



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.

**Night Owls (3, 4 & 5 years old)**  
**Tuesdays, 6:30 – 7:30 pm**

Description of age group:

This age group experiences dramatic changes in all areas of development. Verbal skills grow exponentially during this time as comprehension also grows. Children are able to follow complex directions and are able to perform many tasks independently. Socially, children begin to develop "friend" relationships and dramatic play becomes more realistic.

What a typical storytime includes:

Storytimes for this age group will integrate activities and games that reinforce early literacy skills such as: alphabet recognition, numbers and counting from 1-10, cognitive and personal-social awareness, and basic safety skills. Movement activities will continue to build children's gross and fine motor skills. An opening song will welcome children into the room. During attendance, children will place an object with their name on our bulletin board. An educational activity or game will follow that allows each child to demonstrate their knowledge and be praised for their efforts. Three themed stories will be read, with opportunities for participation or movement between each reading. Finally, a closing activity to develop social skills and reinforce early literacy skills will transition children to the craft time.

Why we include these elements:

- Parent or caregiver attendance at storytime is optional, although we ask parents to remain in the adjacent Children's Room. Some children, especially those on the younger side, may prefer their parents join them.
- Understanding children's need for structure, our typical storytime provides consistency within sessions in the songs used, movement activities presented, and closing activity and song.
- We recognize that children may have different experiences with books at this age. We read stories that encourage participation or comment, and recall the children's focus through talking about the books.
- 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.

- Craft time concludes the Night Owls program. Crafts are simple and appropriate for 3 - 5 year olds to complete independently.

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.

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 as a fun and enjoyable activity. They will also enjoy being close to you during your reading time. If you're unsure about which books are appropriate for your child's age, please ask a library staff member for suggestions.

After storytime, ask your child about their experience. There are many questions you can ask about storytime, including: What books did you read? Which book was your favorite? What happened in the story? Which song did you sing today? How does it go? etc... Reinforce skills that were emphasized during storytime at home throughout the week.