Getting Started with Virtual Storytimes

Renee Grassi, Youth Services Manager
Dakota County Library (Minnesota)

About Renee

Youth Services Manager, Dakota County Library

- Chicago native, Minnesota transplant
- Graduate of Dominican University GSLIS Program
- 13 years in public libraries
- Storytimer for 12 years
- Auntie to 6 nieces and nephews
- Cat Mama to Sanchez, Gus, and Fibonacci

Learn more at reneegrassi.com

Agenda

- Goals & Outcomes
- Virtual Storytime Planning
  - Research
  - Virtual Platforms
  - Technology Tools
  - Writing a Script
  - Book Selection
  - Copyright & Permissions
- Literacy-Rich Virtual Environments
- Supporting Accessibility & Inclusion
- Finding Your Virtual Storytime Voice
- Engaging Your Audience
- Promotion & Marketing
- Evaluation & Statistics
- Final Thoughts and Q&A

photo source: https://pixabay.com/illustrations/target-board-school-learn-font-1506091/

Why does YOUR library want to provide Virtual Storytime? What are your desired outcomes and goals?

Type your answer in the chat box.

Goals & Outcomes

- Virtual Services
- Early Literacy
- School Readiness
- Library Advocacy
- Build Audience
- Accessibility
- Representation
- Social/Emotional Learning
- Connection

photo source: https://coolprogeny.com/2020/03/operation-storytime/

Virtual Storytime Planning: Do Your Research

Watch...

photo source: https://pixabay.com/photos/laptop-woman-education-study-young-3087585/

Virtual Storytime Planning: Do Your Research

Listen for...

photo source: https://pixabay.com/photos/adult-couple-woman-man-fun-3086304/

Virtual Storytime Planning: Do Your Research

Reflect on...

photo source: https://pixabay.com/photos/female-diary-journal-write-865110/

Virtual Storytime Planning: Choose A Platform

Virtual Storytime Planning: Choose A Platform

Live?

photo source: https://pixabay.com/photos/camera-old-vintage-film-lens-2583100/

or
Recorded?

photo source: https://pixabay.com/photos/tv-camera-video-movie-cinema-3753021/

Virtual Storytime Planning: Technology Tools

Tech Checklist

- ❏ Voice Amplification
- ❏ Video Recording Device
- ❏ Device Tripod
- ❏ Lighting
- ❏ Video Editing Software
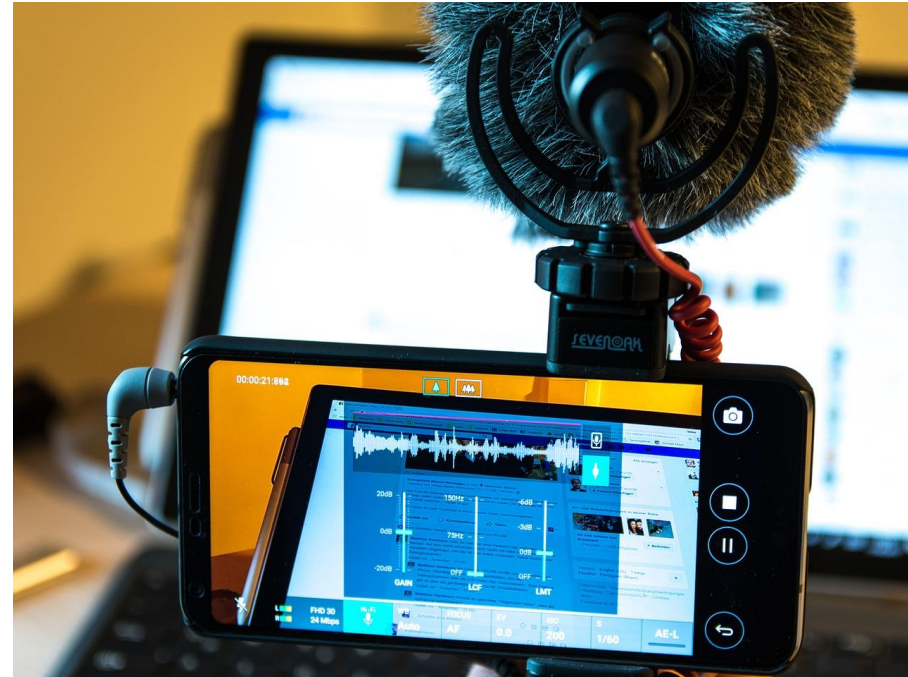- ❏ Audio Editing Software
- ❏ File Sharing
- ❏ File Storage

photo source: https://pixabay.com/photos/smartphone-mobile-reporting-video-2758475/

