

Thinking

Storytime

# Thinking Outside the Storytime Box

Sarah Csekey and Amy Lambertsen,  
Orillia Public Library

Amy is now going to make you uncomfortable



# Let us introduce ourselves!

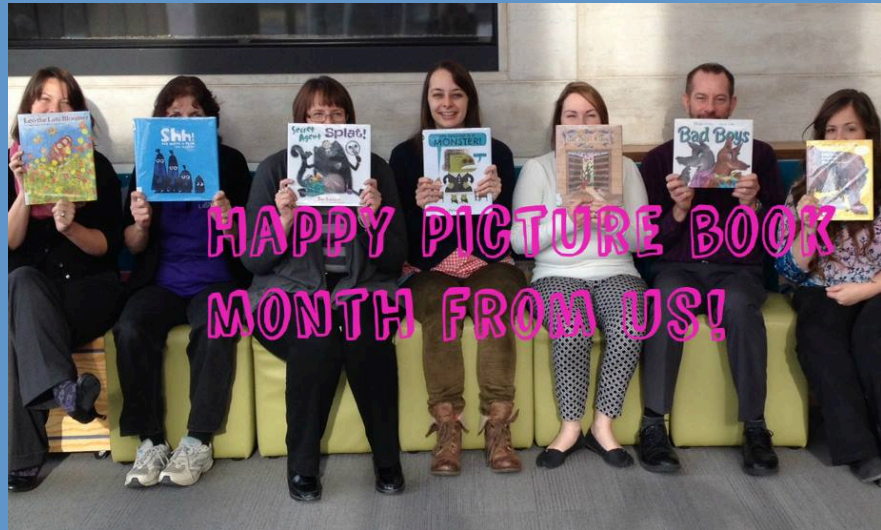
**Sarah Csekey**



**Amy Lambertsen**



# Our Foundation of Awesome



# Early Literacy Initiative

## I ♥ BOOKS!

Being interested in, and enjoying books is the first step to a lifetime of reading! Make reading fun and exciting, and visit the library!

## TALK TO ME!

When you read to your child, they are learning how to tell a story! Narrative skills are important because they help children understand what they are reading!

## I HEAR YOU!

Singing songs, rhyming rhymes and playing games are all ways for your child to hear the different sounds in words. It is a great way to have fun while learning!

## YOU SAY, I SAY!

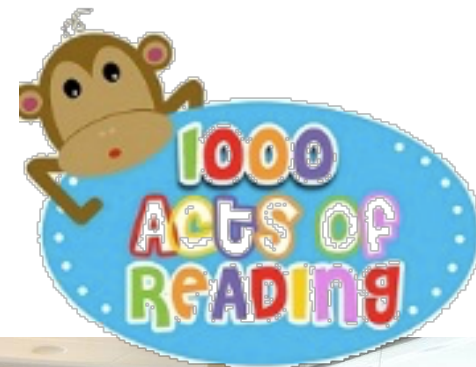
The more you read to your child the more words your child learns. Having a large vocabulary helps your child recognize words and to understand what they are reading!

## LETTERS GALORE!

Show your child that print is everywhere! Point out signs, labels, lists, anything with print on it! Pretty soon your child will see how words are all over!

## WORD PLAY!

Knowing the difference between letters is a great way for your child to start understanding how words work. Writing out their name and pointing out each letter is a great way to get started!



