

President's Message

Dear Friends of the Boone County Library,

As most of our members know, Friends have been reading to day care children for many years. We have been leaving books at specific day school centers for a few years, to be read to children by staff or visitors.

This year we have added a new feature to this program, which I will discuss presently.

First, let me discuss the beginnings of this program. A member donated \$5000 to Friends. She agreed with the idea of purchasing books suited for reading to day care children. These books were duplicates of books in the library collection. Duplicates so as not to negatively impact library circulation, as many books were taken to day care facilities by the readers, both to read and to allow children to handle the books.

The reading program was expanded at certain facilities, such as OUR and Headstart, by providing fifty book mini-libraries at the facilities. These books were available for staff and visitors to read to the children and they were rotated (replaced) with another fifty books every month.

As of the start of the '08-'09 school year, Friends prepared all the books for non-automated circulation by affixing a pocket and card to every book. Just like in the old days, the book is checked out by the librarian by placing the borrower's name on the card and retaining the card for audit purposes. In this case the 'librarian' is the day care manager. We will continue to provide a fresh supply of books monthly.

The day care manager is responsible for checking out books, encouraging their return, and managing records. FOL will be responsible for replacement of lost books. This is a pilot project; if inventory shrinkage is too high, the pilot will end.

Too high shrinkage will be measured in terms of Boone County Library inventory shrinkage, the impact on FOL's regular services to the library, and consideration of the value of a book being in the hands of a tot.

The big picture objective is as always, to interest children in reading, thus making the productive adults. May we have good fortune.

George Cline,
President

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