

Children Have Fun While Learning in K-2 School Libraries



Children who have been to the public library and enjoyed story times as infants and toddlers, or who have checked out books, music, movies and possibly even puzzles or toys, will quickly learn that their school library is also a safe, friendly, calm place with materials just for them and helpful adults to assist them. For children who have never visited a public library, the school library serves as a perfect introduction to the magical world of books and resources.

Knowing that they can borrow materials without concern about cost empowers children with choices and provides them the opportunity to learn the value of sharing. Children should look forward to library time and develop a love and respect for the resources there. Teachers can use a simple poem to set the tone for an enjoyable visit to the school library. Try something like:

Students should be allowed to choose books that excite them, but adults can broaden children's scope by introducing them to new authors. They also can begin to help students look for factual information as well as books for pleasure reading. Even very young children can learn the Super 3 (Plan, Do, Review) for almost any task, preparing them for research activities and projects. Super 3 activities are ones that teach children to begin thinking about problem-solving in terms of process. As children learn to use reference materials, the library catalog, the Internet and the Dewey system for non-fiction, they will be able to access the riches of the information age.



Come with me to the library!
Come and look around.
On the shelves are books to see,
Many facts can be found,
Music and videos on the shelves
in order from A to Z.
So put a smile upon your face
And come along with me.

A fun library hunting activity can make a game of learning what is available and where to find it. The adult can prepare envelopes with a copy of each of the items for the hunt attached to the outside. As the children find the resources, they tear off the picture and put it in the envelope. (Cutting along the horizontal lines ahead of time will allow for easier tearing.) Some children will learn from others in this cooperative learning activity, enabling everyone to be successful.

Visit the *Joel's Library Jam* website at <http://www.libraryjam.org/> for a library hunt activity handout and a link to a Super 3 activity.