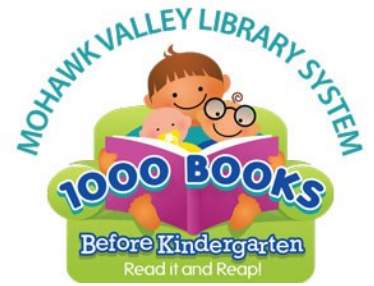


Dear Parents/Caregivers:

Give young children the tools to become successful readers! 1000 Books Before Kindergarten is the library program that encourages all Mohawk Valley Library System families and caregivers to read 1,000 books with your 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 now has **1000 Books Before Kindergarten Bags** ready for you to check out, take home and read with your child.

- Each **1000 Books Before Kindergarten Bag** has ten preselected books on a wide range of topics and interests appropriate for most 3 to 5 year olds. If your child does not like one book, put it back and choose another to read! Each library currently has ten bags, which rotate every two months.
- **The Baby Bag**, has five baby board books appropriate for babies and toddlers ages birth through 2.

These bags are just useful tools! Feel free to count all the books you read with your child – library, home, doctor's office – and if you read a book more than once, record it each and every time!

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>