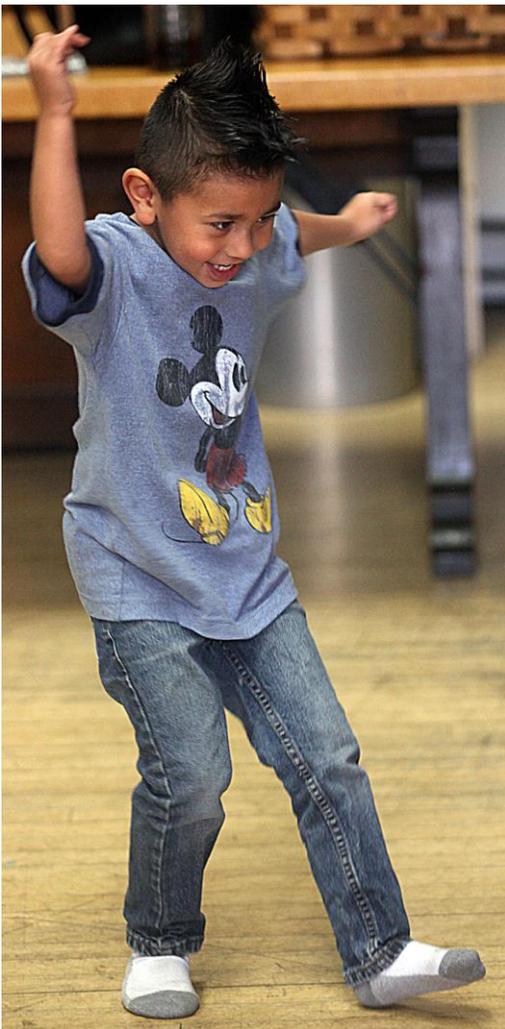


Quiet no more

Library preschool program uses music, movement to teach literacy

By Monique Brand

March 19, 2017



Benicio Estorga, 4, participates in Friday's class in the library in Bisbee.

Sierra Vista Herald Staff Photo by Mark Levy

BISBEE — Every Friday, music and laughter from youngsters can be heard from the Copper Queen Library’s conference room.

The class, Preschool Creative Movement, places an emphasis on stories and language through physical movement to campaign literacy.

Using music and dance, the students give attention to the books that are given to them.

Alison Williams, CQL’s program coordinator, said the library has offered the free class since January.

Julia Kirk, who teaches adult ballet, oversees the youngsters movement class.



Nataleigh Faith, 5, joins personal creative movement teacher Julia Kirk during class Friday in the Copper Queen Library.

Sierra Vista Herald Staff Photo by Mark Levy

“This is wonderful and fun for the kids,” Kirks said. “It’s hard for kids their age to sit down through a book. With pairing with music and dancing, it keeps their attention.”

On Friday, the class conducted a “warm-up” with a book on maps from around the world. The book of the week was “Underground: Finding the Light to Freedom” by Shane W. Evans.

The students acted out each page with delight saying the words of the story.

Twenty-month-old Magnus Ramage attends the weekly creative movement preschool class in Bisbee. The class fosters movement with an emphasis on literacy.

“This is by far their favorite book,” Kirk said. “It’s great to see the kids excited about reading.” The class is offered each Friday from 10 to 10:30 a.m. at the library, 6 Main St. The class is followed by a preschool storytime.

For more information, call 520-432-4232.

Importance of early childhood literacy

According to a 2016 study by Kent State University’s School of Music, language literacy is “arguably the most important skill a child will acquire during preschool and elementary school years.”

The study explored the importance of teaching literacy through music.

“When students learn music, it strengthens the area used for processing language, making it better able to handle language processing tasks. This effect holds for students who learn music and language separately, such as children who take music lessons outside of school,” stated in the study. “And just as one’s strength improves with an established exercise habit, music lessons improve a student’s language abilities the longer students study music.”



Twenty-month-old Magnus Ramage attends the weekly creative movement preschool class in Bisbee. The class fosters movement with an emphasis on literacy.

Sierra Vista Herald Staff Photo by Mark Levy