



INSTRUCTIONS

Dear Parents/Caregivers:

On behalf of the 1,000 Books Foundation, we invite you to participate in this **free** program which encourages you to read 1,000 books with your child before he or she starts kindergarten.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The concept is simple, the rewards are priceless. Read a book (any book) to your newborn, infant, and/or toddler. The goal is to have read 1,000 books (*yes you can repeat books!*) before your precious one starts kindergarten. Does it sound hard? Not really if you think about it. If you read just 1 book a night, you will have read about 365 books in a year. That is 730 books in two years and 1,095 books in three years. If you consider that most children start kindergarten at around 5 years of age, you have more time than you think!

The key is perseverance. Make it exciting. When your children reach a 100-book milestone, bring your tracking sheet to the library for a small prize!

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

- Sign up at the circulation desk at the Alma Public Library, or visit our website for an online form! We'll give you your first tracking sheet and take a picture of your child to put on our tracking wall (if you want us to).
- 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 life-long memories for the both of you.
- Keep **track** of the titles of the books that you read with your child. Use the tracking sheet we provide, or download the convenient 1000 Books Before Kindergarten app for Apple or Android.
- If you are able to, make sure to keep a **record** of ANY book that is being read to your child. This includes teachers, siblings, grandparents, and even storytime at the library!
- Bring your completed tracking sheet(s) to the library. We'll give your little one a small prize, take a picture, and celebrate with you!
- After you've read 1,000 books, your little one gets to choose a free book to keep!

FREQUENTLY-ASKED-QUESTIONS

- Who can participate in this program? *Any child from birth until he or she enters kindergarten can participate in the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program.*
- How long will the program take? *The program will take anywhere from a few months to a few years. The program is self-paced and will depend on how often you read together.*
- 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!*