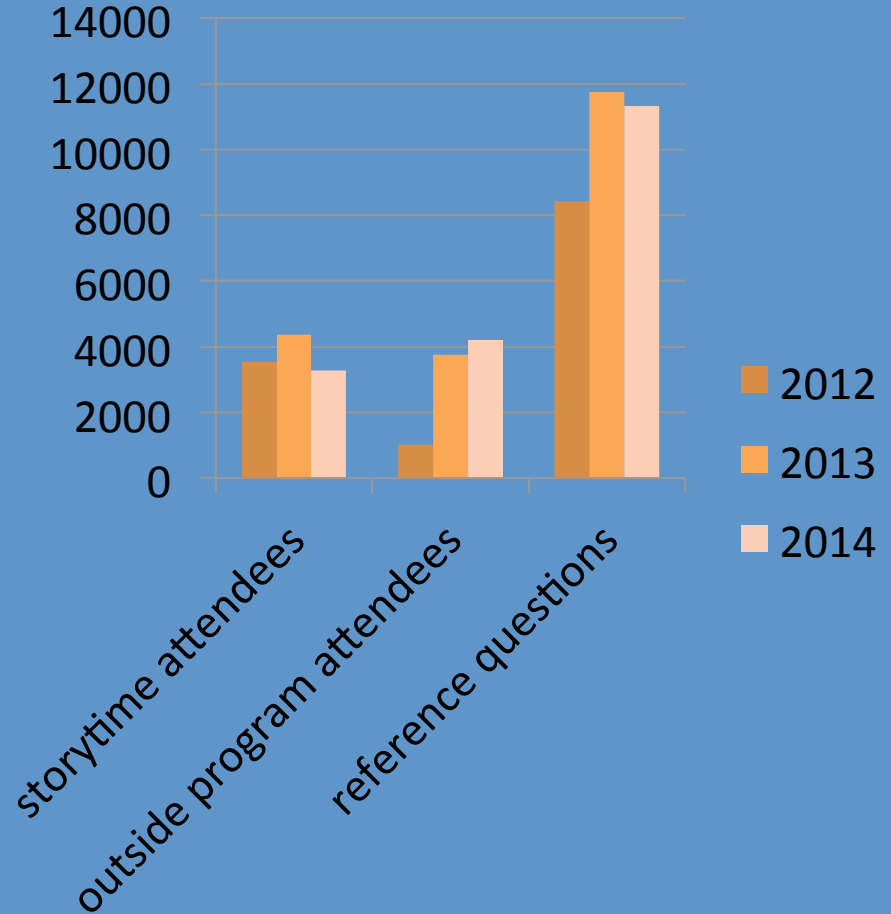
# What we offered in Fall 2014

Every weekday morning we had an early literacy storytime at 10:30 am.

- Mondays: Caregivers Storytime
- Tuesdays: French Storytime
- Wednesday: Babytime
- Thursday: Toddler Time
- Friday: Preschool Playtime

These programs were run in sessions of five-to-seven weeks. We had a core of parents that consistently came to the programs. The feedback was good, and the programs were generally well-attended each week.

# Our Storytimes were working well



# Why change?

## Fresh-look factors

- Multiple maternity leaves meant new perspectives on current practices
- Strategic Planning process gave time for more reflection and visioning
- Simcoe County's Vital Signs: Taking the Pulse of Our Region, United Way's published study identified Orillia as high-risk





# Fresh eyes

- We all knew this wasn't forever so the staff were willing to give anything a try!
- I saw some opportunities to engage with different people.
- Being new meant being without preconceptions.
- Recent trips to other libraries and cultural organizations were inspiring.



**EXCUSE ME...  
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?**

# Strategic Planning Process

- Take a look at what you have, what you are doing, and what you want to do



# Community needs alert

LOCAL PROVINCIAL CANADA WORLD

## NEWS LOCAL

### Report showed Orillia had highest poverty rate in county



By Roberta Bell, Orillia  
Wednesday, April 1, 2014

Orillia is facing some challenging poverty-related issues, according to a report evaluating social conditions in the region.

To help combat them, United Way Greater Simcoe County, which partnered with community foundations to prepare the document, will double its investment in area agencies' programming over last year from about \$100,000 to close to \$200,000. Of the 26 programs being funded, 11 are in Orillia.

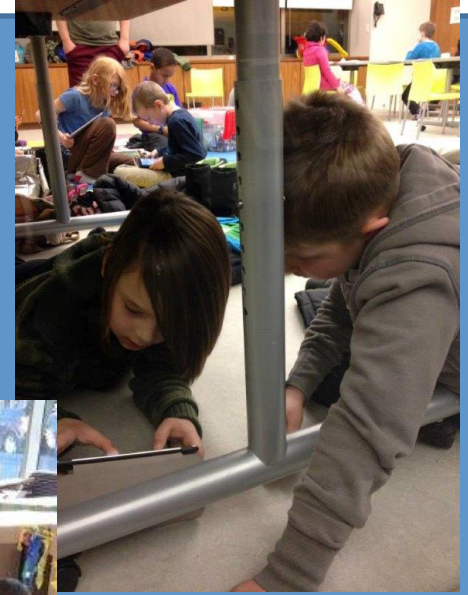
The report — titled Simcoe County's Vital Signs: Taking the Pulse of Our Region — was released last fall and brings to light some of the specific challenges that exist in Orillia, said Dale Biddell, interim CEO of the local United Way.

