An early literacy program for ages 0-5 at the Newark Public Library
1000 Books Before Kindergarten

Program Overview:

The concept is simple, the rewards are priceless. Read any book to your child. The goal is to read 1,000 books (and yes, you can repeat books) before they start kindergarten. That sounds like a lot, but it is manageable by reading just 1-2 books per day. If you read just 1 book a night, you will have read about 365 books in a year, 730 in two years and 1095 in three years. Make it a fun routine, and in as little as 15 minutes a day, your child can build language and vocabulary skills – important tools for beginning to read. Reading together is fun and can create lifelong memories for the both of you.

How to participate:

- Register at your Newark Public Library branch and receive your reading booklet.
- For every book you read to your young child, color in a circle or ask the child to color it in.
- All readings to your child count, including library story times and reading with older siblings. Even repeated books count.
- For every 25 books when you get to a big circle, bring the booklet into the library for a sticker. Or you can save up to receive several stickers at once.
- For every 100 books, bring in the booklet to a branch for a small prize.
- Got a picture of you and your child reading together? Please tag your photo and share it on the Newark Public Library’s Facebook page - https://www.facebook.com/newarkpubliclibrary/ - or the library’s Instagram page @newarklibrary Instagram page. #npl1000 #newarkreads
- We hope you have a good time reading with your child!
1000 Books Before Kindergarten

Color a circle for each book you read.
Come in to the library for your sticker after each 25 books.

25 Books
My sticker

50 Books
My sticker
Some of our favorite books:

Caregiver Tip:
Reading with your baby is an important thing you can do to help with language development. You can also sing songs, talk with your baby about what you are doing, and tell your child the names of things.

Young Reader Artwork: My picture of someone special reading with me:

Books to look for:

- *Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown
- *The Itsy Bitsy Spider: Touch and Trace Nursery Rhymes* by Emily Bannister
- *The Neighborhood Mother Goose* by Nina Crews
1000 Books Before Kindergarten

Color a circle for each book you read.
Come in to the library for your sticker after each 25 books.

75 Books
My sticker

100 Books
My sticker
Some of our favorite books:

Caregiver Tip:
Be interactive--talk about the pictures, ask your child questions, point to words occasionally, and let your child help turn the pages.

Young Reader Artwork: My picture of a rainbow:

Books to look for:

*Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes* by Eric Litwin
*10 Hungry Rabbits* by Anita Lobel
*Green Is a Chili Pepper* by Roseann Greenfield Thong
1000 Books Before Kindergarten

Color a circle for each book you read. Come in to the library for your sticker after each 25 books.

125 Books
My sticker

150 Books
My sticker
Some of our favorite books:

Caregiver Tip:
Provide play materials and experiences that encourage the imagination, such as water play, sand play, play dough, or modeling clay. Try painting together, blowing bubbles, scribbling with large crayons, and pretend play.

**Play Dough Recipe**

There are many recipes for play dough, some which require cooking and some which don’t. The following is a very simple recipe from [www.diynatural.com](http://www.diynatural.com). You might try developing a young scientist by comparing the results of different recipes.

**Ingredients**

- 1 cup of flour
- ¼ cup of salt
- ½ cup of water
- 3 to 5 drops of natural food coloring

**Instructions**

1. Mix together the flour and the salt.

2. Mix together ½ cup of warm water with a few drops of food coloring.

3. Slowly pour the water into the flour mixture, stirring as you pour. Stir until combined, then knead with your hands until the flour is completely absorbed. If the dough is too sticky, add more flour until it doesn’t stick at all.

**Books to look for:**

- *Harold and the Purple Crayon* by Crockett Johnson
- *The Adventures of Beekle: The Unimaginary Friend* by Dan Santat
- *Press Here* by Hervé Tullet
1000 Books Before Kindergarten

Color a circle for each book you read.
Come in to the library for your sticker after each 25 books.

175 Books
My sticker

200 Books
My sticker
Some of our favorite books:

Caregiver Tip:
To increase your child’s facility with numbers, involve your child with daily activities that utilize counting, basic math, and estimating. For example, a child might count out napkins at dinnertime, count the stairs you are climbing, estimate how many people they think are at the playground, or count out imaginary cookies for stuffed animals—or real ones for you!

Numbers Activity

Make your own memory matching game with numbers. You can have your child help you. Write the number on one index card, and on another draw the same number of objects. You could let your child decide what the object can be—as long as it’s not too hard to draw. Place the cards face down, and each person takes a turn flipping over two cards. When the cards match, that person gets to keep the set.

