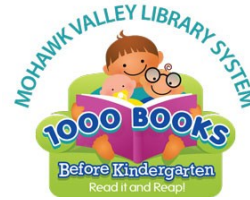


### **Why Read to My Baby?**

You may wonder about the benefits of reading to your baby. An infant won't understand everything you're doing or why. But you wouldn't wait until your child could understand what you were saying before you started speaking to him or her, right? Nor would you bypass lullabies until your baby could carry a tune or wait until he or she could shake a rattle before you offered any toys.



Reading aloud to your baby is a wonderful shared activity you can continue for years to come — and it's an important form of stimulation.

Reading aloud:

- teaches a baby about communication
- introduces concepts such as numbers, letters, colors, and shapes in a fun way
- builds listening, memory, and vocabulary skills
- gives babies information about the world around them

Believe it or not, by the time babies reach their first birthday they will have learned all the sounds needed to speak their native language. The more stories you read aloud, the more words your child will be exposed to and the better he or she will be able to talk. Learn more about reading to babies

at <http://kidshealth.org/en/parents/reading-babies.html>. © 1995- . The Nemours Foundation/KidsHealth®. Reprinted with permission.

**1000 Books Before Kindergarten** encourages all Mohawk Valley Library System families and caregivers to read 1000 books with their young children before they enter kindergarten. Studies have shown that families who start reading aloud to children at birth help strengthen their language skills and build their vocabulary – two important tools when they begin learning to read in kindergarten.

To help you reach this goal, your public library has **1000 Books Before Kindergarten Baby Bags** ready for you to check out, take home and read with your child. **The Baby Bag** has five baby board books appropriate for babies and toddlers ages birth through 2.

- Over for How to Participate -

## **HOW TO PARTICIPATE**

### **Read together!**



1. Keep track of your child's reading on the library's Beanstack software. Besides creating a log of titles read, children can earn digital badges, and Beanstack will provide weekly personalized recommendations for your child. Look for the Beanstack logo on your library's webpage to log in. Alternatively, track through the **1000 Books Before Kindergarten** App, or just keep a journal of books read together. Books read at storytime, at daycare, or by others to your child also count. App information and log sheets are available at <https://1000booksbeforekindergarten.org/resources/>
2. For each 100 books you read with your child, bring your app or log sheet to the library and receive a sticker. Beanstack users receive digital badges for completing books.
3. After finishing 1000 books, your child:
  - Receives a certificate and a sticker or badge
  - Gets an awesome jumpstart on success in school!

The program has no end date except your child's going to school, so don't feel rushed – just enjoy the experience! Take every chance you have to read with your children, tell and talk about stories, say nursery rhymes, sing songs, and attend library programs. By reading just three stories a day, you and your child will have read over 1000 books in one year. You will also have shared many special moments along the way.

**Your library** is a fun place featuring books to check out, free programs and great suggestions for what to read.

**Congratulations** on giving your child a great head start on learning to read!

**<https://www.1000booksbeforekindergarten.org>**

**<http://www.mvls.info>**