

# Develop Your Inner Superhero

## Power Children's Programming

Marge Loch-Wouters

For clickable links to blogs/websites mentioned in the presentation, please visit my *Tiny Tips for Library Fun* blog post for November 18, 2014 <http://tinytipsforlibraryfun.blogspot.com>

### Program Types

#### ACTIVE programs

- Most traditional format
- Hosted/led by staff (or sometimes volunteers)
- Located on-site or off-site (outreach)
- Occurs at a specific time and place
- Encourages check-out through book displays/talking and drawing kids into the library

*Examples of these types of programs:*

**Storytimes; Preschool Dance Party; Afterschool Workshops; Lego program; performance by singer/storyteller/etc.**

#### DO-IT-YOURSELF - DIY programs

- Kids provide all the energy/creativity/action
- Can be a monthly, seasonal or a one-time offering
- Has activities/materials that may be presented at a variety of levels, from pre-K through teen
- Can be available anytime the library is open
- Can be available at a specific time slot
- Unsupervised by staff except at a very superficial level
- Encourages check-out through book displays and drawing kids into the library

*Examples of these types of programs*

**Story extension stations; window painting program; art creation (material available for two hours)**

#### STEALTH (or Passive) Programs

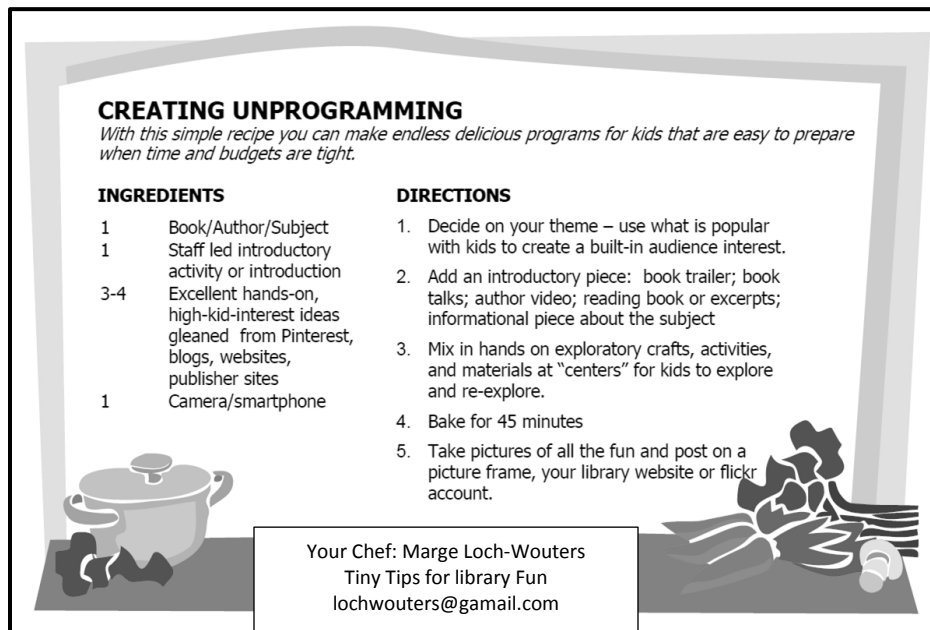
You are probably more familiar with these described as “passive” programs. I refer to them as stealth because they are a marvelously sneaky way to get children into the library for return visits.

- Programs that take some initial planning and set-up but, once in place, are able to be administered easily with little ongoing time devoted to them.
- Encourage return visits to the library without an active program
- Families & youth provide the “power” and activity on their own time at home
- Encourages check-out through reading incentives and drawing kids into the library

*Examples of these types of programs:*

**1000 Books Before Kindergarten; Smart Cookie Club; Free-quent Reading Club; Scavenger Hunts**

# Unprogramming Recipe



**CREATING UNPROGRAMMING**  
*With this simple recipe you can make endless delicious programs for kids that are easy to prepare when time and budgets are tight.*

**INGREDIENTS**

1	Book/Author/Subject
1	Staff led introductory activity or introduction
3-4	Excellent hands-on, high-kid-interest ideas gleaned from Pinterest, blogs, websites, publisher sites
1	Camera/smartphone

**DIRECTIONS**

1. Decide on your theme – use what is popular with kids to create a built-in audience interest.
2. Add an introductory piece: book trailer; book talks; author video; reading book or excerpts; informational piece about the subject
3. Mix in hands on exploratory crafts, activities, and materials at “centers” for kids to explore and re-explore.
4. Bake for 45 minutes
5. Take pictures of all the fun and post on a picture frame, your library website or flickr account.

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## Resources

Pinterest: <http://pinterest.com/lochwouters/> (boards on different program types and samples)

Wimp Yourself: <http://www.wimpkidclub.co.uk/wimp-yourself/>

Pixabay (free images) <http://pixabay.com/>

Astronomy Picture of the Day <http://apod.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html>

Struckmeyer, Amanda Moss. *DIY Programming and Book Displays: How to Stretch Your Programming without Stretching Your Budget and Staff*. Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited, 2010.

## A \*Few \* Favorite Programming Blogs:

Show Me Librarian <http://showmelibrarian.blogspot.com/>

Abby the Librarian <http://www.abbythelibrarian.com/>

ALSC Blog <http://www.alsc.ala.org/blog/>

Bryce Don't Play <http://brycedontplay.blogspot.com/>

Jbrary <http://jbrary.com/> (great resource list of blogs to explore!)

Hafuboti <http://hafuboti.com/>

Mel's Desk <http://melissa.depperfamily.net/blog/> (great resource list of blogs to explore!)

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