



# 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Did you know that reading to your child is one of the most powerful ways to boost his or her brain power? The simple and enjoyable act of sharing books helps your child learn pre-reading skills such as understanding the sounds letters make, developing a bigger vocabulary, and building background knowledge—all important skills that help prepare your child for learning to read and entering kindergarten.

The Iowa Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program is a fun, exciting, and free way to start your child on the path to success! Any child ages birth to five years who is eligible for our library's services can participate.

Just follow these steps:

1. **Register:** Find program sign-up materials at the library, online or we can mail them to you.
2. **Track Your Reading:** Use the supplied reading log to keep track of the books you read with your child on your reading record.
3. **Every Book Counts:** Even if your child wants to hear the same book again and again, you can count it each time. You can also count the books your child hears in storytime, in daycare or preschool, or with a friend or family member.
4. **100-Book Milestones:** Each time you read 250 books, let the library know and receive your special reward.
5. **1,000 Books:** You did it! Celebrate! Your child's name will be placed on the 1,000 Book Wall of Fame and you will receive your final reward.
6. **Keep on Reading:** Don't stop at 1,000! Keep on reading together.

Singing songs, saying rhymes, telling stories, and playing with your child are all great ways to build their literacy skills. One thousand books may seem like a lot, but if you read just one book a night, you'll meet your goal in less than 3 years. If you read three books a night, you could reach your goal in just one year!

Ask our friendly staff for suggestions—we're here to help you on your journey to 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten!



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