Orillia has a higher poverty rate than any other municipality in Simcoe County, according to the 2010 low-income-after-tax-rate statistics cited. While 11.3% of the county's population was classified as low-income, 15.9% of Orillia's was. In comparison, at that time, neither the national nor the provincial poverty rate surpassed 15%.

Poverty is often reflected in people's ability to afford housing, Biddell said.

# The experimenting started

- Pop-Up Storytimes
- Snack and Stories
- Evening Programs
- Sensory Storytimes
- Saturday programs
- Outreach for at-risk families
- Library furniture



NEWS LOCAL

## Storytime pops up at café



By Patrick Bales, The Orillia Packet & Times  
Tuesday, January 27, 2015 7:04:47 EST PM

# FAIL!



The library's early literacy co-ordinator, Amy Lamvertsen, had the undivided attention of Livia Damery-Giannunzio while the two read. Be on the lookout for the library to pop up in different locations more often in the future.

**FAIL**

[**F**] **F**IRST

[**A**] **A**TTEMPT

[**I**] **I**N

[**L**] **L**EARNING

*girlinbraces*

# The Orillia Mall!



Storytimes at the Park and hiking trails!

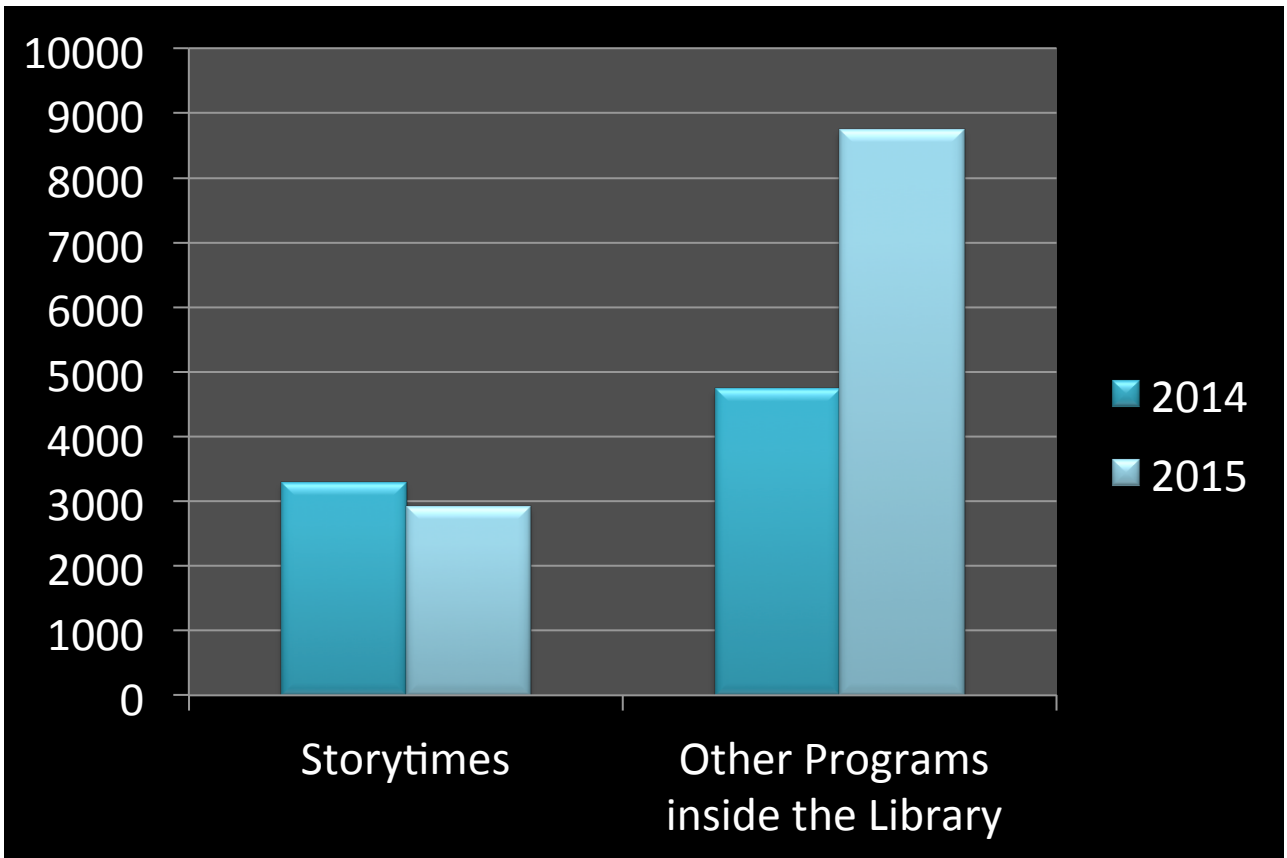


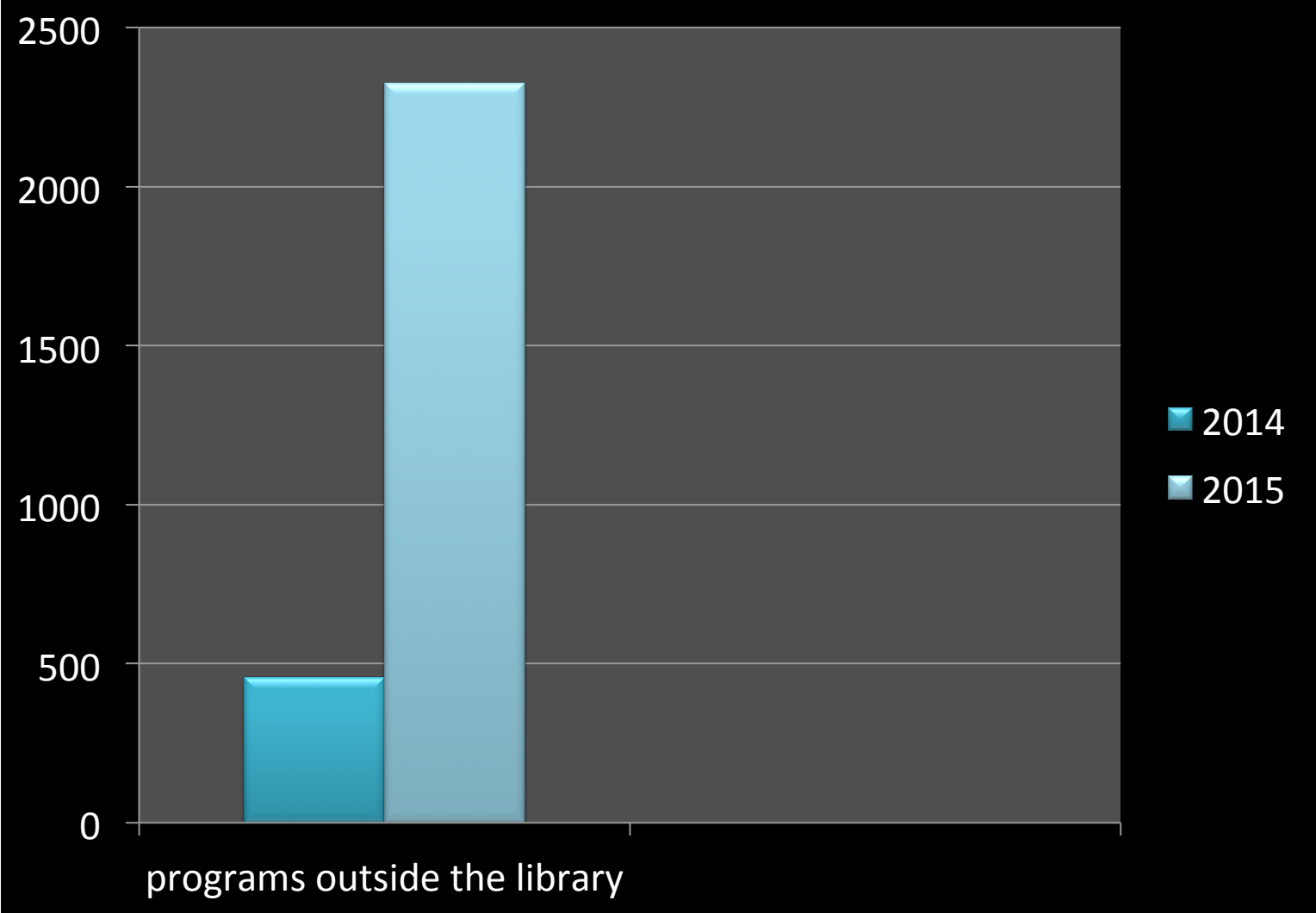


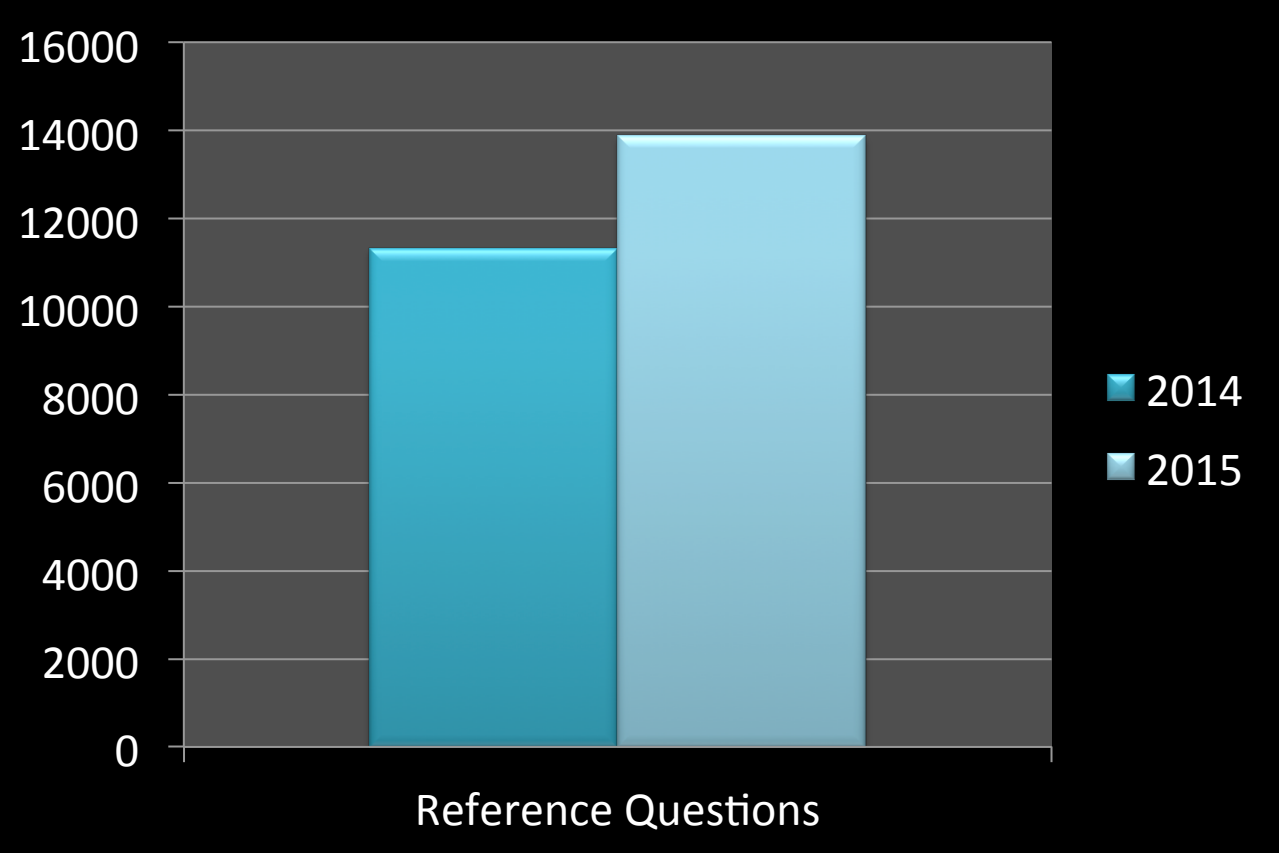


# What we saw change









# What can you take away?

- Look at what you have and use it in new ways (staff, materials budgets).
- Observe and reflect on everything you do, make notes, talk to each other, look at statistics.
- Call any new idea a pilot project and you won't feel like you're committing to your (possibly) crazy idea.
- Remember that libraries are the most important thing.
- Remember that it's just a library, not a nuclear reactor.