Virtual Storytime Planning: Technology Tools

Optional

- ❏ Book Display Holder
- ❏ Music Stand
- ❏ Bluetooth Speaker
- ❏ Bluetooth Remote Control
- ❏ Ring Light
- ❏ Reflective Umbrella
- ❏ Intro Slide with Logo

photo source: Amazon

Virtual Storytime Planning: Technology Tools

Renee's Setup
- ❏ Google Drive for file storage
- ❏ Facebook Live & Recordings
- ❏ iPad for video and mic
- ❏ iPhone/bluetooth speaker for music
- ❏ Music stand for books
- ❏ Program notes
  - ❏ storytime outline
  - ❏ book information
  - ❏ song and rhyme lyrics

If you presented a virtual storytime, what technology tips do YOU recommend?

Type your answer in the chat box.

Virtual Storytime Planning: Write a Script

To theme or not to theme…

...that is the question.

photo source: https://pixabay.com/photos/laptop-computer-browser-research-2562325/

Virtual Storytime Planning: Write a Script

➢ Welcome the audience

➢ Introduce yourself

➢ Explain what to expect

➢ Front load longer stories

➢ Plan transitions

➢ Select songs and activities

➢ Plan questions for audience

➢ Practice inclusive language

➢ Share information about your library services

➢ Prepare closing and sign off

photo source: https://pixabay.com/photos/laptop-computer-browser-research-2562325/

Virtual Storytime Planning: Select Your Books

REPRESENTATION: Books as windows, mirrors & sliding glass doors.

- Color contrast with text & images
- Matte or shiny pages
- Clear or cluttered illustrations
- Consistent layout throughout
- Opportunities for using voices
- Stories for your target age group

WE NEED diverse BOOKS

photo source: www.diversebooks.org

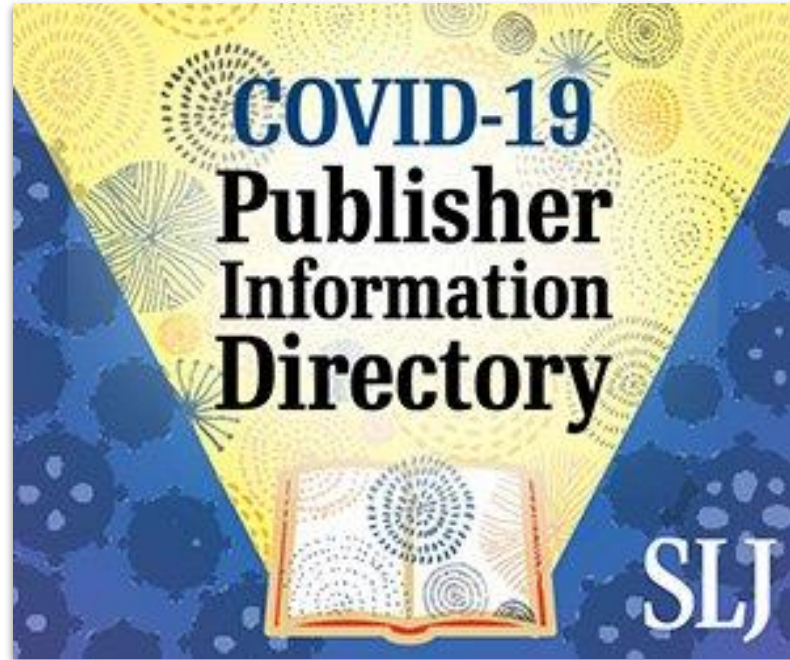What do YOU think makes a good Virtual Storytime book? What do YOU look for?

