"The Baby-Sitters Club" Birthday Party

Washington County Free Library, Fletcher Branch

Intergenerational

"The Baby-Sitters Club" Birthday Party

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$51-100

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Byline

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2026 marked 40 years of "The Baby-Sitters Club" (BSC), one of the most requested series in the juvenile book department, so to celebrate, we threw a birthday party! With themed activities, games, and snacks, young and old BSC fans enjoyed the program.

Advanced Planning

My goals for this program were to expand awareness of "The Baby-Sitters Club", encourage circulation of BSC materials and provide a space for BSC fans to gather and interact. I began planning three months in advance (our typical planning cycle). Myself and other staff from my branch were involved. Much of the setup was derived from my own "Baby-Sitters Club" collection and authentic materials from my mom from the 1980s. I did not encounter any unexpected challenges in planning this program, other than stopping myself from scheduling too many activities!

Marketing

I made quarter-sheet "party invites" with the program flyer on one side and additional party details on the flip side, and began distributing those at the Children's Ref desk, Adult Ref desk and outreach events beginning in September. The event was also posted on our kids social media page, our main WCFL social media page, our homeschool newsletter and a few Facebook groups.

I hung flyers in the Children's, Adult and Teens departments. I would say these methods were generally successful. I would have loved even more sign-ups, but that is always the case.

Budgeting

There were a few costs associated with this program, but it could also be done without any of them, aside from printing.

Food: veggie trays, pizza bagels, potato chips, ice cream.

Tableware/Supplies: I got a party set that included cups, plates, napkins, forks, spoons, knives, banners, and balloons. I also purchased small brown favor boxes.

Printing: Laminated posters and activity pages.

All other materials were already on hand at the library or were borrowed from my home.

Day-of-event Activity

I set up five tables for different activity stations, a poster gallery, a reading nook and a bedroom photo op. Setup was time consuming because I did it by myself, but if you have access to additional staff or volunteers to help, it could go much quicker. During the event itself, I had two staff members assisting.

Program Execution

Attendees were encouraged to come dressed in 80s attire, or like their favorite sitter from "The Baby-Sitters Club", and to bring their favorite BSC book or item for photo ops. Once they arrived, we checked them in at a registration table, and then set them free to participate at the various station tables at their own pace.

The stations included the following:

Membership Table: Choose a pin for your favorite baby-sitter, make your own miniature Guide to Babysitting.

Create Your Own Kid Kit Table: Decorate a favor box with stickers, glitter, etc., then choose items to put in your favor box (all favor items were leftover prizes from Summer Reading club or other events; I did not buy any new favors for this event).

Reading Nook and poster gallery: I created profile posters for each of the baby-sitters that could be read and photographed. I also had posters that attendees could write on. One with the question "What do you love about 'The Baby-Sitters Club'?" and the other "Who is your favorite baby-sitter and why?" I also had a selection of BSC books from our library collection on display for checkout, and my own childhood BSC books on display to look at, with comfy storytime chairs set up for reading.

Claudia's Corner Table: Create your own earrings, bracelet or beaded safety pin just like Claudia!

Baby-sitters Club Headquarters Photo Op/Museum Display: I set up a corner of the community room to look like Claudia's bedroom, where the Baby-sitters Club meets. Most of the props were genuine 1980s items, along with props representing

different aspects of the sitters.

Baby-sitters Favorite Snacks table: Try the favorite snacks of the baby-sitters! I had each snack labeled with a card about whose favorite snack it was. (For example: Veggies and Dip for Dawn).

Game Table: I created a "Match the baby-sitter to their job" puzzle, found a "schedule the sitters" logic puzzle for free on Teachers Pay Teachers, and set out my vintage "Baby-Sitters Club Mystery Game" board game to play.

After 30 minutes of self-paced activities, I called the crowd together at tables in the center of the room, and we played a group game where I showed a cover of one of the BSC books with a word in the title blurred out, and they had to choose the correct word. Those who answered ten or more questions correctly out of 15 got to choose an additional item from the favor table.

Then we served ice cream sundaes with strawberry syrup (baby-sitter Mary Anne's favorite!), sang Happy Birthday to the BSC and "blew out the candles" (a video of candles on YouTube). In any remaining time, they could continue with the activities around the room.

