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Summer Reading Program Adaptations

(From YSCON – state library youth services consultants from across the US)

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General:
- If schools have already been dismissed for the year, start the program earlier and run it longer.
- Push your start dates back, shorten your program, or offer it as a fall reading program.

Offering programs accessible to all (even those without internet access):
- SRP partnerships in grocery stores or other critical service areas
  - Leave postcards for registration with collection box in service areas
  - Completed cards collected every week
  - Trackers could be available onsite at services areas or mailed out to new registrants (or do it online, if you have the software)
  - Provide directions for parents on how to access reading materials
    - Include information about how to access your digital books online
    - Provide curbside pickup of books, if you are comfortable doing so
    - Consider providing a mail-based program this year
    - View Mitigating COVID-19 When Managing Paper-Based, Circulating, and Other Types of Collections, an IMLS webinar archived at https://www.imls.gov/webinars/mitigating-covid-19-when-managing-paper-based-circulating-and-other-types-collections
  - Completed trackers dropped at service areas or library
  - Completion certificates/prizes mailed to homes

- Summer Learning Home Challenges
  - Create kits available at critical service points containing projects for children
  - Summer learning challenge worksheets for middle school and teens.
    - Do the challenge and then have them teach three others, like their siblings, or others through social media. (Baking, building, teaching littles, creating music, etc.)

- Storytime over the radio! One Indiana library is partnering with a local radio station to offer an audio storytime over the radio that will reach families in areas without cell service.

- Storytime over Facebook Live or other platforms:
  - Many publishers are waiving copyright limitations during this time. These two article should help you decide what publishers are doing.

    - https://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/?detailStory=publishers-adapt-policies-to-help-educators-coronavirus-covid19

    - https://www.slj.com/?detailStory=penguin-random-house-oks-online-story-time-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic

Ways to get prizes to patrons:
- Could utilize e-gift cards for some prizes, especially if your library normally offers some sort of prize basket/drawing.
- If you've already purchased prizes and participation is too high to mail them all out, just promise to make all prizes available for pick-up once it's safe--even if that is a few months in the future. Or, organize prizes by family with name on outside of bag and deliver them curbside when patron pulls up (pending, of course, whether you are totally locked down/allowed to work in the building).

Programs and Presenters:
- Work with previously-hired presenters to see whether an online program for patrons-only might be an option. May be able to accomplish this with a Facebook group or YouTube live stream if the link is set to private/only available to those with link/in group--this would need to be investigated more fully.
- Provide do-at-home activities that complement the presentation

Additional Ideas:
- Partner with food distribution groups to provide pre-packaged kits and/or books.
- If you have a good relationship with your schools, once things calm a bit and principals/teachers have time to be more receptive to partnerships, have a discussion with them to see if they can help you reach their students virtually/more directly.
    - How are they reaching those without internet access?
    - They have a vested interest in staying in contact with their students and encouraging them to participate in summer reading, now more than ever.

Summer Library Program Grantee from the Missouri State Library:

- You can amend your grant to redistribute funds so a mail-based program can be provided.
- If you hired someone to provide an onsite presentation and they have now agreed to let it be virtual, they may be charging less. You can use these newly released funds for your project to hire additional presenters if you would like. The Missouri State Library is waiving its 3-presenter maximum for LSTA funding this year.
- If you didn't have presentations in your budget, you can add/move funds to provide virtual presentations
- The amount of funds spent on Library Materials per district can be increased to $1,500 with no local match required. These funds may also be used for digital books that ARE subscription based.

- Funds can be used to purchase technology and software so staff can create online content, provide virtual storytimes, etc.
- Funds can be used to purchase reader tracker/challenge software, if we are unable to get a statewide option quickly enough