

# PLAN FOR IT!

# 2015-16 THEMES

## August/September: Technology

Technology is pervasive in libraries and classrooms, and working with “digital native” children requires integrating technology in accessible and innovating ways. Share how you are creatively using new technologies in your library lessons and programs.

**Subthemes:** coding, women in science and technology

## October: Diversity

Librarians are challenged with providing diverse resources for children from diverse backgrounds with diverse experiences. This month will feature lessons, programs, and activities that support diversity year round.

## November: Games/Gaming

Recent research has found that games can be seriously educational. Whether repurposing classic games or teaching students how to code their own games, educators are bringing games into schools and libraries to provide fun, motivating learning opportunities.

## December: Food

The holidays are all about friends, family ... and food! This month will focus on all things food-related: celebrating holiday meals, promoting healthy choices, and sharing diverse food traditions.

## January: Collaboration Beyond the Classroom

Librarians are increasingly using technology, community connections, and personal learning networks to reach beyond their walls of the library and the school. Whether Skyping with authors, connecting with other schools on Dot Day, or inviting community members into the school to share their stories and expertise, librarians are extending the boundaries of their students' learning opportunities.

**Subtheme:** encouraging compassion and kindness

## February: Inventors & Makers

Libraries aren't just a place to read; they are a space to dream, invent, make, and do. This month will feature the many ways that librarians are encouraging children to become makers and inventors, including makerspaces, STEM/STEAM programs, coding, and more.

## March: Art

Continuing from February's theme, this month we turn the library into an art studio, where children can create art of all forms (visual, written, and performing). From drawing inspiration from texts to using actual texts as the raw materials for art projects, this month's articles will feature creative ways that librarians are sparking children's imaginations.

## April: Financial Literacy

Twenty-first-century students will need to be multi-literate to be ready for college and career. Financial literacy is an important part of that readiness. Through books, activities, programs, and other resources, librarians can help build financial literacy in young children.

## May/June: Sports and Fitness

From encouraging reluctant readers, to countering the warm-weather wiggles, to battling childhood obesity, there are plenty of reasons to move sports and fitness out of the gym and into the library. Share how you include sports and fitness in your library programs.