



## 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten is a national program developed by the 1,000 Books Foundation, dedicated to promoting reading for newborns, infants, and toddlers and encouraging parent/child bonding through reading. The goal is to read 1,000 books to newborns, infants, and toddlers before kindergarten!

Reading can be one-on-one or in a group setting. If your child has a favorite book, it is actually helpful to read it over and over again; repetition supports many early literacy skills, including building a child's overall interest in words and books.

### Why Read 1,000 Books?

- Reading books together is a key to boosting early literacy (learning to read and write), especially when shared with a caring adult. Exposure to different kinds of books also opens doors to brand new sights, experiences, and connections, helping to create strong foundations for your child's lifetime of learning.

### Participating in a 1,000 Books Program

- Reading 1,000 books may seem like a lot, but during the five years before kindergarten, this is only 200 per year, or less than 17 per month!
- Many libraries run 1,000 Books programs. Check with your local branch to see if they have one, or know of a library or community organization who does.
- Each host site will have a different way of tracking how many books are read, and that will include books read by teachers and siblings as well.
- You can jump in and start the program at any time in your child's first 5 years—there are milestones all along the way!

### Where to Find Books

- *Visit your local library* and introduce yourself and your child to the children's librarian. Ask them to help you locate books on your child's favorite topics. While you're there, sign up for the public story hours.
- *Story hours* are also held at many museums and other community and cultural organizations. In the summer, check out local zoos and parks that host family days, and events with story times.
- *Books are everywhere!* See where you can find a picture book to read together wherever you go. Look for them at the pediatrician's office and bring books along whenever you will be waiting at the bank, bus stop, or hairdresser. Bath time is also a great time to share books; vinyl bath books can be kept by the tub or shower for your child to grab, chew on, and play with in the water.
- Free and discounted books can be found at: <http://www.firstbook.org/tdbank>, <http://www.highlandstreet.org/programs/community-events/tadpole-10>, and <http://www.readboston.org/>

### More Information

- For more information about the program, visit the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten website: <http://1000booksbeforekindergarten.org/>
- To learn more about supporting early learning, visit the Boston Children's Museum website: [www.school-readiness.org](http://www.school-readiness.org)



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[BostonChildrensMuseum.org](http://BostonChildrensMuseum.org)

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