

WiLS Grant Update: Kenosha Public Library, Mind & Body Program

Items purchased with grant funds:

Hula Hoops for movement

Dozen - 36 inch hoops \$70

Dozen - 24 inch hoops \$40

Hula Hoop carrying cases \$70

Clorox Free & Clear Wipes- safe for kids \$250

PYLE - Pro 10" 800W Portable Bluetooth PA System \$224

Samson - Microphone Boom Stand Kit \$53

PYLE - PylePro Universal Tripod Speaker Stand \$30

4 year Geek Squad Protection for the PA System \$25

2 handsfree headset Pyle microphones \$88

2 headset cases \$35

Outdoor utility wagon \$100

Li-Ion 3.7v Rechargeable batteries for the headset receivers \$16

AA Batteries for waist pack \$18

Bubble juice by the gallon- \$170 (this summer took a LOT of bubble juice)

Crayola Sidewalk chalk \$24

A very long high visibility extension cord to use with our bubble machine \$125



Our KPL Mind and Body project has changed a bit since its inception. Due to Covid-19, the city parks were closed for most of the summer and fall of 2020. The city pools did not open, all summer parks programs were cancelled, and chess in the park was cancelled. During the 2020-21 school year, KPL requested permission to do some dance parties called "Book Truck Boogie" at our after school bookmobile stops but were denied by the district because they didn't want any gathering or lingering of groups of people

We had also planned to put together 10-book kits in logo canvas bags, but the "bag of 10" requests offered while the library was closed dropped off drastically in the branches when we reopened in September and we ultimately decided it wasn't what patrons wanted. Families seemed interested in outdoor distanced activities they could do together and frequently requested Storytimes. The Kenosha Public Library

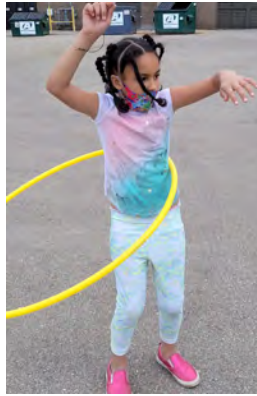
“Library of Things” collection also remained very popular this year. This collection includes large outdoor games and large motor skill activities that supported our 2020 Mind and Body Program summer reading program.

Things finally started moving in spring when we kicked off in April with a brand new afterschool “Music and Motion” program at one bookmobile stop with permission from the school principal. We had school families come out to join us at dismissal. The 8 stations of activities were spread out so families would not be close to each other. Bob the Fox (our mascot) even joined in the fun. Families were able to take turns using the bookmobile, sign up for library cards plus Moving and Grooving while waiting for their turn. We set up a monitor to play 'The Hula-Hoopin' Queen' read by Oprah Winfrey for a STORYTIME ONLINE. Then families could try hooping and challenge each other to see who was the best hula hooper. Here are highlights of the students moving and grooving.

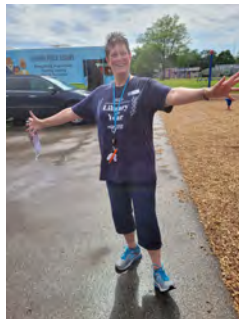


Oprah on screen reading the book, using the PYLE PA speaker for the families to hear the story before they tried the hula hoop challenge.





May's "Music and Motion" program: set up "workout" music for the families. A,B,Cs; Counting; and such...but then we got rained out.



post clean up and downburst...

The afterschool program was a success and increased both patron visitors and checkouts at this school stop which was on the verge of being cancelled for low numbers. We didn't document the numbers, but we also signed up students and siblings for the summer reading program at the May program. We will be resuming the "Music and Motion" program once monthly at this same school in the 2021-22 schoolyear. We are hoping to expand to another school with permission from the district, but if we can't get permission from the district may try using a city park next to a school.

June, July, August 2021

The summer programming was a great success for us! KPL offered three weekly outdoor "Park and Play" Storytime programs held over 9 weeks of summer. We targeted 3 Kenosha parks: one north side, one central, and one south side. The program always began with an

outdoor amplified Storytime using the Pyle PA system and headset mics. Storytime then transitioned into the play portion from 10:00am-11:00am. We scheduled the outreach department Book Truck or WiFi Van to be at the stop during the program for families to check out or return books. The Pyle PA speaker and wireless headset mics we purchased with the grant funds worked very well outside in the parks- we could not have done the program without them! We tested out a different style lapel mic, but it picked up too much “wind noise” and was not effective for outdoor storytime. This bluetooth speaker system itself can be charged in advance and then used without an extension cord. These programs were very well attended and numbers are reported below.

