

FUN & EDUCATIONAL

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

ABOUT

After school programs can be kid driven - offer them some ideas and help them explore the ones that appeal to them. Kids are often mentally exhausted after school, so keep it fun. Design your program around developing skills versus fixing deficits.

You could include activities that build community awareness like making blankets for the Veteran's Home or a towel drive for the animal shelter.

Schools have cut back on the arts - incorporate art and music when you can.

Many museums have activities you can watch and learn how to make things - the Smithsonian is a useful resource with art, culture, music, history, and science ideas for all ages of children. The National Gallery of art even has book tie-ins.

The Lincoln Children's Zoo made some videos in 2020 that are still online. The Henry Doorly Zoo has some free online resources under education.

You can also find lots of information on the National Park Service website under the For Educators section. Follow links to set up virtual tours of parks and learn how make things like bat houses.

RESOURCES

- UNL Extension and after school 4H programs
- Nebraska Library Commission and your local system have STEM kits you can borrow
- My Heritage on NebraskAccess
- Join Facebook Programming Librarians Group
- Look on Pinterest for arts and crafts
- Smithsonian website Learning Lab
- read.gov/kids
- Scratch Coding with MIT
- NASA STEM Engagement
- Local museums and art centers
- Lincoln Children's Zoo online
- National Geographic Kids website
- Exploratorium online learning
- Sciencebuddies.org
- Artforkidshub.com

OTHER IDEAS

- Chess
- Explore the 1950 census
- Picture book discussion groups
- Chapter book storytime
- Board games
- Art project to go with a video
- Origami with Youtube videos
- Legos

