

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### Who is this program for?

The *1000 Books Before Kindergarten* program is for families with babies and young children from birth to 4 years (or up to the point they enter Kindergarten).

### Is it better to track my reading on paper (using the reading log) or online?

It's a matter of personal preference. Whatever works better for you.

### Will I still receive stickers if I log my reading online?

Yes! For each 100 books you read and log, you will receive a virtual sticker. However, we still encourage you to visit the library to let us know you've hit a milestone. When you do, we will give you the actual sticker and help you select some new books to read!

### Why am I being asked for my email address?

MPL would like to engage with you throughout your 1000 Books journey. Participants receive an email newsletter that include early literacy tips, recommended reads, information about monthly meet-ups and other program related information. You are not required to provide us with your email, but we hope that you will! You may unsubscribe at any point.

### Why am I being asked to complete a survey?

MPL invites participants to complete quarterly surveys to determine the program's impact and success. A link to the quarterly survey will be included in the newsletter. The surveys are completed anonymously. Participation in the surveys is not mandatory, but encouraged.

### What happens at the meet-ups?

The meet-ups are opportunities for participants to come together to socialize with one another. Each session varies, but will include playtime and an opportunity for adults to meet and socialize. Some sessions might include workshops facilitated by local parenting experts. The meet-ups will rotate from branch to branch. Times, dates and locations of the meet-ups will be included in the monthly newsletter.

### 1,000 books is a lot. Is this even possible?

It sounds daunting, but regularly reading just a few stories at a time from birth to Kindergarten will get you past that goal. Three stories a day adds up to 1,095 in a year! If you read just 10 stories a week for two years, that is 1,040 stories!

### Why should I participate?

Research shows that early literacy activities like sharing stories build vocabulary, increase reading readiness, and encourage positive attitudes and habits around reading that stay with children as they grow. Reading 1,000 books is a challenging, but an achievable goal.

### How long will the program take to complete?

The program will take anywhere from a few months to a few years. The program is self-paced and will depend on how often you and your child read together.

### Can I count books I read to my child before I registered?

It's great that you've already starting reading stories with your child! This program begins for your family on the day you register, and you only count stories you read after registering.

**Is there a list of books that we are supposed to read?**

No, choose whatever you like! If you are having trouble choosing books for your child, library staff are here to help. Just ask at the branch, or visit our [staff picks](#) page. Preschool titles are listed under "Early Literacy".

**My child likes to hear the same story over and over again. How do I count that?**

Record the book in your reading log every time you read it. If you read the same story ten times, record it ten times. Repetition is the key to learning!

**Can I count books that are read to my child at storytime, daycare, or by other family members?**

Yes, any book that is read to your child by anybody counts. You can also count stories that you make up and tell to your child.

**Do the books have to be library books?**

No, any story you read or tell counts, whether it's from a library book, your own book, your friend's book, or from your imagination!

**My child likes to listen to stories on the computer/iPad/eReader/etc. Can I count them?**

Yes!

**My child doesn't always listen to the whole story. Can I still count it?**

Yes! Babies, toddlers and preschoolers have varying attention spans and not all stories will interest all readers.

**My child likes to move. He or she won't sit still for a book.**

This is completely normal! Young children like to explore and play. Reading aloud while they are playing nearby still builds their literacy and vocabulary skills as they hear new words said aloud.