Books to look for:

- *Ten Black Dots* by Donald Crews
- *Feast for 10* by Cathryn Fallwell
- *Ten, Nine, Eight* by Molly Bang
1000 Books Before Kindergarten

Color a circle for each book you read. Come in to the library for your sticker after each 25 books.

225 Books
My sticker

250 Books
My sticker
Some of our favorite books:

Caregiver Tip:
Bedtime can be a good time for families to build a routine for sharing stories, but do what works for your family. Tuck books into a bag so they are handy when waiting for an appointment or on the bus. Sing all kinds of songs! Lullabies, rhymes, and songs have rhythm and repetition that foster language development.

Moon Sand Recipe

What you need:
• 9 cups extra fine play sand
• 3 cups cornstarch
• 2 ¼ to 2 ½ cups water

What you do:
• Mix sand and cornstarch
• Gradually add water, mixing well, until you have the desired consistency.
• Cover and store in an airtight container.

Young Reader Artwork: My picture of stars:

Books to look for:
   Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star by Jerry Pinkney
   Llama Llama Nighty-Night by Anna Dewdney
   Mama Do You Love Me? by Barbara Joosse
1000 Books Before Kindergarten

Color a circle for each book you read.
Come in to the library for your sticker after each 25 books.

275 Books
My sticker

300 Books
My sticker
Some of our favorite books:

Caregiver Tip:
At age two or three, your child may go back and forth in a book to find favorite pictures, retell parts of a story they know, or like to look at one book over and over. Your child may like to say the names of pictures you point to, or fill in the words to stories they know.

Young Reader Artwork: Here’s my picture of one of my favorite characters:

Books to look for:

* Corduroy by Don Freeman
* How Do Dinosaurs Say Good Night? by Jane Yolen
* Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus by Mo Willems
1000 Books Before Kindergarten

Color a circle for each book you read.
Come in to the library for your sticker after each 25 books.

325 Books
My sticker

350 Books
My sticker
Some of our favorite books:

Caregiver Tip:
Exploring different shapes with your child helps develop the concept of same and different, and will be used in observing, comparing, and discussing many things. Shapes are symbols like letters are, and early recognition of shapes will help ready the ability of reading letters.
In addition, have children sort objects by color, shape, or any other feature, and then have them make patterns. This lays a foundation for math and science.

This idea for a shape mobile is from www.storyplace.org:

**Materials**
- 1 Clothes Hanger
- Yarn
- Scissors
- Heavy Paper
- Glue
- Crayons or Colored Markers

**Directions**
1. Glue pages of shapes to heavier paper.
2. Color the shapes.
3. Cut out the shapes with scissors.
4. Punch a hole at the top of each shape.
5. Tie yarn to top of the shapes.
6. Tie the other end of the yarn to the hanger.

Books to look for:
- *City Shapes* by Diana Murray
- *Round is a Tortilla* by Roseann Greenfield Thong
- *I Spy* books by Jean Marzollo
1000 Books Before Kindergarten

Color a circle for each book you read.
Come in to the library for your sticker after each 25 books.

375 Books
My sticker

400 Books
My sticker
Some of our favorite books:

Caregiver Tip:
Take full advantage of all the library has to offer! Borrow as many books as you can, attend storytimes and events when they fit your schedule, and make library friends. Library staff is happy to help you find good books for your child, including Caldecott award winners which are recognized as excellent picture books.

Young Reader Artwork: Here is a picture of me at my library:

Books to look for:
- *Lola Loves Stories* by Anna McQuinn
- *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Peña
- *Du Iz Tak?* by Carson Ellis
1000 Books Before Kindergarten

Color a circle for each book you read. Come in to the library for your sticker after each 25 books.

425 Books
My sticker

450 Books
My sticker
Some of our favorite books:

Caregiver Tip:
When you give your child opportunities to use their hands in daily activities like coloring, buttoning, cutting with child-friendly scissors, playing with playdough, and putting puzzles together, you help develop fine motor skills. This increases muscle strength and coordination and helps prepare for more advanced skills like writing with a pencil, using a computer mouse, or playing a musical instrument.

**Activity: Make Sewing or Lacing Cards**

These can be purchased or made with poster board or cardboard and a hole puncher. Cut a shape out of the poster board or cardboard. Use shoe laces, yarn, or plastic lacing. Tie one end of the lace to one hole of the card. Children lace the string through each hole. A template for the following shapes can be found at [http://www.kidspot.com.au](http://www.kidspot.com.au) by searching for lacing cards.