Type your ideas in the chat box.

Virtual Storytime Planning: Copyright & Permissions

Brass Tacks

➔ You will hear conflicting information on this.

➔ Your organization is ultimately the responsible party for what virtual content you post online. This includes books, songs and rhymes.

➔ ALSC and School Library Journal have provided guidance and information on copyright & permissions.

➔ Do your research.

Virtual Storytime Planning: Copyright & Permissions

SLJ COVID-19 Publisher Directory

https://docs.google.com/document/d/113E-0ffElTRoI7zsvk6gjxrAgepeD-JGAD55-ftSfrc/edit

Virtual Storytime Planning: Copyright & Permissions

Copyright Considerations from ALSC
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lNHgTd9wlJvfMKhJXqBpDMmLw-tMrLNzLhZIz2jb6Mo/edit

Virtual Storytime Planning: Copyright & Permissions

Additional Info

➔ If content is in the public domain, it's okay to use it.

➔ Keep good records in case of questions.

➔ Develop a plan for expiring and removing content.

➔ If you host virtual storytimes presented by outside vendors, confirm they have permissions to present content.

➔ If you work with community partners, they may lean on your guidance and advice on this.

➔ Check with your manager, library director, library legal representation, and/or county attorney for guidance.

Literacy-Rich Virtual Environments

Photo source: http://everychildreadytoread.org/

Literacy-Rich Virtual Environments
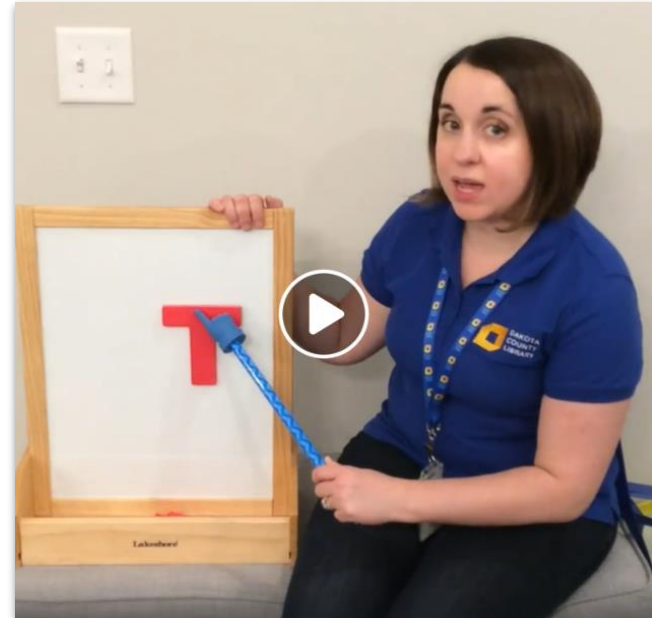
photo sources: Dakota County Library

Literacy-Rich Virtual Environments

Photo source: https://www.slj.com/?detailStory=Virtual-Storytime-and-Circle-Time-15-Tips-For-Making-a-Dynamic-Video-coronavirus-COVID19-librarians-early-learning

Literacy-Rich Virtual Environments

Photo source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nlfo-rrv8XU Ukulele Storytime YouTube Channel

What ideas do YOU have to support early literacy during virtual storytime?

Type your answer in the chat box.

Accessibility for Kids with Disabilities and for All

Visuals
- ○ Text and Image Size
- ○ Color Contrast
- ○ Use of Props
- ○ Lighting & Stability

Audio
- ○ Clarity of speech
- ○ Pacing
- ○ Background noise

Presentation
- ○ Structure and Organization
- ○ Predictability
- ○ Allow Processing Time
- ○ ASL Interpretation
- ○ Captioning & Song Lyrics

photo source: https://pixabay.com/illustrations/accessibility-disability-1682903/

