

SARATOGA SPRINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWSLETTER



How do I know if a book is age-appropriate?

We receive a lot of questions regarding age-appropriate materials. We can help, but we would like to clarify that you know your children better than we do, and that decisions regarding what is or is not appropriate for a child should be made by those who know them best: their parents and/or guardians.

When we categorize a book, we don't just make the decision ourselves; we rely on the publishers, the Library of Congress, WorldCat.org, and other resources to check the level and location of materials. To find out the intended audience (as indicated by the publisher), you can search the title in our catalog and scroll down to the "Audience Note". Here's an example using the classic book "Goodnight Moon":



Local cover image

Content type: still image

Audience: Preschool

ISBN: 9780060775858 | 0060775858 | 006020706X : HRD

Goodnight moon / Margaret Wise Brown

By: Brown, Margaret Wise, 1910-1952 [Author.]

Contributor(s): Hurd, Clement, 1908-1988 [Illustrator.]

Material type: Text

Publisher: New York : Harper Collins Publishers, 1997, c1947

Edition: Revised edition

Description: 1 volume (unpaged) : color illustrations ; 23 x 27 cm

Media type: unmediated

Carrier type: volume

Board Books: These are published for several ages, including babies, toddlers, and early elementary - the collection contains an age range of titles for 0-8. The section's name simply refers to the format of the books. However, despite their sturdy appearance, this format does not hold up well to repeated use. Please help us keep our collection clean by preventing your children from chewing on them or taking them in the bathroom during toilet training!

Picture Books: These are published for all ages including toddlers, early elementary, late elementary, middle school, and even some adult age reading levels. For those kids who don't get into a regular chapter book, or who just need a mental break, picture books are a great resource for reading out loud as a family activity or by themselves.

Early Readers: These are published for toddlers to third grade students. This year, we have started to improve the organization of these early readers to make the levels more consistent; you can read more about that on page three.

Beginning Juvenile: These titles are published for 5-9 year olds. The beginning classification in our library is typically materials for Kindergarten to 3rd or 4th grades. The break between 3rd and 4th grade will often come down to what age the rest of the series was published for and the accelerated reading level.

Juvenile: This section is typically 4th to 6th grade materials. These readers are the longer chapter books that sometimes reach several hundred pages. However, there are also hi-lo readers in the collection; these are high-interest, low-reading level materials for children who aren't interested in picking up a huge book.

Young Adult: This collection contains materials published for ages 12-17. This means the content varies greatly and you may want to take special care evaluating the content for your child.

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM-8:00 PM

Friday-Saturday 10:00 AM-4:00 PM



CONTACT US

801-766-6513 saratogaspringscity.com/library

Instagram & Facebook: Saratoga Springs Public Library

ask me
anything!*

* LIBRARY RELATED

Questions? Send them to
library@saratogaspringscity.com
to be answered in a future
newsletter.

Q: Why does the library take a break from programming in August? A whole month off of work seems a little excessive.

A: Well, we don't actually take vacation during every programming break. (Another librarian myth debunked!)

Did you know summer is the busiest time in the library? Our number of visitors this summer nearly doubled. We provide a Summer Reading Program to over 1,500 residents in addition to many of our other regular programs. The Summer Reading Program has the highest participation rate of any program we run at the library – it takes *all* of our staff, plus a minimum of 25 weekly volunteer hours, to make it successful. Once we're done with the reading program, there's lots of data that needs to be collected and sorted for State and Federal reporting – and that takes some time. In addition to the data and reporting, we take time without programs to:

- Attend training and professional development to stay current on needed skills
- Plan and prepare for the next season's programs
- Rotate and organize supplies between the Library and storage – this takes several days
- Cover staff absences and vacation time
- Take care of social media, the website, and other customer-facing communication tools

SARATOGA SPRINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY



Did you participate in the 2023 Summer Reading Program? We'd love your feedback!