There were 25 in attendance. I received very positive feedback, especially from two moms who said they attended the event with their kids because they were such huge fans of the BSC growing up and are trying to get their kids into it. I believe I achieved my goals because walk-ins who did not know about the BSC left with books to check out.

Of the 24 books I had available for circulation, 15 of them circulated as a result of the party. Participants also talked, mingled, and connected over the BSC!

Advice

I would say lean even more into the adult crowd! I was trying to market this as an intergenerational program, and it technically was, but only insofar as some of the moms who attended were also fans of the books. But I know there are adult fans out there who would have had a blast if they didn't think it was just for kids. The nostalgia factor is real!

I would also say that you could scale this down from what I did — I'm just personally a mega BSC fan, so I was having way too much fun with it. Also, it does not have to be a birthday party. Keep it timeless and just call it a Baby-Sitters Club party. I kept all the materials and plan to do this again next year, and it'll just be a party since it will no longer be the 40th year of BSC.

Canva templates I created or adapted that can be used by other librarians:

- Main Party Materials: https://canva.link/1f5a0qpbt912fsx
- Party Promo Materials: https://canva.link/r0x7wzgyybt8tbs

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

Supporting Materials

Download this Program as a PDF

- Programming Librarian Facebook Group

Slideshow Images













Image





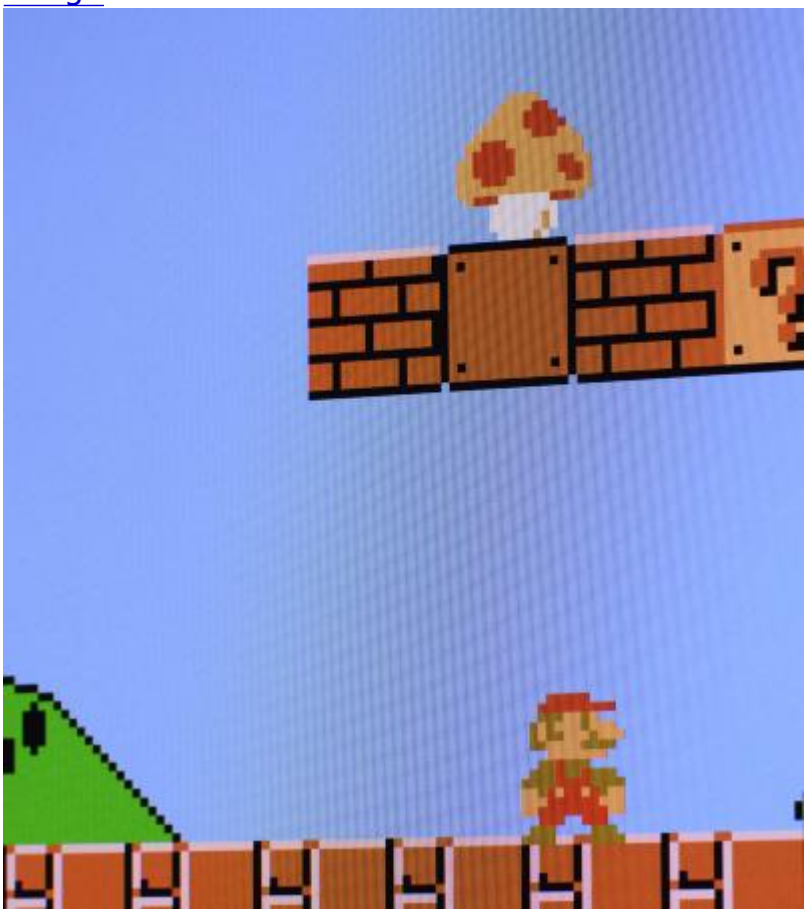




More Programs

Apr 3, 2023
Children (9 and under)+ | $$$

Image



Mario Day Party

Audiences:

Children (9 and under)
Tweens (10-12)
Teens (13-16)
Young Adult (17 - 20)
Feb 21, 2024
Teens (13-16)+ | $
Image



Percy Jackson Party

Audiences:

Teens (13-16)
Young Adult (17 - 20)
Mar 2, 2023
Teens (13-16)+ | $
Image



Mysterious Benedict Society Adventure

Audiences:

Teens (13-16)