Accessibility for Kids with Disabilities

Photo source: Dakota County Library

Photo source: Dakota County Library

Accessibility for Kids with Disabilities

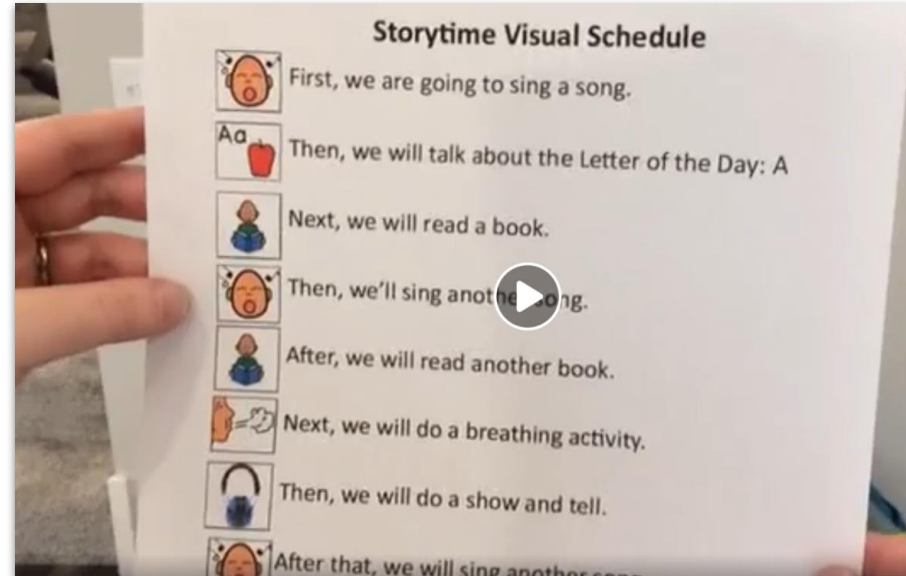Photo source: Dakota County Library

Storytime Visual Schedule

First, we are going to sing a song.

Then, we will talk about the Letter of the Day: A

Next, we will read a book.

Then, we'll sing another song.

After, we will read another book.

Next, we will do a breathing activity.

Then, we will do a show and tell.

After that, we will sing another song.

Photo source: Dakota County Library

Finding Your Virtual Storytime Voice

photo sources: Dakota County Library

**Dakota County Library
Virtual Storytime Presenters**

Engaging a Virtual Audience

photo sources: Renee Grassi

Engaging a Virtual Audience

photo sources: Renee Grassi

Promotion & Marketing

Library Promotional Channels

- ○ Website
- ○ Virtual Programs Calendar
- ○ Customer Emails
- ○ E-newsletters
- ○ Digital Signs
- ○ Press Release
- ○ Social Media Posts & Ads
  - ■ Facebook
  - ■ Twitter
  - ■ Instagram
  - ■ YouTube
  - ■ Next Door

Dakota County Library
24 mins · 🌐

Supporting early literacy and reading readiness is important, especially while schools are closed. That's why starting Friday, March 20 through Friday, May 1, Dakota County Library will be offering Virtual Storytimes through Facebook Live.

Join us every Mon. Wed. & Fri. at 9:30 AM and connect with your friendly librarians for a fun 20-minute storytime with books, rhymes and songs. You can join the live-stream from your desktop or mobile on an iOS or Android device. Children ages 3 and up with their families are welcome. For more information and instructions on Facebook livestreaming, visit tinyurl.com/dclvirtual

Photo source: Dakota County Library

Promotion & Marketing

Internal Communication
- All Staff Emails
- Talking Points or FAQs
- Community Partner Email Template