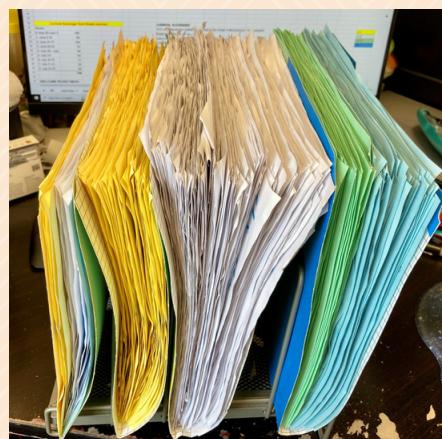
Use the QR code above or find the link to the survey on our website: saratogaspringscity.com/library

2023 SUMMER READING CHALLENGE BY THE NUMBERS

It was our largest participation year yet!

- * Total number of all ages that signed up: 1564
- * Total number of all ages that picked up their tracking sheets: 1471
- * Total number of all ages that completed the program: 451
- * Total number of weekly prizes we handed out for all ages: over 4500
- * Number of hours volunteered for summer reading: 287

The photo shows all of the tracking sheets that were returned - each one is a person that completed our reading challenge. We've already begun planning next year's summer adventure, but we'd love your input as we keep working on it! If you haven't yet completed the survey, we invite you to take a few moments to share your thoughts.



Your Saratoga Springs library by the numbers

The years are shown as fiscal years, which go from July to June (ie., July '22 to June '23).

Name	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Visitors	104,790	115,188	82,482	60,782	65,266	99,281
Items Circulated	196,607	234,969	222,523	288,274	284,327	367,019
Internet Terminals	33	33	33	32	32	32*
Number of Internet Terminal Users	2,521	2,997	1,893	200	850	1,219
Number of Wi-Fi Users	1,176	13,841	10,587	2,140*	1,605	1,283
Number of Programs	440	530	376	153	414	749
Number of Program Attendees	22,858	16,670	10,069	10,289	13,498	21,173
Number of Registered Users	5,734	6,288	6,506	6,602	7,525	8,874
Proctored Exams	198	138	97	1	4	1
Reference Transactions	15,052	13,894	8,837	1,482*	5,401	5,660

* The number of Internet Terminals includes iPads and Chromebooks that we use for programming.

* Wi-Fi counting definition changed at the federal level in 2021 from every user every hour, to every user once a day.

* We can't count reference questions well anymore with our increased workloads.

HOW-TO SECTION

Have you forgotten your password?

1. Visit saratogaspringscity.com/library.
2. Click on the link for 'Card Catalog & Log Into Your Account'
3. Click on 'Forgot Your Password'.
4. Enter your card number and email address to have a password reset link sent to you. (*If you have multiple accounts with the same email address, you will have to enter your card number to generate the password reset link.*)

When you reset your password here, you will need to use that new password to sign in to your digital resources as well.



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MOON PARTY

Get ready to learn, be amazed, and explore!

SEPTEMBER 23, 2023
7:00 PM TO 9:00 PM
NEPTUNE PARK
454 W 400 N
SARATOGA SPRINGS

Check out awesome telescopes and fun science activities for all ages.






