

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

WHAT IS THE 1,000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM?

The 1000 Books Before Kindergarten (1KB4K) challenge is simple! Read a book, *any* book to your baby or child, with the goal of reading 1,000 books before they start kindergarten.

1KB4K is an initiative sponsored by Georgia Public Library Service (GPLS). This is part of a nationwide program that encourages parents of babies, toddlers and preschoolers to read aloud with their children.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO READ ALOUD WITH MY CHILD?

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, each year, more than a third of children enter kindergarten without the language skills needed to become strong readers. Reading is an early indicator of academic success! Parents and caregivers are a child's first teachers during their critical, early years and it is never too soon to get started reading.

Reading aloud with children supports their early literacy and pre-reading skills and fosters a love of books and a curiosity for learning. It's also valuable for their emotional health. Reading aloud with your child strengthens your parent-child bond.

SOUNDS LIKE A LOT OF BOOKS.

CAN I REALLY READ 1,000 BOOKS TO MY CHILD BEFORE KINDERGARTEN?

Absolutely!

If you read just one book each day to your child, you could read 1,000 books in a little less than 3 years. And who can stop at just one picture book a day?

If you read three books, about 15 minutes each day, you'll read more than 1,000 books in just ONE year!

WHAT TYPES OF BOOKS COUNT?

Anytime your child is read to it counts toward their reading goal! Board books, picture books, even short stories can all be logged.

You can log the books you read at home, the ones your children hear at storytimes at the library, at a childcare program, with grandma or grandpa or a babysitter! Reading a book more than once also counts. Kids love to repeat books, so if you read the same book ten or twenty times, you can log it *every* time you read it.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Register, Read, Log and Share!

First, register online or at your local library for Hall County Library's 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program. Keep track of the books you read on your computer or download the Beanstack app to your phone, log in and track your books there.

Once you have a Beanstack account, the books you read and log for the 1KB4K program will also be added to your Summer or Winter reading challenges too!

If you prefer to keep track of your books on a paper reading log, download and print a [paper Reading Log here](#) or ask for one at your library.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE REACH A 1KB4K MILESTONE?

When you start the 1KB4K program, ask your children's librarian for a One Thousand Books Before Kindergarten Reading Passport.

Each time you reach a 100-book milestone (100 books, 200 books, 300 books, etc.), bring your Reading Passport to your nearest library branch to share your success! Get a stamp in your passport and loads of praise and encouragement from our library staff.

We'll also snap a photo to help your child commemorate their achievement.

At 200 books read, your child will also get a personalized coloring page and sticker.

At 500 books they can get a browsing bag and a sticker.

At 700 books read they will get a dragon bathtub squirter toy and sticker.

At 1,000 books they will receive a finger puppet and certificate and we will place a book in the library with your recommendation with a book plate dedicated to your child!

Our Youth Services team also recognizes program participants and milestones at special 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten storytime events and activities in September and January. (Due to COVID-19, this is subject to change.)

And remember, even when you reach 1,000 books...Keep Reading!