

Planning Your Own Drag Queen Story Hour

What is Drag Queen Story Hour?

“Drag Queen Story Hour (DQSH) is just what it sounds like—drag queens reading stories to children in libraries, schools, and bookstores. DQSH captures the imagination and play of the gender fluidity of childhood and gives kids glamorous, positive, and unabashedly queer role models. In spaces like this, kids are able to see people who defy rigid gender restrictions and imagine a world where people can present as they wish, where dress up is real.”

Planning:

- * Visit <https://www.dragqueenstoryhour.org/organize-your-own-drag-queen-story-hour>
- * DO use the name Drag Queen Story Hour (not Drag Queen Storytime, etc.)
- * Create an event on Facebook and add Drag Queen Story Hour as a host
- * If photos are taken, tag DQSH on Facebook or Instagram (@dragqueenstoryhour)
- * To use their official logo, contact them at nyc@dragqueenstoryhour.org

At APL:

- For children 0-10
- Program was well-received (211 attendees!)
- Read 2-3 books, include songs/fingerplays, 1-song dance party, craft
- Read Jacob's New Dress and Not Quite Narwhal; sang “The Wheels on the Bus,” “The Itsy Bitsy Spider,” and “Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes;” played “Can’t Stop the Feeling” for dance party; unicorn craft
- Storytime 20-25 minutes, entire event 45-60 minutes, including time for photos with the drag queen

What we learned:

- ◆ Provide water, space to change and get ready
- ◆ Microphone is necessary
- ◆ Expect a large audience
- ◆ Possibility to stream in another room in the library if too many people for the space
- ◆ Prepare staff for protestors and to answer many questions (talking points would be useful)
- ◆ Great to have the library’s public info specialist to live stream, take photos, post online