SARATOGA SPRINGS
PUBLIC LIBRARY
WILL BE CLOSED

September 4th
FOR
LABOR DAY



SARATOGA SPRINGS
PUBLIC LIBRARY
WILL BE CLOSING
AT 5:00 PM
OCTOBER 31ST

**HAPPY
HALLOWEEN!**



SARATOGA SPRINGS
PUBLIC LIBRARY
WILL BE CLOSED

**OCTOBER
9TH**

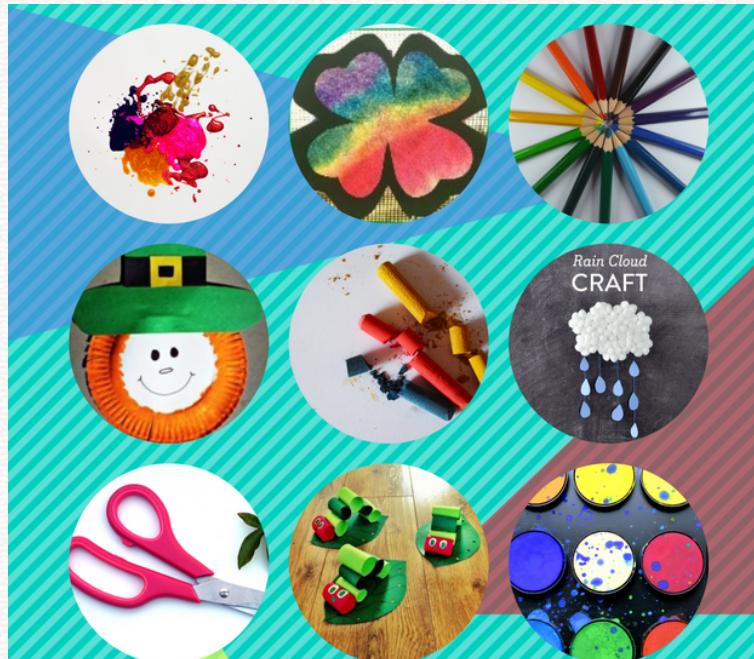
IN HONOR OF
**INDIGENOUS
PEOPLES DAY**
AND
COLUMBUS DAY

No in-person
programs held
Sept. 5
Oct. 10
Oct. 19, 20, or 23

We do not hold programming
the day after a closure or during
extended school breaks.

All programming information,
including dates and registration
requirements, can be found on
our website:

saratogaspringscity.com/library



CRAFTERNOONS

JOIN US! | WEDNESDAYS 4:00 - 6:30 PM

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KIDS CLUB

SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING ARTS MATHEMATICS

For ages 8-12
Thursdays * 4:00 to 5:00 PM

September Classes

14th: Catapults
21st: Binary Code

October Classes

5th: Coffee Filter Flowers
12th: Paper Circuits

November Classes

2nd: Junk Bots
9th: Owl Pellets
16th: Codes

There are no STEAM classes between Thanksgiving and the first week of January.

Registration Required



LET'S GET ARTSY!

Tuesdays from 4:00 to 4:30 PM

Registration required

Pixel Art Ages 5-7 Sept 12 Ages 8-11 Sept 19	Oil Pastels Ages 5-7 Sept 26 Ages 8-11 Oct 3	Little Monsters Ages 5-7 Oct 17 Ages 8-11 Oct 24	Air Dry Clay Ages 5-7 Nov 7 Ages 8-11 Nov 14
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S.T.E.A.M. AT HOME

The importance of handwashing

Teach children in the home how important it is to wash their hands.



You'll need:

2 shallow dishes Pepper
Dish soap Water



1. Fill one of the bowls with a thin layer of soap and the other with water. Sprinkle pepper on the water and explain that the pepper represents germs.
2. Have a child dip their finger in the water and pepper bowl. Point out that the pepper doesn't move, but does stick to the finger.
3. Have the child dip the same finger in the soap and notice how the pepper comes off of the finger.
4. Now have the child dip the soap-coated finger in the water and pepper, and watch the germs run away from the soap!



Early literacy at home

Literacy isn't just reading!



What is letter awareness, and why is it important ?

Knowing that letters are different from each other, knowing letter names and sounds, and recognizing letters everywhere are the basics of letter awareness.

To read words, children have to understand that a word is made up of individual letters.



Remember: there is no app to replace your lap!

What Can You Do to Help Build This Skill?

- ~ Look at and talk about different shapes (*letters are based on shapes*)
- ~ Play “same and different” type games
- ~ Look at “I Spy” type books
- ~ Notice different types of letters (“a” vs “A”) on signs and in books
- ~ Read ABC books
- ~ Talk about and draw the letters of a child’s own name