

## May 2025 Children's Department Report

### Children's Programming Highlights

May marked the final month of the school year and it was packed with activity! We welcomed 76 students from Nathan Hale and St. John schools for class visits. During their time at the library, we shared stories, introduced them to our Summer Reading Program, and sent them home with materials highlighting everything the library has to offer—especially our upcoming family-friendly summer events.

As the school year wrapped up, we concluded many of our regular after-school programs, including Gutsy Gourmet, LEGO Club, Barbie Club, and Wheelie Wednesday. These programs will return in the fall as we shift gears to focus on special summer programming.

Some of our most popular programs this month included:

- **Tween/Teen Makers:** Participants created their own lip balm and essential oil blends.
- **Gutsy Gourmet:** We held a spicy food and candy taste test that was a hit!
- **Creativity Club:** This month's Creativity Club was especially well-attended as kids made homemade sidewalk chalk.

On May 10th, I was invited to represent the library at the Whiting-Robertsdale Plant Swap at the Wolf Lake Greenhouse. I promoted the Summer Reading Program and offered a hands-on craft project for children. The event was well-attended and a great outreach opportunity.

We also launched a brand-new monthly program in May: **Family STEAM Squad**, which will meet every fourth Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. This month's activity had families creating light-up greeting cards using paper circuitry (copper tape, batteries, and LED bulbs). This program is part of a broader effort to refresh and expand our offerings to better engage *families* in the library.

Summer Reading sign-ups opened on May 19th, and we already have 75 children and teens registered as of May 30th. The program officially begins on June 2nd, and our **Summer Reading Kick-Off Party** is set for Saturday, June 7th. The event will feature summer reading sign-ups, music, face painting (courtesy of a discounted service by C&C Creatives), food (generously donated by The Hot Dog Guy), snow cones, yard games, and a bubble station.

Looking forward to summer! Stop in and check out all of the colors as we celebrate this year's theme: Color Our World!

### Children's Program Attendance

Date	Children's In-Person Programming Attendance	Ages 0-5	Ages 6-11	YA	GA
5/2/25	Little Explorers	10			
5/6/25	Night Owls		5		
5/7/25	Preschool Storytime	23			
5/7/25	Teen Advisory Board Meeting			11	
5/8/25	Tween/Teen Makers; DIY Lip Scrub & Essential Oil Blends			31	
5/9/25	Itty Bitty Storytime	14			
5/12/25	Creativity Club; DIY Sidewalk Chalk		25		
5/10/25	Craft @ Wolf Lake Greenhouse				43
5/13/25	Family Bingo				33
5/14/25	Preschool Storytime	14			

5/14/25	LEGO Club		32		
5/16/25	Little Explorers	21			
5/19/25	St. John 6th Grade Visit		39		
5/20/25	Teen Lego Club			6	
5/21/25	Preschool Storytime	14			
5/21/25	Wheelie Wednesday		26		
5/22/25	Gutsy Gourmet			37	
5/23/25	Nathan Hale 2nd Grade Class Visit		37		
5/23/25	Itty Bitty Storytime	16			
5/23/25	Teen Anime			21	
5/24/25	Storytime with Rebecca Mullin				9
5/27/25	STEAM Squad				10
5/27/25	Pride Social Club			7	
5/28/25	Preschool Storytime	18			
5/28/25	Barbie Club		14		
5/30/25	Teen Nerf Wars			12	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>95</b>

**Author Storytime:** Rebecca Mullin, author of Purple Carrot and One Tomato teaching kids about vegetables and writing their own book.



**Tween/Teen Makers:** DIY Lip Scrub and Essential Oil Blend bar was VERY popular! The kids had fun making their own recipes and begged for us to have this again.










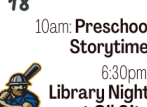









Coming up in June:

# WHITING PUBLIC LIBRARY

## CHILDREN + FAMILY PROGRAMMING

# JUNE 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 <b>Rainbow Day</b> Storytime @10am Craft all day	3 6pm: <b>Night Owls</b> Story Time	4 10am: <b>Preschool</b> Storytime 2:30pm: <b>Teen Advisory</b> Board <small>Must be a registered T.A.B. member, gr. 7-12</small>	5 	6 10am: <b>Little Explorers</b> 18m - Preschool w/ adult 6pm-8pm: <b>NERF Wars!</b> 1st-5th Grade <small>registration &amp; waiver required</small>	7 2-4pm: <b>Summer Reading Kick-Off Party!</b> 
9 	10 6pm: <b>Family Summer Picnic BINGO!</b> 	11 10am: <b>Preschool</b> Storytime 	12 2pm: <b>Tween/Teen Makers; Sip &amp; Paint</b> 	13 10am: <b>Itty Bitty Storytime</b> 2pm: <b>Science Heroes</b> Adventure of the Missing Color! 	14 
16 10am: <b>Sandcastle Storytime @ Whihala Beach</b> 	17 6pm: <b>Knit &amp; Crochet Meetup</b> 	18 10am: <b>Preschool</b> Storytime 6:30pm: <b>Library Night at Oil City Stadium!</b> 	19 <b>LIBRARY CLOSED</b> 	20 10am: <b>Little Explorers</b> 18m - Preschool w/ adult 2pm: <b>Smarty Pants Balloon Show!</b> 	21 12pm-4pm: <b>Second Chance 4 Pets</b> 
23 	24 6pm: <b>STEAM SQUAD</b> 6pm: <b>Pride Social Club</b> (7th-12th gr) 	25 10am: <b>Preschool</b> Storytime 	26 2p: <b>Teen Anime</b> (7th-12th Grade) 	27 10am: <b>Itty Bitty Storytime</b> 3pm: <b>CrossTown Exotics</b> 	28 
30 <b>CHALK</b> <b>The Walk</b> all day, all ages	<p><b>Summer Reading starts this month! Sign-up anytime at the circulation desks. For more information on our special performances and programs throughout the summer, please give us a call at 219-659-0269 x113, refer to our summer reading brochure, or check out our updated website at <a href="http://www.whiting.lib.in.us">www.whiting.lib.in.us</a></b></p>				

**Rainbow Day:** Families of all kinds are invited to celebrate diversity, love, acceptance, and friendship with crafts and activities all day. Storytime at 10am

**Nerf Wars:** Battle it out in the library after hours! For kids in grades 1-5. Registration and waiver are required to participate. 6-8pm

**Summer Reading Kick-Off Party:** Join us on the library lawn to kick off our Summer Reading! Games, food, music, and FUN! 2-4pm

**Night Owls Storytime:** Get cozy in your pj's, grab your favorite stuffy, and head over for bedtime stories and crafts with Ms Laurie!

**The Teen Advisory Board (T.A.B.)** Monthly meeting. You must fill out the registration form located on our website or in the Teen Newsletter.

**Sandcastle Storytime:** Join Ms Adrienne and Miss Laurie at Whihala Beach for stories and sandcastle building! 10am



**Library Night at Oil City Stadium:** Come out to an Oilmen game with the librarians and support our library at Library Night at Oil City Stadium!

**Second Chance 4 Pets:** A special adoption event held on the library lawn!

**Little Explorers:** Sensory Play for 18m-Preschool. Must be accompanied by an adult.

**Pride, No Prejudice:** A hangout for LGBTQ+ teens and their friends! 7th-12th grade

**STEAM Squad:** Come enjoy a STEAM activity with your family at the library!

[www.whiting.lib.in.us](http://www.whiting.lib.in.us) | 1735 Oliver St. Whiting, IN 46394 | 219-659-0269 |  @whiting\_public\_library |  @whiting public library