

35 - Powering Up through Your Library

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Purpose: The purpose of the transcripts is to provide readers and listeners with a written version of each episode of the UAGC Center for Early Childhood Education's Early Childhood Chatter Podcast so they can follow along with the audio content. www.uagc.edu/ece-center/chatter-podcast

Audience: Current Active & Enrolled Students

Episode Transcript

Host Dr. Shipley Speaker: Hello everyone and welcome to Early Childhood Chatter with Dr. Shipley and Dr. Heald. We will upload a new episode every other week on Wednesdays.

Host Dr. Heald Speaker: Twice a month, we will come to you with a 10-minute professional development that you can quickly listen to for new ideas to try.

Don't forget to subscribe to the podcast for notifications about future episodes.

Today we have Sally Nye with us. She is an elementary librarian from the Burlington Area School District.

She has also owned a preschool and worked for public libraries. Sally, we are super excited to have you here today, our very first librarian to be on the show.

Sally Nye Speaker: Well, hello, it's great to be here today.

Dr. Tisha Shipley Speaker: Hi, Sally. So, the title of your session is *Powering Up Through Your Library.* When I think about this, I think back to when I was teaching kindergarten and I just think, how could I have used my librarian more? She probably had such cool things.

So why is this topic near and dear to your heart?

Sally Nye Speaker: I just, I have been both a teacher and a librarian now and I realized when I was a teacher, I didn't take advantage of the librarians that were in my vicinity as well and how crazy that was. I just look at teachers, especially during the pandemic and the last couple years here and how they are so stressed out and so overworked and trying to do everything. And I think it's a really good time for teachers to really think about, who are my advocates? Who are my partners? And really think about people that can help them out in their classrooms to make it even better, to really become those professionals.

Dr. Stephanie Heald Speaker: Sally, I will tell you, I had such a great relationship with Ms. Hammer, who was our school librarian. And I just, she was excited about programs and materials that she had and resources that she had to share that it made me excited as a classroom teacher. So, can you tell us about some of the resources and some of maybe the programs that you have available to share at your school library?

Sally Nye Speaker: Absolutely.

It started this summer. I really believe in summer reading, especially this summer was especially long for our district. And I just feel like kids are not finishing books as they need to.

So, partnering up with the public library was excellent. And people forget about the public librarians being there as well and having just excellent resources. So, this summer, we were able to have an author visit, a virtual author visit with Asia Citro, who did the Zoe and Sassafras series.

If you don't know that series, it's excellent. She really incorporates science into her books. So, if you're looking for some fun activities, just finding those Zoe and Sassafras books is excellent.

We did some science activities with the kids as well. And we're going to have a Harry Potter birthday party and fun events to get kids excited about reading. Throughout the school year, I love to have different maker events where kids can read books and do maker activities extended off of that.

I do Battle of the Books where kids read books and have competitions to see who knows those books better. And we just have a lot of fun in the library with other virtual author visits and etc.

Dr. Tisha Shipley Speaker: Okay, so those sound amazing.

And I have to do a plug really quick. Dr. Heald and I had R.L. Stine on our podcast. I don't know if you know that.

Sally Nye Speaker: Oh, excellent, that's so much fun.

Dr. Tisha Shipley Speaker: Yeah, it was so cool. And it was really fun to learn about him and Patrick Carman.

They were both on here. So, if you haven't listened to that episode, it's a few episodes ago. And Sally, I would tell you to go listen to it too, because you're doing some cool stuff.

I love those author, those virtual author visits. Those are so cool.

Sally Nye Speaker: That has been one perk of the pandemic, just getting more access to authors, because being an author to come to a district is very expensive.

And so, it's much easier to get the virtual visits to come. And so that's really been a perk, if there are any during this time.

Dr. Tisha Shipley Speaker: Most definitely.

I love that you're doing that. So, what are some of the things that you do with your ECE teachers to help them out with their teaching? Do they partner with you? Do they ask for resources? What do they do?

Sally Nye Speaker: It is getting harder in my district because I've been pulled to five schools this next year, and that's happening across our nation, where a lot of librarians are being pulled in too many different directions. But I try to get them in whatever we can, and we try to have a weekly time where the kids can get comfortable in the library.