Books to look for:

*Ella Sarah Gets Dressed* by Margaret Chodos-Irvine

*The Things I Can Do* by Jeff Mack

*Extra Yarn* by Mac Barnett
1000 Books Before Kindergarten

Color a circle for each book you read. Come in to the library for your sticker after each 25 books.

475 Books
My sticker

500 Books
My sticker
Some of our favorite books:

Caregiver Tip:
Preparing food with preschoolers can help young kids learn and practice some basic math concepts like measuring, build language skills, and foster an interest in cooking. Simple tasks like pouring liquid into a bowl, stirring batter, and tearing lettuce are good activities for young children to help with. Also, kids can help make a grocery list, and then at the store help find words and cross them off, which aids letter recognition.

Young Reader Artwork: Here is a picture of me with some of my favorite foods:

Books to look for:
- *Eating the Alphabet* by Lois Ehlert
- *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle
- *Tyler Makes Pancakes* by Tyler Florence
1000 Books Before Kindergarten

Color a circle for each book you read.
Come in to the library for your sticker after each 25 books.

525 Books
My sticker

550 Books
My sticker
Some of our favorite books:

Caregiver Tip:
When you are at a store, the post office, a restaurant, or any other place, point to words on the signs that are everywhere and read them to your child. Your child may enjoy recognizing signs that they can read, like Stop and Exit.

Young Reader Artwork: My picture of a place I like to go:

Books to look for:

   *Bebe Goes Shopping* by Susan Middleton Elya
   *Busy, Busy Town* by Richard Scarry
   *My Dream Playground* by Kate M. Becker
1000 Books Before Kindergarten

Color a circle for each book you read.
Come in to the library for your sticker after each 25 books.

575 Books
My sticker

600 Books
My sticker
Some of our favorite books:

Caregiver Tips:
Say words and emphasize the beginning sound of the word. Then talk about what letter that word starts with. Magnetic letters are another fun way for kids to become more familiar with letters and the sounds they make.
Also, before kids can write their own letters, they can use paper and pencil to make their own scribbles in imaginary play, like writing a letter or taking a restaurant order, as they develop a purpose to read and write.

Young Reader Artwork: My practice writing my name:

Books to look for:
- *LMNO Peas* by Keith Baker
- *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by Bill Martin
- *Z is for Moose* by Paul Zelinsky
1000 Books Before Kindergarten

Color a circle for each book you read. Come in to the library for your sticker after each 25 books.

625 Books
My sticker

650 Books
My sticker
Some of our favorite books:

Caregiver Tip:
Wanting to learn about the world around us is a strong incentive for learning to read. Choose books to read to your child about new topics that might interest him or her, such as a favorite animal, space, or a hobby. This helps expand their understanding of the world and expose them to new vocabulary.

Young Reader Artwork: My picture of something interesting I learned from reading:

Books to look for:
- *What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?* by Steve Jenkins
- *Digging Up Dinosaurs* by Aliki
- *Who Lives Here?* by Nicola Davies
1000 Books Before Kindergarten

Color a circle for each book you read.  
Come in to the library for your sticker after each 25 books.

675 Books  
My sticker

700 Books  
My sticker
Some of our favorite books:

Caregiver Tip:
Doing puzzles with your child provides a great brain exercise. You’re giving them an opportunity to concentrate, sort, analyze, and problem solve, and experience with teamwork. This is just one way to build science literacy. You can help investigate how things work, and why. Many children love to collect things, and identifying and classifying them is a good way to practice scientific principles and learn vocabulary.

Try It!
Experiment
Use bath time to experiment with what will sink and what will float. Place a few objects in a container that will produce different results: a rock, a cork, a sponge, a small bowl. Ask your child to predict if the object will sink or float, and test the result.

Books to look for:

*Ada Twist, Scientist* by Andrea Beatty
*Light Is All Around Us* by Wendy Pfeffer
*Eat Like a Bear* by April Pulley Sayre
1000 Books Before Kindergarten

Color a circle for each book you read.
Come in to the library for your sticker after each 25 books.

725 Books
My sticker

750 Books
My sticker
Some of our favorite books:

Caregiver Tip:
Taking a walk in the park with your child brings opportunities to develop vocabulary with new things you see: sparrows, squirrels, acorns, tree bark, etc. A stick and a patch of dirt can be a good place for drawing and writing, and exercise and fresh air is healthy for all.

