



**WELCOME** to **1000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN!** This free program encourages you to read 1000 books with your child before he or she enters Kindergarten. This goal was set by experts who say children need to hear at least 1000 books to help them learn to read for themselves.

One of the best ways to encourage learning is to spend time sharing books each and every day. Reading together helps develop important pre-reading skills that provide a solid reading foundation — a key to school success. Plus reading together is fun and a great way to bond and relax.

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

### How the program works:

Register at the Children's Information Desk at the West Bend Library.

1. Read together.
2. Color a "bean seed" for every book you read to your child. Keep track of your favorites on your log.
3. After reading 100 books, bring your reading log to the library and:

Receive a sticker for your button

Place a special sticker on our Beanstalk

Collect your next reading log

4. Repeat steps 1-3 ten times.

\*\*We have special prizes along the way, including a book bag!

5. When your child reaches 1,000 books, your child will receive a certificate and a free book. Your child's name will also be added to our "Reading Cloud of Fame."

The program has no end date except for when your child starts school, so don't feel rushed—just enjoy the experience! Take every chance to read with your child. You will share many special moments along the way.

Happy Reading!

Sign up now at the West Bend Community Memorial Library!



Questions?

262-335-5151 x5246

[west-bendlibrary.org](http://west-bendlibrary.org)

# "1000 Books Before Kindergarten"

## Frequently Asked Questions

*Can you really expect me to read 1000 books to my child before kindergarten?*

If you read only one bedtime story every night for three years you will have read 1095!

If you read 10 books each week for two years, you will have read 1040.

If you read 20 books each week, you'll have read over 1000 books in one year.

You can begin much earlier though — even when your child is an infant!

*Do we have to read books from the West Bend Community Memorial Library?*

No, you can read books from anywhere — your home, the doctor's office, preschool, Grandma's house, and other libraries.

*I read the same story every night to my child. Can I count that book more than once?*

Yes, fill in one 'bean seed' every time you read the book.

*I have more than one child I read to. Can I count the same title for each child?*

Of course you can! And if one of your older children reads to their sibling, you can count that also.

*Can I count books that are read at Storytime?*

Yes, record 3 books for every storytime your child attends at the West Bend Library.

*What about the books that my preschooler hears at daycare, and from preschool or 4K teachers?*

Yes, you can count those.

*My child has an electronic game (or a computer game) that reads the story to him if he chooses. Can I count that?*

As long as your child listens to the entire story, you can count it. Please don't count it if he/she just plays the games.

*When I don't have time to read to my child, I sometimes let her listen to a book on CD. Can I add that to her list?*

Sure, as long as he/she has listened to the entire story.

*My child "reads" books to himself. Should I count those?*

While it's a great start to reading, if your child is only pretending to read, you shouldn't count it. If your child has memorized a book you read together frequently and can read it themselves, then go ahead and count it.

*My older children like to read to their younger siblings. Can I count those books?*

Count any books that are read to your child, no matter who reads the books. It can be a brother, sister, grandparent, babysitter, teacher, etc. As long as they hear the entire story, you can count it.



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# EARLY LITERACY SKILLS

You are your child's first and most important teacher! You know your child best and can work with them at times when they are in the mood to learn. What you do helps your child get ready to read. There are six pre-reading skills that children must have in order to learn to read. You can practice these skills with your child at any age, from infant on up, just adapt it to their age.

## Narrative Skills

*What it is:* Being able to describe things and events and tell stories

*What you can do:* Tell stories to your child. Have them tell you stories. Practice what happens first, next, and last. Relate what is going on in the story to something similar you have done.

## Phonological Awareness

*What it is:* Being able to hear and play with the smaller sounds in words.

*What you can do:* Play rhyming games. Ask, "Do cat and dog rhyme? Do cat and hat rhyme?" Sing songs and clap out the syllables in the words. Put two words together – "What if we put hot and dog together?" And take them apart - "What would you have if we took cow away from cowboy?"

## Print Motivation

*What it is:* Being interested in and enjoying books.

*What you can do:* Make book sharing a special time. Let your child see you read. Visit your library often. Let your child know that you value reading in your daily life.

## Vocabulary

*What it is:* Knowing the names of things.

*What you can do:* Talk with your child about what's going on around you. Point at and identify everyday items as you encounter them. Add more details to things your child tells you. Read together every day! Research shows that children who have larger vocabularies are better readers.

## Print Awareness

*What it is:* Noticing print, knowing how to handle a book and knowing how to follow the words on a page.

*What you can do:* Read aloud everyday print - labels, signs, lists, menus. Let your child hold the book and turn the pages. Hold a book upside down and see if your child notices.

## Letter Knowledge

*What it is:* Knowing letters are different from each other, knowing their names and sounds and recognizing letters everywhere.

*What you can do:* Write your child's name. Make letters from clay. Play with magnetic letters. Read alphabet books and point out the letters. Show your child that the same letter can look different.

*"Reading aloud with children is known to be the single most important activity for building the knowledge and skills they will eventually require for learning to read."*

*Marilyn Jager Adams*

