



The Terryville Public Library Children's Department recognizes that each child is different and develops skills in motor, social, language, etc. areas at different rates. Children's temperaments may also determine their ability to focus, participate or interact. We acknowledge and respect each child's individual skills and create opportunities for their success in storytime.

Busy Bees (2-3 years old)
Mondays, 10:30 – 11:15 am

Description of age group:

Two- and three-year olds are experiencing a blossoming of language development and speech. They are also becoming aware of others and their feelings. Toddlers can be fiercely stubborn, chanting "no, no, no" or declaring their independence in other ways. Seemingly contradictory, they are also strongly attached to parents and frequently return to them for comfort and reassurance. Children are experimenting with their personal power and love doing things themselves. While they are developing their independence, routine still provides comfort to this age group. Like younger children, they like to know what is coming next. At this age, children are learning through play. Not only are they developing language and motor skills, they are learning important social skills such as sharing, empathy and friendship.

What a typical storytime includes:

Busy Bees typically follows a consistent routine each week. Children are welcomed to the room and can select place on the rug to sit on with their parent. We take attendance by calling each child up to place an object with their name on our bulletin board. We then do an opening song that children will become familiar with over the course of the session. After sitting, the leader will introduce a game that reinforces shapes or colors. Each child is given an opportunity to participate and "do it themselves". We will then do a fingerplay, read a story, bring children back to the circle with puppets or movement activities, and then read a second story. We may do another fingerplay or movement activity before we put mats away and move to the craft tables to complete an easy craft.

Why we include these elements:

- Understanding children's need for routine, our typical storytime provides consistency within sessions in the opening song, rhymes used, movement activities presented, and closing activity and song.
- We also recognize that children at this age have a short attention span. They are simply too busy exploring their world to remain attentive for long periods of time. We read

short stories that encourage participation, and frequently recall the children's focus by offering short movement activities and fingerplays.

- Children at this age also enjoy listening to and dancing to music, and we utilize music to encourage appreciation of different musical styles and awareness of rhythm.
- Children are comforted by being close to parents or caregivers, and we encourage children to experience storytime with an adult. Parents are encouraged to follow along with rhymes and dances to show their children that participation is fun.
- Craft time concludes the Busy Bees program. Crafts are simple and appropriate for 2 and 3 year olds to complete independently and will focus on shapes and colors.

What parents or caregivers can do to make storytime more effective:

Some children may have previous library experience, or parents may be bringing them for the first time. Getting comfortable with the library environment as well as the storytime environment can be difficult for children. Parents can assist in this transition by talking about the visit before coming to the library, bringing the child in at least fifteen minutes before the program starts, or visiting the library at other times during the week to familiarize children with the library and librarians.

It is important in maintaining routine to be on time to storytime. Late arrivals can also be a distraction to other children. If your child has a meltdown during storytime (not cause for embarrassment or unease), please take them out of the room for a few minutes to calm down. You are welcome to return when they are ready.

Especially at this age group it is difficult for children to focus on books. Help your child prepare for storytime by reading with them at home. They will quickly become familiar with the routine of reading and look forward to it. They will also enjoy being close to you during the reading.

Repeat rhymes at home with your children so that they are excited about participating at the library. Your librarian will provide you with a listing of the commonly used rhymes and movement activities at the beginning of the session.