

ITEM NUMBER: 11.01
CHAPTER 11: Services
CODE: Policy

Title:	Storytime Policy
Effective Date:	11-24-86
Authorized By:	Library Board of Trustees
Date of Last Revision:	4-2023

Purpose

The Marathon County Public Library offers storytimes to children and families to further the library's mission of connecting people with information, ideas, and community. Standards for educational development, as provided by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, shall be used as guidelines in the planning and development of programs when warranted.

Storytime Policy

Storytimes are conducted for a variety of young audiences. Books and supplemental activities are geared for the targeted developmental age of participants.

Storytime staff are trained by a Youth Services Librarian, with follow-up training as needed. Books and supplemental activities are selected by trained library staff. MCPL has trained staff conduct storytimes and therefore does not have volunteers lead storytimes. Exceptions can be made when partnering with organizations on larger events and collaborations. All MCPL locations decide their own storytime schedules according to staff availability.

The purpose of storytime is to nurture the love of reading through various activities including books, storytelling, puppets, songs, music, and fingerplays. Books and other activities in storytime programs are intended to help young children develop early literacy that are the foundation for learning how to read. Storytimes will also educate caregivers on how to develop these skills. Caregivers are encouraged to stay with their children during storytime and be active participants.

Early literacy skills include:

- Phonological Awareness
- Letter Knowledge
- Vocabulary
- Background Knowledge
- Narrative Skills
- Print Concepts

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Special storytimes for schools, daycares, and other groups may be arranged according to staff availability. Larger storytime events with supplemental crafts and activities should be submitted as a unique event.