

"Fun Filled Travel Time"

With the holiday season now upon us, many parents and their children will be spending countless hours on the road in an effort to connect with family and friends. Being the dad of three adorable little ones, I know first-hand just how difficult and stressful these trips can be. Over the years, however, my bride and I have discovered a few life-saving library resources that have helped make such van trips a bit more bearable for both us and our children. It should be no surprise to anyone that audio books are the first item on this list.

I cannot tell you how many times an audio book has come to the aid of Mary and I as we ventured to Grandma and Grandpa Hruska's in Schuyler or to Grandpa and Grandma Karel's farm in St. Edward, NE.

Audio books make great travel companions because unlike favorite radio stations, they will not silence out because of poor reception. The Columbus Public Library offers a number of great juvenile recordings like "The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe" by C.S. Lewis, "Adventure According to Humphrey" by Betty Birney, "Kenny and the Dragon" by Tony DiTerrizzi, "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" by Jeff Kinney, and Disney-Pixar "Cars," "Brave" "Big Hero 6" and "Tangled." Quality DVDs are another ideal travel resource that parents can use when dealing with little ones experiencing road-rage meltdowns. With more and more portable devices becoming available for vehicles and with numerous vehicles coming with DVD players standard, the library has an ever expanding children's DVD collection that parents can feel safe allowing their children to view such as "Sleeping Beauty," "Sid the Science Kid," "Toy Story," "The Last Unicorn," "The Jim Henson Collection," "Chicken Little," "Barbie and the Secret Door," and "Alvin and the Chipmunks."

Another great travel resource that parents can take advantage of is ebooks. Various books can be downloaded through Overdrive, which can be found on the library's user-friendly website (www.cplconnect.us). So instead of lugging around a bag full of heavy books, families can download numerous titles to their lightweight e-readers like "Above Average" by Andrew Clements, "Afternoon on the Amazon" by Mary Pope Osborne, "Against the Tide" by Tui Southerland, and "Alice the Fairy" by David Shannon.

Little ones can then have amazing titles at their fingertips, and moms and dads will not have to worry about getting back to town in time to return them because the texts will simply disappear once they come due.

So the next time your family needs to venture far from home, be sure to include the Columbus Public Library in your travel plans! We have a number of great resources that are sure to make the travel time more fun and less hectic for everyone in the family! If you have any questions about the items featured in this article or would like to learn about more great family resources that the Columbus Public Library has to offer, contact me at (402) 564-7116 opt. 4.