External Communication
- Teachers & Schools
- Daycares
- Head Starts & Other Early Childhood Providers
- Local Parks/Recreation or Park Districts
- Public Health or Social Services Departments
- Homeschool Families
- Library Consortia
- Chamber of Commerce
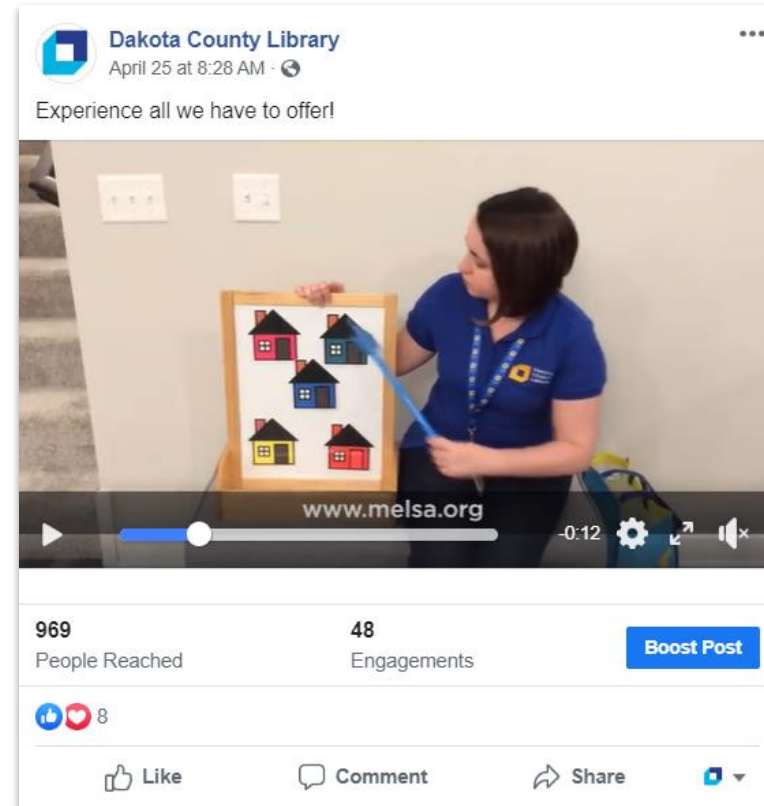- Friends of the Library or Library Foundation

Photo source: Dakota County Library and MELSA

Evaluation & Statistics

- What statistics does your platform automatically generate?
- What statistics does your organization compile monthly/yearly?
- What requirements does your State Library Association have for virtual programs?
- How can you advocate for the impact of virtual storytime at your organization with new/different statistical data?
- Who will gather this data? How often? To whom?

photo source: https://pixabay.com/photos/financial-analytics-blur-business-2860753/

After watching, please complete our short program survey to help us plan future Dakota County Library programs: https://bit.ly/LibraryProgramSurvey

Renee's Top Ten Virtual Storytime Tips

photo source: Renee Grassi

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Renee's Top Ten Virtual Storytime Tips

1. Record yourself and watch
2. Do a full-out run-thru

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Renee's Top Ten Virtual Storytime Tips

1. Record yourself and watch
2. Do a full-out run-thru
3. Mark it

photo source: Renee Grassi

Renee's Top Ten Virtual Storytime Tips

1. Record yourself and watch
2. Do a full-out run-thru
3. Mark it
4. Create a storytime setlist

photo source: Renee Grassi

Renee's Top Ten Virtual Storytime Tips

1. Record yourself and watch
2. Do a full-out run-thru
3. Mark it
4. Create a storytime setlist
5. Smile with your eyes

photo source: Renee Grassi

Renee's Top Ten Virtual Storytime Tips

1. Record yourself and watch
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4. Create a storytime setlist
5. Smile with your eyes
6. Find community partners

photo source: Renee Grassi

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5. Smile with your eyes
6. Find community partners
7. Develop routines

photo source: Renee Grassi

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8. Talk about your mistakes

photo source: Renee Grassi

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photo source: Renee Grassi

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8. Talk about your mistakes
9. Don't strive for perfection
10. Aim for connection

photo source: Renee Grassi

BRAND NEW! http://www.ala.org/alsc/virtual-storytime-services-resource-guide

Thank you!
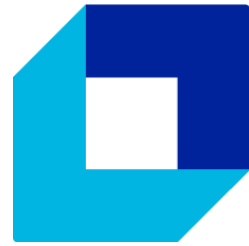
Renee Grassi, Dakota County Library
renee.grassi@co.dakota.mn.us
Twitter @MissReneeDomain