For some children, the PLAY portion after the story was a FUN reward for attending storytime with their family. To ensure everyone could enjoy Storytime undisrupted, the active portion of the Park & Play program did not start until storytime was over. At that time the bubble machine was turned on and the wild rumpus began. Over the summer, the hula hoops were used for target practice (throwing bean bags through them,) rolling down hills and chasing them, or running through them, for swirling on different body parts, for hula jump rope, and just about any other activity that could be imagined, including using them to build structures.

Additionally, during the play portion amplified music was always provided. Sometimes people would sing and dance along. It was a terrific way to share stories, music likes/dislikes and whole body dance with the community. Grandparents, parents, caregivers of all ages walked, biked, and drove to the parks for these programs. Schulte Park has a one year old splash pad, and on the very hot days the children came ready to splash after the Park & Play program was over. These programs made the parks destinations and brought out many families who had never attended a library storytime before!







Kenosha DREAM Playground (an accessible park)





Schulte Park (Kenosha's southside also has a Splashpad)



Roosevelt Park (a central Kenosha park with a Splashpad)

Typical Park & Play schedule:

8:30-9:00 Prep/pack vehicles with Park & Play supplies

- PA system and wireless mics
- Bubble machine & bubble juice
- Extension cord
- Sidewalk Chalk
- Hula Hoops
- Weekly Storytime book and accessories (1 program per week was repeated at all 3 parks)
- Wireless device for music- usually a staff phone or department iPad

- Outreach Dept required pre-trip vehicle safety check

9:00-9:30 Travel to the parks in Outreach vehicle and set up. A RED bin was always available for patrons to return materials. Materials traveled back to the library in these bins and were put on the AMH for processing and sorting.

9:30-10:00 Librarian led Storytime with a weekly theme

10:00-11:00 Storytime ended and the “play” began. Outreach staff would turn on the bubble machine, amplified music and disperse hula hoops. Some weeks may have extra “yard” games depending on the weekly theme. The Bookmobile was then open for business. The rules for social distancing on the bookmobiles was one family at a time- no mixing of family units.

Special note: KPL was required to get a City of Kenosha park use permit for *all* dates and times because of the use of “amplified” Storytime and music. In order to get the permit, we had to fill out a city parks use application describing the event and then attend a City Council subcommittee meeting to answer any questions the city parks department had about the plan. They were very cooperative and once or twice during the summer KPL did report garbage in one park and locked bathrooms in another park. The Parks department rectified those issues. I am confident in saying that this arrangement really benefits both the city and the library.

Park & Play Attendance at a glance:

WEEK	DATES	THEME	PETZKE PARK	SCHULTE PARK	ROOSEVELT PARK	WEEKLY TOTAL	AVERAGE PER WEEK
Week 1	June 15-17	Construction	18	34	35	87	29
Week 2	June 22-24	Under Water	39	46	23	108	36
Week 3	June 29-July 1	Red, White & Blue	-	41	31	72	36
Week 4	July 6-8	Bodies	28	43	27	98	33
Week 5	July 13-15	Food	-	62	-	62	62
Week 6	July 20-22	Sports	56	51	29	136	45
Week 7	July 27-29	The Beach	39	67	16	122	41
Week 8	Aug 3-5	Music & Dancing	42	53	7	102	34
Week 9	Aug 10-12	Animals	39	12	16	67	22
		SITE TOTAL	261	409	184		
		AVERAGE PER SITE	37	45	23		
		OVERALL PARK & PLAY STORYTIME TOTAL:	854				
		<i>"-" = canceled due to inclement weather</i>					

Items we already owned and used for the programs:

Bubble Machine - we used grant funds to purchase additional bubble juice and provided bubbles after each Park & Play program. The children loved it!

Some weekly themed large motor games borrowed from the youth department or KPL Library of Things such as Bean Bag Toss, Limbo, Giant Jenga.

Hopscotch Mat

Outreach services also attended a few one-time events such as a Father's Day Family Picnic at Hobbs Park, A Things That Go! celebration and brought along the hoops and music. In July we had two Book Truck Boogie dance parties with music and hoops in the Northside branch parking lot as part of our Nights at Northside summer family nights. Additionally, when weather predicts no rain or wind we sometimes bring the PA and hoops to the local Farmer's Market on Saturdays.



Respectfully Submitted,

Marcia Siehr, Head of Outreach Services

Lisa Langsdorf, Youth Outreach Librarian