Planning Resources

It’s important to think about how you might integrate reading, writing, or math skills in your program. This activity will help you think through how you might organize a lesson or activity around a content area that interests you or that you think most fits the needs of your students attending your program. Here you will find a list of resources by content area. Based on the content that you select, take some time to explore the resources. Then move on to the third part of the activity, which is planning out the lesson or activity.

Reading Resources:

Reader’s Theater
The following resources will help you plan for a reader’s theater activity. You will find sample lesson plan templates along with sample lesson plans that you can either use as is or modify to fit school-age children’s needs.

- The SEDL National Center for Quality Afterschool: Story and Literature Dramatizations
  http://www.sedl.org/afterschool/toolkits/literacy/pr_story_lit.html

- Reading Rockets: Reader’s Theater
  http://www.readingrockets.org/strategies/readers_theater

Book Clubs / Literature Circle
Below you will find many resources that will help you create a book club or literature circle. Both resources provide sample lesson plans, materials, and additional websites where you will find detailed information about specific parts of book clubs, like how to lead a discussion.

- The SEDL National Center for Quality Afterschool: Book Discussion Groups and Literature Circles
  http://www.sedl.org/afterschool/toolkits/literacy/pr_book_groups.html

- Vermont Afterschool: How to Run an Afterschool Book Club Program

Reading Aloud
Both of the resources below provide tips and strategies for how to prepare for interactive read-alouds in your school-age program.

- The SEDL National Center for Quality Afterschool: Read Aloud
  http://www.sedl.org/afterschool/toolkits/literacy/pr_read_aloud.html
Writing Resources:
Below you will find a wealth of information about how to incorporate writing in your school-age experiences and activities. You will find sample lesson plan templates as well as sample lesson plans ready for you to implement.

- **National Writing Project: 30 Ideas for Teaching Writing**
The National Writing Project’s 30 Ideas for Teaching Writing offers successful strategies utilized by experienced teachers. For example, you will learn how to use shared events of students’ lives to inspire writing or how to use casual talk about students’ lives to generate writing topics.
http://www.nwp.org/cs/public/print/resource/922

- **Read, Write, Think: Parent & Afterschool Resources**
While this resource is not writing-specific, it does provide some writing-focused activities by grade-level. For example, you will learn how to organize an activity where children learn how to write poems that look like things they describe or how to work with teens to create their own songs.
http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/

- **SEDL: National Center for Quality Afterschool: Writing**
http://www.sedl.org/afterschool/toolkits/literacy/pr_writing.html

- **Teachers and Writers Collaborative: Resources**
Here you will find a variety of resources to help you support children’s writing development in creative ways. For example, you will learn about how to implement “Poetry Out Loud,” an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation that encourages children and youth to learn about great poetry through memorization, performance, and competition.
http://www.twc.org/resources/

- **ProjectWrite**
On this website you can access lesson plans and a variety of other materials designed to improve writing and self-regulation behaviors of school-age children in elementary grades (1-3).
http://kc.vanderbilt.edu/projectwrite/
Math Resources:
The following resources detail lesson plans, activities, games, and teaching strategies that can be implemented in any afterschool program. Review the following online resources and think about how you can use them to help school-age children and youth improve their math skills.

- The Math Forum
  The Math Forum is a leading center for mathematics tools and education on the internet. Developed by the Drexel University School of Education, The Math Forum provides resources, materials, activities, and educational products that enrich and support teaching and learning. Browse the math tools library for lesson plan ideas and interactive activities.
  www.mathforum.org/library/

- Math Activities
  Kids.gov offers several different activities to support children’s acquisition of mathematic skills. There are different activities for learning about addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, measurement, geometry, and maps. Children can play different games, watch videos, and use worksheets.
  http://kids.usa.gov/math/index.shtml