



MANAGE ALL THE BEHAVIORS!

A ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON STORYTIME MANAGEMENT

WHO IS THIS GUY?

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Youth Services Branch Librarian for Kent District Library

B.A. in Language Arts/Elementary Education from GVSU

I was a terrible teacher for 3 years before transitioning into the library world. It was immediately apparent that I had found my niche in youth services. I worked for 10 years at a small, rural library before moving to the Kent District Library system in 2023.

My storytime philosophy is to prioritize fun over everything else. I believe that storytime is the perfect opportunity to equate reading to fun very early in a child's life. I endeavor to make their earliest library memories ones that they keep with them their entire lives.





BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

ATTENTION SPAN!?

2 years old: 4-6 minutes

3 years old: 6-8 minutes

4 years old: 8-12 minutes

5/6 years old: 12-18 minutes

OUTSIDE FACTORS

Mood, Hunger, Tiredness, innate interest, stress, cognitive abilities

HOW DO WE HOLD IT?

THE THREE POINTS OF SUCCESS!

ROUTINE

Kids crave predictability!

Kids need repetition!

Predictability and repetition create a sense of safety!

A sense of safety allows the child's brain to relax!

A relaxed brain is a learning brain!

PACING/FLOW

Instead of agonizing over theme, create a natural flow!

Select shorter reading materials!

Don't be afraid to bail on a book!

When in doubt, transition!

Keep the transition times efficient!

I recommend 1 prop or instrument, played in a block of time!

FUN

Storytime should NOT feel like school!

If you have them laughing, you have them loving!

Step outside yourself and perform the book!

Parents feel good about themselves when their children love storytime! When the kid has fun, you win them both over!

WHAT ABOUT ADULTS?

THE THREE (MORE) POINTS OF SUCCESS!

RAPPORT

Make an effort to talk to everyone you can.
Talk to them about their kids.
We LOVE to talk about ourselves. Keep that in mind.
Relate your own stories.
Make them into friends.

RESPECT

Rapport comes first.
If they like you, they'll be more likely to show you respect.
Try to handle problems in a way that won't embarrass them.
Have a policy in place and set clear expectations at the start.
You should feel comfortable at storytime, too!

JOY

Your own joy will be reflected back to you.
The caregiver's joy is brought about through the kids' joy.
If the kids love your storytime. Adults will be thankful!

NOW LET'S TALK!

WE LEARN BEST FROM EACH OTHER!



The background features a light gray grid pattern. Various hand-drawn, colorful shapes are scattered around the edges: a pink circle in the top-left, a yellow fan-like shape, a blue irregular shape, a pink zig-zag shape, and a green circular shape in the top-right. On the left side, there is a yellow star-like shape, a pink vertical shape, and a blue zig-zag shape. On the right side, there is a blue spiral shape and a yellow vertical shape. At the bottom, there is a green wavy shape, a yellow flower-like shape, a pink irregular shape, and a pink vertical shape.

**THANK YOU
VERY MUCH**



**DO YOU HAVE POSTED RULES / EXPECTATIONS?
HOW DO YOU COMMUNICATE THESE TO PATRONS?**



**HOW DO YOU HANDLE A PARENT
WITH A SCREAMING CHILD DURING AND
AFTER STORYTIME?**



**WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ON PHONES AT STORYTIME?
DO YOU HAVE A POLICY REGARDING THEIR USE?**



