

Looking for a fun, engaging new program for your library? Literary Legos is your answer!

All you need is a picture book and some legos and you're ready to get started!

- 1. Decide which age group to target: I prefer 2nd grade & older because I want them to be able to come up with a structure idea **&** build it with minimal help.
- 2. Choose a fun picture book that will give the kids lots of ideas for lego building. I always remind the kids **before** I begin reading the story to think WHILE I'm reading about something in the story that they could create with legos. It can be a character from the story, a special scene, or something that the story makes them think of, but it needs to have some connection to the story.

3. Spread legos out onto some sort of large plastic platters, so it's easy for the kids to dig through and find the pieces they need.

4. Put several platters on tables so kids have plenty to choose from and ample space to build.

5. Allow the kids at least 30-45 minutes of building time. If you have access to volunteers, it's nice to have people to help the kids find the specific pieces they need.

It speeds the building process and cuts down on frustration.

6. When the kids complete their project, ask them to fill out a small tent card with their first name, age, & the name/description of their creation. Then they get to put the creation on display in the library for other patrons to enjoy! We use the tops of higher bookshelves for display and our patrons love it. Don't forget to display the story along with the legos.

- 7. In my library, Literary Legos is a monthly program and we do make it into a contest. The winner gets to choose a small lego set as the prize. Don't feel like you need to make it a contest; the program will be successful either way!
- 8. Feel free to adapt this program however you see fit for your library and your population! And PLEASE don't hesitate to contact me with any questions/comments!!

Here are some fun stories I've used for this program:

Even Aliens Need Snacks by Mathew McElligot Scaredy Squirrel (series) by Mélanie Watt Dragons Love Tacos by Adam Rubin & Dan Salmieri The Numberlys by William Joyce The Rhyming Dust Bunnies by Jan Thomas Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed by Eileen Christelow The Secret Life of Squirrels by Nancy Rose



Tara Montoney Children's Librarian, Seneca Falls Library Seneca Falls, NY 315-568-8265 <u>tara.montoney@rochester.rr.com</u>