

Create Summer Memories at the Library

It's Summer! It's birthday season at my house, so while I am busily trying to figure out what everyone wants for their birthday I have also been thinking about the nature of presents. There are not many things that people have given me throughout the years that have stuck in my mind. Yes, I am grateful for the bubble bath, knick-knacks, hats, scarves and other assorted things that I have received throughout the years but in all honesty they have passed in and out of my life without much thought. I remember receiving *The Lord of the Rings* when I was ten. I remember the first gift my husband gave me, and perhaps most importantly, I remember a gift my mother gave me that didn't come in a box with a ribbon.

When I was five years old, my mother brought me to the library. I can remember the librarian showing us around and my mother filling out my application for a library card. I can also remember choosing all my books from the new book shelf because they were all so shiny and pretty! (I didn't develop my appreciation for old and dusty books until much later). That first trip to the library, something my mother probably doesn't even remember, gifted me with a world of possibilities and set me on a trail that would help shape the rest of my life. She often went out of her way to make sure we included a stop at the library in our weekly errands even though I know she was often perplexed as to why I had to go to the library so often.

As parents, we like to create great memories for our children. Sometimes we can do that with great birthday presents, fabulous summer vacations, or cool parties. More often, the truly great memories take a lot less money and a little more effort. When my mother brought me to the library, she gifted me with a tool that I could keep my entire life and she made sure I continued to use it. Unlike many other gifts I have received, it didn't gather dust in the corner, and it didn't get broken after I played with it the first time.

Today, I led a storytime for one and two year olds. These were moms, dads and grandmas bringing their little ones to the library for 30 minutes of stories and fun. Sure, most of them won't remember that we really rocked out to *Wheels on the Bus* today, or we read a cool book about bugs, but by bringing them to the library, those parents are gifting them with the knowledge that books are fun, stories are great and the library is the place to be.

Create some good memories for your children this summer. Don't forget that we have some great ones here just waiting for you. And speaking of memories, do I remember the first book I ever checked out from the library? Heck yeah! It was *Clifford the Big Red Dog* – the original. Good times.

** Don't forget that Summer Reading Club is currently under way for both children and adults! Come in and sign up for cool prizes and programs.

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