Curbside Kids' Activity Kits

North Manchester Public Library

Children

Curbside Kids' Activity Kits

May 11, 2020

Free

Byline

Heidi Lovett, Programming Coordinator, North Manchester (Ind.) Public Library

The Kids' Activity Kit program will help our library provide activities and promote learning while we are closed during the COVID-19 pandemic. There are currently six different categories of kits that have been cataloged and circulated in our community.

Each kit comes in a freezer or AV bag and is labeled with items that the patron can keep as well as items that need to be returned. There are craft kits available as well as kits that promote fine motor and important skills for early childhood education.

Activities include paint-by-numbers, watercolors, origami and duct tape crafts.

Advanced Planning

We have a building filled with supplies (including a makerspace). Why not share the wealth? The planning process involved walking around our workshop and makerspace and seeing what we could provide that was fun and easy to sanitize once returned.

Card games were vetoed because there are so many "parts" that can be easily lost. Paintbrushes and rolls of duct tape were ideal. Patrons would keep any paper instructions or finished projects and just send us back these materials that we could sanitize and quarantine, just like our book returns.

Marketing

Our marketing coordinator, Jeanna Hann, began promoting the activity kits on the day we began taking orders for curbside pickup. The kits are included in the online order form on our website. Patrons can also request them over the phone.

The kits were promoted on the North Manchester Public Library Facebook page, website and Instagram and instantly gained a lot of attention.

North Manchester Public Library is a small but innovative library. We like to think outside of the box and keep the attention of our community. Last month we gained a lot of momentum with our #NMPLundercover hashtag and Buzzfeed article. Every community deserves an energetic and fun library!

Budgeting

These kits contain only items and supplies we have in-house so no extra funding was required. NMPL would much rather lend its materials then have them sit unused in an empty library.

Day-of-event Activity

The kits are set up on a rack at the main circulation desk. All of our clerks received information on what they are and how they will be circulated so they are aware when patrons come for pickup.

Program Execution

As of right now, almost all of the kits are checked out or on hold. It's very exciting to see our materials that were previously purchased for programming still being utilized by our patrons even when it can't happen in the building.

Our director, Diane Randall, was very much in support of the activity kits to keep the children engaged with the library.

Advice

Keep it simple. Don't hand out a kit that has a ton of parts that need to be returned. If you can hand out kits in small grocery bags that need nothing returned, even better!

Did you try this program at your library? Share your experience using this form.

Supporting Materials

Document
kit_instructions.pdf
Document
kit_insert.pdf
Document
cat_origami_instruction.pdf
Document
dog_origami_instruction.pdf
Document
paint_by_numbers_1.pdf
Document

paint_by_numbers_2.pdf
Document
paint_by_numbers_3.pdf
Download this Program as a PDF

- Programming Librarian Facebook Group

Slideshow Images







Image


INTRODUCING
CURBSIDE KID'S
ACTIVITY KITS
THREADER KIT
5 different shaped cardboard threaders with string.


INTRODUCING
CURBSIDE KID'S
ACTIVITY KITS
PAINT-BY-NUMBER KIT
2 paint-by-numbers
Acrylic paint
Brushes
Example photo


INTRODUCING
CURBSIDE KID'S
ACTIVITY KITS
ORIGAMI KIT
4 sheets of origami paper and instructions for one origami project


INTRODUCING
CURBSIDE KID'S
ACTIVITY KITS
DUCT TAPE KIT
Two rolls of duct tape (colors and patterns vary), project instructions

Image



More Programs

Apr 21, 2020
Children (9 and under)+ | $
Image



Flower Petal Suncatchers

Audiences:

Children (9 and under)

Apr 27, 2020
Children (9 and under)+ | □□
Image



"I Spy" Windows

Audiences:

Children (9 and under)
Apr 30, 2020
Teens (13-16)+ | $$$
Image



To-Go Crafts

Audiences:

Teens (13-16)
Adults (21 and up)
Intergenerational
May 6, 2020
Children (9 and under)+ | $
Image



Dear Friend: Quarantine Pen Pal Campaign

Audiences:

Children (9 and under)
Teens (13-16)
Young Adult (17 - 20)
Intergenerational