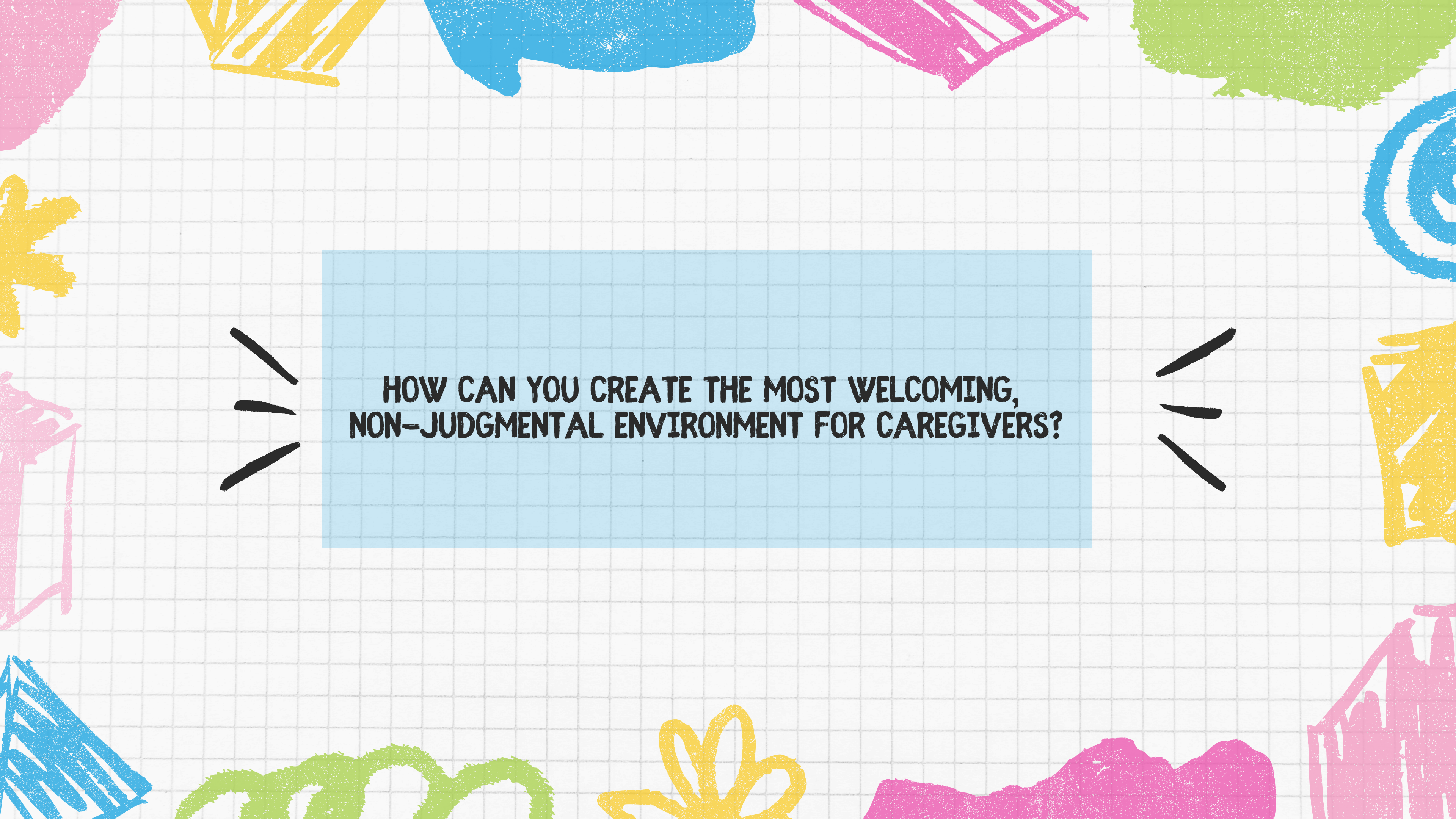
**WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ON SNACKS AT STORYTIME?
ARE PATRONS ALLOWED TO SNACK?
DO YOU PROVIDE THEM?**



**ARE YOU A PLANNER OR A WINGER?
WHAT ADVICE CAN YOU OFFER SOMEONE LOOKING
TO CHANGE THEIR APPROACH TO STORYTIME?**




WHAT ARE SOME WAYS TO PRESERVE A CAREGIVER'S DIGNITY WHEN DEALING WITH A DIFFICULT SITUATION?



**HOW CAN YOU CREATE THE MOST WELCOMING,
NON-JUDGMENTAL ENVIRONMENT FOR CAREGIVERS?**



**WHAT'S YOUR OPINION ON KIDS READING OTHER BOOKS
WHILE YOU'RE PERFORMING?**



**ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FOR THE KIDDOS DIFFERENT
AT OUTREACH THAN AT THE LIBRARY? WHY?**



**ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FOR YOURSELF DIFFERENT
AT OUTREACH? WHY DO YOU THINK THAT IS?**



**DO YOU HAVE EXPECTATIONS FOR THE LOCATION?
HOW DO YOU COMMUNICATE THOSE?
ARE YOU WILLING TO ADVOCATE FOR YOURSELF?**



**WHEN PROBLEM BEHAVIORS SURFACE AT OUTREACH,
HOW DO YOU APPROACH AN INATTENTIVE CAREGIVER?**



CHILD TESTING & THERAPY: WWW.CNLD.ORG

WWW.HAPPIESTBABY.COM

[HTTPS://WWW.EARLYCHILDHOODWEBINARS.COM](https://WWW.EARLYCHILDHOODWEBINARS.COM)

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Blog Roll

JBRARY.COM

STORYTIMEKATIE.COM

JENINTHELIBRARY.COM

LOUDESTLIBRARIAN.COM

YOGIBRARIAN.WORDPRESS.COM

ADVENTURESINSTORYTIME.COM

MUSICFORKIDDOS.COM

LISTENLEARNMUSIC.COM

STORYTIMEINTHESTACKS.COM

LITERARYHOOTS.COM

STORYTIMESECRETS.COM

STEMINLIBRARIES/TAG/STORYTIME

Music

JIM GILL

CASPAR BABYPANTS

LAURIE BERKNER

HAP PALMER

RAFFI

JACK HARTMANN

KOO KOO

STEPHANIE AT MUSIC FOR KIDDOS

RACHEL RAMBACH

TOTS WITH TEMPO

SUPER SIMPLE SONGS

DR. JEAN FELDMAN

WE KIDS ROCK