Tues, April 20, 2021
9 am to 1 pm

YOUTH SERVICES INSTITUTE (VIRTUAL)

Keynote speaker:
J. Elizabeth Mills

REGISTER IN MARCH!
BCLA MEMBERS: $20
BCLA NON-MEMBERS: $30
STUDENTS: $10

For more information email
yaacsbc@gmail.com

Knowledge, Artistry, and Reflection--Designing Thoughtful Programming for Children

Programming for children, such as storytimes, enables children to interact with and learn from grownups and each other, to reflect on and analyze the stories they read, and to form connections between the material and their own experiences. To facilitate this learning, library practitioners use their knowledge and expertise to select the materials they use to provide moments of play and discovery, thereby making storytimes rich informal learning environments.

Storytime planning, delivery, and reflection are an example of how the design mindset is manifested in librarianship (Mills, Campana, & Clarke, 2016; Clarke, 2016) through the processes of iteration, action, and reflection. As designers, librarians look for opportunities to improve their practice, to reflect on ways to more effectively serve their communities, and to support the learning that is taking place for children and families. When librarians are aware of what they're doing in the moment, they can approach their work as a dynamic, ongoing process that can change and adjust as communities similarly change and adjust. This is the artistry of storytimes. But this artistry requires time to reflect on how to improve. However, a recent study showed that though librarians have an interest in both reflecting on their own practice and receiving feedback from others (Mills et al., 2015), they often do not have time for assessment. Nevertheless, librarians are finding time to iterate and revise both during the program and in stolen pockets of time following the program.

A reflective approach to developing, delivering, and assessing storytimes would enable practitioners to be intentional in their work and to advocate for the time, space, and effort they need to create innovative programs that meet community needs and aspirations.