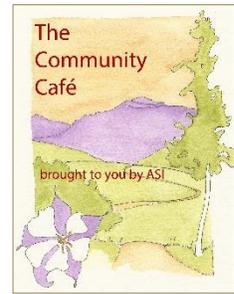


PRESS RELEASE

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NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY CAFÉ

Expanding the Joy of Storytelling

You don't need an organized group to tell you how to do an activity – but an organization can embellish a simple idea in a way that can help you make your activities more of an adventure than you thought possible.

We've all told stories to kids – our children, grandchildren, kids' playmates, school groups. Try some of the ideas below to make storytelling more of an adventure when they are little that can grow in scope and complexity as their interests grow.

- Ask your listener to provide you with the first sentence in the story, and then make up the story based on that sentence. You'll get better at this with practice. Karen Blixen (pen name Isak Dinesen) famously used this method.
- Tell a story (from a book or from your own experience or a story of your own making) and then provide simple art materials and give the kids a chance to draw pictures about the tale. This is a good way to get them started on an activity that builds imagination and skills, and still gives you some time when you don't have to supervise closely as they work on their pictures.
- Ask your audience to flip roles with you and to tell you a story of their making – it can be real or imagined, or some combination of the two. For younger or more inexperienced storytellers, you can provide a theme, a setting, or an idea.
- Use a walk or other time outdoors to ask for or tell a story. This has a host of benefits, including making time fly while you are exercising and keeping kids from wandering too far when you're walking together.

If you need more inspiration, three groups that are focused on intergenerational storytelling are:

- Connecting Generations: <https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2021/mar/01/connecting-generations-pilot-project-writing-acros/>
- Writing Across Generations: <https://latelastnightbooks.com/2016/05/04/growing-working-son-taught-writing/>
- Literature as Legacy: https://www.huffpost.com/entry/literature-as-legacy-writ_b_1300794

Our website provides information about ASI programs here in Pagosa Springs, as well as resources for wellness and aging. You can also use our website to make reservations with The Community Café for take-out and Meals on Wheels at: <http://www.psseniors.org/>.

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