerings, and continue to now, to view and leave comments.
- Hated all the virtual, no contact

- We had a core group of 3-4 children who were so dedicated to our summer program, I don't think they missed a single one of our weekly events. The summer program became very central to their routines and their social circle - even through Zoom.
- **Adults and teens counted together to reach 168 registered
- "Teen's: One family said they didn't know what they would do without our teen programs. Being a homeschool family without a lot of social outlets, the library makes a big difference.
- Children's: It was challenging not having our regular summer crowds and participation, but everyone that did come in was thankful for all that we offered. For almost every online activity that we did, at least one family checked in with a picture of their child participating in the program and a positive note. "
- We were so happy to be able to provide a fairy tale book to each family, including activities and art supplies. We felt it was important not to lean too heavily on online offerings, given the fact that the families were probably checked out of screen time after the unusual school year.
- We had a homeschool family who really embraced the Summer Program. The children tracked reading, did the activities, parents posted to social media, and their motivation spurred me on to deliver content week after week. They were so appreciative and encouraging. The thing that interested me was this: they were the only participants who were not involved with remote learning this Spring.
- The families really enjoyed the program-especially having arts and crafts kits.
- Families were eager to participate and persevered through the difficult circumstances
- The children loved the take home bags.
- A grandparent who was providing increased care giving mentioned the weekly video story hour was a "godsend." The children seemed to separate television from the video of our children's librarian. A child said to her "Miss Heather you're just for me and us kids here (Pittsfield)"
- It was an interesting unprecedented summer but we were still able to create a program for local children to participate in and enjoy.
- This year was especially challenging, but the participants we had were very appreciative that we still ran a program and the pivot to a digital program was successful overall.
- 75 children took packets to participate, although only 12 stayed with it. All families that participated were very positive and appreciative. The weekly crafts that went with my online story times (fairy tale theme) were very popular.
- One parent wrote about our tween/teen 'figure it out club', "the club run by the library was truly a bright spot" for her child. Another parent wrote about our weekly activity bags and reading suggestions, "our summer has been pretty special thanks in part to activities like this." Another parent wrote to us about the story walk, Her son is a struggling reader but he did the storywalk multiple times with his big brother. They would alternate, each reading a page. She said it was a "good way to improve his skills this summer."

- Because of the READsquared contract, I included adults into the program for the first time. I'm looking forward to using this platform in the future, and hope that we can grow program participation because of it. It has been difficult getting feedback from families, but adults using our curbside pickup service said that they enjoyed it.
- We had a huge amount of books read (more than twice as many as usual) because people had to turn in their logs before they could pick up more books. (which we selected for them)
- It was wonderful to touch base with our families online. We were also started offering curbside pick-up during the summer. Many families with children took advantage of this to get books for their children. One grandfather with grandkids across the country borrowed books from the library to read online to his grandchildren. Our librarian was very helpful in suggesting books for him to use. That was a very positive outgrowth of our COVID 19 summer!
- We saw many more teens who would not usually come to programs or Book Groups because they just wanted something "normal" to do and the library worked hard to provide that normalcy. We especially had feedback from tween parents that our library program reached some reluctant readers, which is always a win.
- We got lots of positive feedback from families who were without summer travel plans or other normal activities. Most found joy in the activities we offered.
- Throughout the course of the program one parent kept in touch each week. First, upon receiving the beads and tags prizes, "Thank you for the beads, my kids feel so special wearing them. And thank you for some semblance of normalcy!". Next while picking up their weekly "Craft-to-Go" she said, "They really enjoy coming each week and doing the crafts thank you!". We also started putting bookmarks in a book or two in the porch-pick up orders, the next message: "My daughter feels so special that someone put a bookmark in her book. Thank you to whichever librarian did that!". And finally, "Just so you know, both my kids (including my 10 year old) LOVE getting your little packages in their book bags. They feel so special, especially when they get a glittery or star bead. Thank you for all you do!". Although it was difficult to not physically be with children this year, these very small (and what I thought simple) token prizes and messages obviously made a huge impact.
- With this very different summer, we tried a very different kind of reading program. It was well received by the community, and maybe less motivational for young readers. It was also impossible to know the level of actual participation.
- I think having a program kept us somewhat connected to our families and individuals during a time when we couldn't directly interact with folks. Hard to completely evaluate since we were virtual.
- We had a child who couldn't normally come in due to physical disabilities. He was thrilled to be able to participate in our online story and craft hour. I would read the story and then explain the related craft. His mom was so happy for the in-home opportunity.

- People told us how much they liked the story walk--and the illustrations for the program were really great
- The children that did participate loved it and the parents were happy to have the activity kits and things to do with their children.
- This was my first SRP, and my first year working in this library. With our COVID-19 policies everything has been very challenging, but the SRP allowed me to connect with a family that I had not met yet. I will now be able to help them with future programming (like 1000 books before Kindergarten) and connect with them in a new way.