



What is the program?

“1000 books Before Kindergarten” is a nationwide program designed to help parents and/or caregivers prepare their children for kindergarten by reading together, preferably every day.

How does it work?

Read a book (any book) to your newborn, infant, toddler, and/or preschooler. The program is self-paced and can take a few months to a few years. The goal is to read 1,000 books (and yes, you can repeat books!) before your child begins kindergarten. Books read at library story time, at day care or by others to your child also count.

Why should I participate?

To bond with your baby through reading and to promote early literacy. Reading has been identified as an early indicator of academic success with a direct link between how many words a baby hears each day to their language skills. It also builds intimacy and life-long memories between parents/caregivers and a child.

How long does it take?

If you read one story at bedtime every night, you will have read 365 books in a year. That is 730 books in two years and 1,095 books in three years. Don't forget, reading the same book over again counts!

How can the library help us ?

Our website includes suggested reading lists and a reading log to help track books. For every 100 books read the parent and child can email the library at [childrensinfo@eipl.org](mailto:childrensinfo@eipl.org) to record their achievement. We 'd love to share this accomplishment. Feel free to share a pic of your happy reader(s) as well. When the child has read 1,000 books they will receive a special gift, certificate of success and go on the “1000 Books Before Kindergarten Hall of Fame.”

How do I sign up now?

Email the Children's Department and sign up anytime; the program is ongoing.