

**Children's To-Go Activities (Fall 2020 – Early 2021)**  
**Jean Patrick, Children's Services Librarian**

**TO-GO**  
**ACTIVITIES**

**Summary:**

The library provides To-Go activities for preschoolers and elementary children. These are available at the library and curbside (upon request).

**Descriptions:**

\* **"Take & Make" kits** provide children with seasonal crafts that develop fine motor skills, sensory awareness, and creativity. So far, we've offered three Make & Take kits: a yarn pumpkin (October); paper ornaments (December); and paper snowflakes (January).

\* **Reading Charts** encourage children to read (or listen) 20 minutes each day and to mark their progress with stickers. After the child reaches 25 days of 20 minutes or more, he or she gets to choose a free book from the prize shelf. (These books are from Scholastic Literary Partnership & are the same ones used for the Summer Reading Program.)

**Publicity:**

\* **"Take & Make" kits** are prominently displayed at the entrance to the children's area with content-related books. I also mention these kits during the online Storytimes and demonstrate the process on Art & Science Tuesday. We could publicize these kits even more, but creating these kits is time intensive & we want to make sure we have enough kits on hand.

\* **Reading Charts** are available at my desk in the children's department where I offer these directly to children and their families.

**Impact:**

\* We distribute 35-45 **"Take & Make" kits** each month. (January is on track to be well over 50.) Parents and kids are delighted to have the opportunity to do an activity *together* and to have supplies included. Some children bring back their completed crafts for display, showing additional involvement with the library.

\* **Reading Charts** are not as popular during the school year (4-36 participants/month). Most of the participants are students from the colonies and use the reading charts with books their teachers have checked out from the library. (Note: These reading charts are extremely popular with children and families during the summer. The daily reading helps students to continue to read on a daily basis and to avoid the "summer slide.")

**Future:**

We will continue to offer **"Take & Make" kits** each month in 2021. I also will continue to promote the **Reading Charts**. At some point, I also would like to create a year-round reading program for elementary-age children, similar to the existing *1000 Books Before Kindergarten* program.