I think just getting that listening stamina where the students can listen to stories and get used to sitting and really becoming immersed in those stories is the most important thing we can do and having those extensions of puppets and things like that.

Dr. Stephanie Heald Speaker: It's so fun. I can see, again, I can see my own library, my home library, and I can see the puppets sitting along the side.

So, one of my favorite things to do when I walked in there was just see the excitement on Ms. Hammer's face as she said, check out this new resource. So thinking about where we're at right now with the pandemic, and obviously schools starting to get back into session and environments starting to be back in person, what might be one thing, if I were to kind of go through the doors of your library, what would be something that you would say, check this out?

Sally Nye Speaker: I've been really excited. This summer, I was really thinking about kids have kind of gotten stuck in their reading, and they're not really quite sure what to read next.

And I ran across this article talking about genre personalities, and I've kind of come up with a quiz for kids to take. What kind of reader are you? Are you a thrill seeker? Are you a best friend? Do you like reading about problems? So just kind of figuring out their personal preference and then directing them to the books that they'll really enjoy, creating guides

and posters that will really help that reader's guide for those students. So that's something I'm really excited about right now to get the kids taking those quizzes and learning what kind of reader they are.

Dr. Stephanie Heald Speaker: That's cool. And one thing I'm really interested in, sorry, Tisha, I don't mean to jump in, but I just have one more question that I'm super eager about. We talk about these like print resources and books.

How do you or what do you do with the new digital resources?

Sally Nye Speaker: Um, I definitely have incorporated those. Pebble Go, every early childhood teacher should be using Pebble Go. And I just set up Sora through our library as well.

We're lucky in Wisconsin, we have a whole digital database that the state of Wisconsin, all the schools go together on. And so, we can create a pretty big collection of books for our students to use through that. And so, we're pretty lucky to have some very good ones.

World Book is another excellent resource as well with great videos for kids to look at.

Dr. Tisha Shipley Speaker: I love all of this because I was a huge children's literature person. I cooked with children's literature.

I used puppets, just like you said. So, if you could talk to teachers about fun books throughout the year that they could do thematic units with, integrated units, what do you tell them for the early childhood teachers? What are some good ones?

Sally Nye Speaker: Um, I always, always make sure they start off with Mo Willems. And I'm sure they all know Mo Willems.

But if they don't, that is just your first starter block. I think students learn so much expression. And even if they can't read, they can learn those words quickly.

And they create a dialogue with one another. And it's fun and creative. So that piggy and elephant is amazing.

We also love Mark McBarnett, who does a new Jack series. That's really fun as well. And Ballet Cat.

There's just all these great new early readers that are fabulous for students to look at.

Dr. Stephanie Heald Speaker: I know Mo Willems is very, um, I love those books. And actually, use those also to get kids excited about reading.

So, as we wind down, can you give our readers three takeaways that they will get from your presentation, both today and also at the Early Childhood Education Conference?

Sally Nye Speaker: Yes. Number one, you are not an island. There are so many great professionals out there just dying to help you out.

All your specialists are just wanting to help you out so much. So don't be afraid to let them help. And you will create great things.

Number two, don't be afraid to check out all the great new books. Whenever I throw out that there's new books in the library and I set up a display, not every teacher comes to take a look. That is sad.

Just take advantage of seeing what those new resources are, because there's some amazing ones being made out there. And number three, let your kids play in books. Let them choose whatever they want.

That is how we know that they're finding what they like and learning how to become a reader.

Dr. Tisha Shipley Speaker: I love all of those because that's what our job is to make them lifelong readers. And so, I love what you're talking about here.

So, as we leave, what is a challenge for the listeners that you want to give for this next year?

Sally Nye Speaker: A challenge is to look at what you've read. I know we all get stuck with our favorite things. But look at your different units and see where can I insert some new media into it? Where could I use new digital materials or new authors? And where can I insert those throughout the year?

Dr. Tisha Shipley Speaker: That's amazing.

Thank you so much, Sally, for being here. And you can check out Sally's presentation that she did for our early childhood conference on YouTube. Check out the notes to find that there.

Thanks, Sally.

Sally Nye Speaker: Thank you. Have a great day.

Dr. Tisha Shipley Speaker: You too.