



Aarrggghh...Matey's Let's Go On A Library Treasure Hunt!

Overview; One of the keys to getting kids excited about reading is getting them to explore their libraries on a regular basis. Why not make it an adventure...let's go on a treasure hunt. The treasure is in the hours of fun reading awards you with but you can make it a hidden treasure.

What To Do: Preparation couldn't be simpler just get some index cards and some treasure (i.e. pencils, stickers, stamps) for all your Jack Sparrow's.

The hunt begins: First step is to determine what books you want your pirates to hunt for. These can be children's books, reference books, audio and adult books. You want your little pirates to become familiar with all areas of the library. You want practice at finding call numbers as well as call letters. So take your index cards and write down the call numbers and letters of the library pieces you want them to find.

Finally, in each book you want them to find, place a "treasure card". They can say something along the lines of: "Ahoy Matey you have found your treasure turn this card in to claim your booty".

Remember this is a teachable moment, go along with your students and help them narrow down their search. For example, find the row and then locate a book right inbetween the two treasure books and ask questions. Is your book above or below? Which row should we look for? What area does that letter/number indicate? And don't forget this is a great time to talk about the Dewey Decimal System.

Then for a bonus prize ask the librarian for some "return books" and have the kids replace them with their new skills.

And make sure the kids take home some real treasures...BOOKS!!

