



ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Because Libraries Matter

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**Katie Salo Selected as 2024 Recipient of the
Illinois Library Association Youth Services Librarian of the Year Award**

The Illinois Library Association (ILA) Youth Services Forum is presenting this year's Youth Services Librarian of the Year Award to Katie Salo, Early Childhood Librarian at the Glenview Public Library. This annual award, presented by the ILA Youth Services Forum and Children's Plus Inc., is in honor of Marion Davis for her active role in services to children at the Des Plaines Public Library. Davis often served as a mentor to other librarians. The award recognizes an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to library services to youth. Since its inception in 1971, the award has been presented to individuals who exemplify resourcefulness, professionalism, and caring in their service to young people.

Katie Salo started working at libraries in Illinois in 2006. During this time, she has become a leader in the field of librarianship. Her blog, *Storytime Katie*, is a tool for Children's Services librarians throughout the country and world. The *Storytime Katie* blog, started in 2010, includes everything from song and book recommendations to information on how her storytime crowd reacted to the different elements of her programs.

Salo has also contributed to the Association to Library Services to Children Blog, was an active member of the Monarch Award Committee, served on multiple American Library Association committees, including the 2018 Caldecott Committee, and presented at the

American Library Association Annual Conference & Exhibition, the Public Library Association Annual Conference, the Young Adult Library Services Association Lit Symposium, the Illinois Library Association Annual Conference, and the Illinois Youth Services Institute. Salo continues to serve through her involvement in a variety of Illinois networking and learning groups.

In addition to Salo's tremendous contributions to the professional development and education of her peers, she has also provided exemplary library services in her role at the Glenview Public Library. One example of Salo's ingenuity in programming was the development of the Big Feeling Storytime. After enduring her own mental health crises in 2023, Salo realized the importance of social and emotional learning for children who were negatively impacted by the variety of challenges that arose during the global pandemic. Big Feelings Storytime was a four-week program for preschool-aged children and their caregivers. It was dedicated to teaching children about feelings and provided caregivers with resources to help their children understand and navigate emotions. Each week featured a librarian-led storytime, discussion, activities, and a craft or tool for preschoolers and their caregivers to use outside of the program to continue expressing feelings.

Salo also hosts a music and movement program, Baby Storytime, and is working with TrueNorth Educational Cooperative 804 to provide library services to individuals with special education needs throughout the Glenview School District.

Congratulations to Katie Salo, the 2024 recipient of the ILA Youth Services Librarian of the Year Award!

The Illinois Library Association Youth Services Librarian of the Year Award will be presented at an awards ceremony during the 2024 Illinois Library Association Annual Conference. The conference will take place October 8-10, 2024, in Peoria, Illinois.

For more information, contact the Illinois Library Association.

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About the Illinois Library Association

The Illinois Library Association (ILA) is a professional membership organization that represents Illinois libraries and the millions who depend on them. Founded in 1896, it is the third-largest state library association and serves as a chapter within the American

Library Association. ILA is comprised of 2,000 personal and more than 500 institutional members, made up of public, academic, school, and special libraries, as well as librarians, library staff, trustees, students, and library vendors.