



Editor's Note

Things I Miss in the Pandemic

By Sharon Verbeten

In a year when 20/20 was supposed to mean clear vision, everything has been discombobulated! Here's a list of things I miss most in 2020—how about you?

- Storytimes! (and the occasional, parent-approved hugs from kids I know well).
- Chatting up parents and slipping in those subtle—or not so subtle!—ECRR2 tips.
- Lingering in the library. The library has always been *my* favorite “third place,” as it is for many others. It's hard to see libraries turn into “grab-and-go” venues.
- The humble craft project...or even the 159th coloring sheet I've printed.
- Finding a random train car wedged between board books on the shelf.
- Summer reading program school visits (even the occasional heckler).
- Hand stamps (especially those that quickly end up smudged on cheeks).
- High fives!
- Creating inviting shelf and wall displays—that patrons will actually see.
- Three-year-old Kempton, singly loudly off key, to Jim Gill's “Alabama, Mississippi.”
- The boisterous, sugar-hopped afterschool kids waiting for rides. To be honest, we often hoped for a respite from the nonstop craziness, but now after more than five months without them, we not-so-secretly wouldn't mind having them back.
- A storytime lingerer waving goodbye, saying, with a tiny lisp, “Bye, bye Mith Tharon!”

I miss you all, too! &

Children & LIBRARIES

the journal of the
Association for Library
Service to Children

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Children and Libraries (ISSN 1542-9806) is a refereed journal published four times per year by the American Library Association (ALA), 225 N Michigan Ave, Suite 1300, Chicago, IL 60601. It is the official publication of the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of ALA. Subscription price: members of ALSC, \$20 per year, included in membership dues; nonmembers, \$50 per year in the US; \$60 in Canada, Mexico, and other countries. Back issues within one year of current issue, \$15 each. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Children and Libraries*, 225 N Michigan Ave, Suite 1300, Chicago, IL 60601. Members send mailing labels or facsimile to Member Services, 225 N Michigan Ave, Suite 1300, Chicago, IL 60601. Nonmember subscribers: Subscriptions, orders, changes of address, and inquiries should be sent to *Children and Libraries*, Customer Service—Subscriptions, 225 N Michigan Ave, Suite 1300, Chicago, IL 60601; 1-800-545-2433, press 5; fax: (312) 944-2641; e-mail: subscriptions@ala.org.

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Children and Libraries is the official journal of ALSC, a division of the American Library Association. The journal primarily serves as a vehicle for continuing education of librarians working with children, which showcases current scholarly research and practice in library service to children. It also serves as a vehicle for communication to the ALSC membership, spotlighting significant activities and initiatives of the Association. (From the journal's “Policies and Procedures” document adopted by the ALSC board, April 2004, revised, 2014.)

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ALA Production Services (Tim Clifford, Chris Keech, and Lauren Ehle)

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Children and Libraries is indexed in *Library and Information Science Abstracts* and in *Library Literature and Information Science*.

Children and Libraries is indexed, abstracted, and available in full text through EBSCOhost. For more information, contact EBSCO at 1-800-653-2726.

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