

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Program Instructions

Program Overview:

The 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program is an exciting early literacy initiative aimed at getting children from birth to age five ready to learn how to read independently. Shared reading is one of the best ways to help babies, toddlers and preschoolers develop important early literacy skills. This program encourages parents and caregivers to read aloud 1,000 books with their child. And for every milestone that you and your child meet, you'll be rewarded with fun prizes!

How to Participate:

1. **Read with your child.** Studies have shown that reading with your child provides a great opportunity for bonding. Reading together is fun and will create lifelong memories for the both of you.
2. **Mark your reading log** whenever you read a book with your child. You can either check the numbered boxes on the provided reading log sheets or, if you prefer, write down the titles of the books. The journal will make a great keepsake item!
3. **Collect prizes** from the Youth Services Desk when you reach milestones. Upon the completion of the program, your child will have received 10 brag tags, a free book, and a certificate of accomplishment.

Frequently Asked Question:

1. **Who can participate in this program?** Any child from birth until they enter kindergarten can participate in the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program.
2. **How long will the program take?** If you read just one book a night, you will read 365 books in a year. In two years, the number will grow to 730. In the third year, you will surpass the goal at 1,095 books. If you consider that most children start kindergarten at age five or six, you have more time than you think, and it's never too late to start.
3. **Do we have to read 1,000 different books?** Rereads of your child's favorite book always count! Rereading favorite books is not just enjoyable for children, but helpful, too. Children learn through repetition and pick up new vocabulary quicker from repeated readings of the same book. So, go ahead and reread that story over and over (and over!) again.
4. **How many of my children can participate?** All of them, provided they have not yet started kindergarten. Make it even more fun and read as a family!