



Painting by Leonard "Porkchop" Zimmerman. Photo by Noah Fecks.

1000 Books Before KINDERGARTEN



You
are your
child's
first teacher...

1000 Books Before KINDERGARTEN

Augusta-Richmond County Public Library System

Take the Challenge!



Welcome to the *1000 Books Before Kindergarten* program! The Augusta-Richmond County Public Library System encourages families to read at least 1000 books with their children before they enter kindergarten. We are partnering with the Richmond County School System Pre-K Program, CSRA Economic Opportunity Authority, Inc. Head Start, Richmond County Division of Family and Children Services, and area child development centers to bring you this exciting FREE program!

A multitude of studies have shown that families who start reading aloud to their children at birth help build language skills, cultivate an extensive vocabulary, and improve attention spans and listening skills — all very important tools for beginning kindergarten.

Reading *1000 Books Before Kindergarten* is as easy as 1, 2, 3. The average children's picture book takes just 5 minutes to read. If you read 3 books a day — just 15 minutes — for 1 year, you and your child will have read 1,095 books!

To participate in the program, simply record the books that you read together in your reading log. When you read 100 books, show the completed reading log to a library staff member and receive your next reading log! Read *1000 Books Before Kindergarten*, and your child will receive a free book! Remember, if you read the same book multiple times, it counts each time. Stories read to your child at daycare or preschool, library story times or at grandma's house count, too!



Reading Milestones

- 100 books = sticker
- 300 books = name displayed in library
- 500 books = bookmark
- 700 books = certificate
- 1000 books = a book to take home

www.arcpls.org



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Program Overview

How the Program Works

You are about to embark on a fantastic, life-long journey with your child! Your commitment to enjoying books with your children will teach them pre-literacy skills that will prepare them for reading and learning throughout their lives. The most effective way to get children ready for their formal education is to read to them!

1. Enroll at any Augusta-Richmond County Public Library and pick up the reading log for your first 100 books.
2. After each set of 100 books is read and recorded, take your log to the library where you registered to receive the log for your next 100 books. After reading your 1000th book, take your last log to any library to receive your free book. A staff member will take a picture of you and your child for the ARCPLS website.

You may be asking yourself, “How am I going to read 1000 books to my child?” Break down that seemingly huge number over five years, or even two years, and the task is easily accomplished. In five years, you could read one book every other day and read 1000 Books Before Kindergarten. Take two years, and that would be fewer than two books a day! This small time commitment is well worth the advantage you will be giving your children and the memories that you will form spending time with them.

Suggestions

1. Have fun! Reading together should never be a chore.
2. Take every chance you have to read with your children, tell and talk about stories, recite nursery rhymes, and sing songs.
3. Expose your children to a variety of different types of stories and vocabulary. It is okay to read the same book again and again, as all children have their favorites, but when you have the opportunity, introduce new stories so that your child has a chance to experience and hear as many new words and concepts as possible.
4. Children learn best when they are in a good mood, so read with your child when the experience will be the most pleasurable for both of you.



Literacy Tips

My Very Own ABCs

Make an alphabet book. Decorate it with markers, glitter, fancy paper, feathers and sequins, stencils, and stamps — whatever makes playing with letters fun.

Tell a story about your childhood. Children love hearing about experiences their parents had at a similar age.

Scribble, Scribble

Help children use pencils, crayons, markers, and chalk. Help them make scribbles like the strokes used later to form letters: straight lines, curves, and circles.

Make Music

Children develop motor skills as they clap, jump, twirl, and spin to music. Make simple musical instruments and play them as you sing.

Use simple props such as a puppet or a stuffed animal to tell a story. Use silly voices for different characters and ask your child to join in.

Sing with your children any chance you have. You don't need a perfect voice, just some enthusiasm. Play music written especially for children.

Play Together

Encourage children to cut paper with child-friendly scissors, place beads on a string, play with blocks, and do simple jigsaw puzzles. These activities develop the fine motor skills and eye-hand coordination that they need for writing.



Register at any of our six locations!

Augusta-Richmond County Public Library
823 Telfair Street, Augusta, GA 30901
(706) 821-2600

Appleby Branch Library
2260 Walton Way, Augusta, GA 30904
(706) 736-6244

Diamond Lakes Branch Library
101 Diamond Lakes Way
Hephzibah, GA 30815
(706) 772-2432

Friedman Branch Library
1447 Jackson Rd, Augusta, GA 30909
(706) 736-6758

Maxwell Branch Library
1927 Lumpkin Rd, Augusta, GA 30906
(706) 793-2020

Wallace Branch Library
1237 Laney-Walker Blvd.
Augusta, GA 30901
(706) 722-6275