Young Reader Artwork: My picture of something I saw on a nature walk:

Books to look for:

*All the World* by Liz Garton Scanlon

*Living Sunlight: How Plants Bring the Earth to Life* by Molly Bang and Penny Chisholm

*If You Were My Baby* by Fran Hodgkins
1000 Books Before Kindergarten

Color a circle for each book you read. Come in to the library for your sticker after each 25 books.

775 Books
My sticker

800 Books
My sticker
Some of our favorite books:

Caregiver Tip:
Share stories with your child about your family, about when you were a child, stories about things that happened during the day, and even made-up stories about favorite toys or stuffed animals.

Young Reader Artwork: My picture of my family:

Books to look for:

- *Mango, Abuela, and Me* by Meg Medina
- *Thunder Boy, Jr.* by Sherman Alexie
- *Our Children Can Soar* by Michelle Cook
1000 Books Before Kindergarten

Color a circle for each book you read.
Come in to the library for your sticker after each 25 books.

825 Books
My sticker

850 Books
My sticker
Some of our favorite books:

RAISING A BILINGUAL CHILD
From the Administration for Children & Families (www.acf.hhs.gov)

It takes an effort to help your child learn your family’s language and become successful in school, but there are many benefits of being bilingual that make it worth it! Developing your child’s home language provides the foundation for reading and writing. Bilingual individuals have very active and flexible brains from being able to switch languages. Research shows bilingual people have an easier time understanding math concepts, solving word problems, using logic, and learning other languages than their monolingual peers. There are so many opportunities in the global community for bilingual individuals. Here are some things you can do everyday to help:

- **Use your native language at home.** The easiest, most important step is to use your home language every day. Many families worry that using their home language will confuse their children. In fact, children can easily learn several languages at the same time. They have an easier time learning English when they have a strong foundation in their first language.
- **Tell stories and sing songs.** Your family has a rich heritage to pass on to your children. Stories, chants, rhymes, poems, sayings, and songs from your childhood are an important part of their heritage.
- **Tell stories and share books together.** Read to your child every day—in whatever language you feel most comfortable—beginning at birth. And if you don’t feel comfortable reading words, you can point out the pictures in the book and talk with your child about them.
- **Check out materials in your language from the library.** Look for books, DVDs, and music in your language.
- **Talk about your traditions and culture.** Visit your child’s classroom or child care provider. Share your language and traditions, including family songs and games. Encourage your child to retell family stories and share your heritage with their teacher, friends, and others.
- **Look for activities in your community.** Attend cultural festivals and concerts and meet other families who speak your home language. Join with other families and organize your own events!
- **Continue using your home language as your children grow older.** Sometimes children start to prefer English as they get older. Talk with your children about the benefits of speaking two languages. Continue using your language, even if your children respond in English so you keep your lines of communication open.

Books to look for:

*¡Pío Peep!: Rimas tradicionales en español* por Alma Flor Ada and F. Isabel Campoy

*¿Qué puedes hacer con una paleta?* por Carmen Tafolla

*María tenía una llamita* por Angela Dominguez
1000 Books Before Kindergarten

Color a circle for each book you read. Come in to the library for your sticker after each 25 books.

875 Books
My sticker

900 Books
My sticker
Some of our favorite books:

Caregiver Tip:
Talking with your child during everyday activities and daily routines provides opportunities to introduce new words. You can connect the things you see to things you have read about in the books you have shared. For example, a train you see can be compared to the one that carried the toys in *The Little Engine That Could*.

Young Reader Artwork: My picture of a vehicle:

Books to look for:
- *The Little Engine That Could* by Watty Piper
- *Freight Train* by Donald Crews
- *Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site* by Sherri Duskey Rinker
1000 Books Before Kindergarten

Color a circle for each book you read. Come in to the library for your sticker after each 25 books.
Some of our favorite books:

**HOW TO GROW A READER**

**INTERNET RESOURCES**

Check out the Newark Public Library’s Kids’ Pages for many interesting websites:

http://npl.org/links-for-learning

Zero to Three has many resources for the development of babies and toddlers:

https://www.zerotothree.org

Reading Rockets is a literacy initiative that has many resources on its page for parents:

http://www.readingrockets.org/audience/parents

At the International Children’s Digital Library, you can read picture books online in many languages:

http://en.childrenslibrary.org

¡Colorín Colorado! is a bilingual website for parents to help children become readers. Esta un sitio bilingüe con información para padres sobre como ayudar a los niños a leer:

http://www.colorincolorado.org

Bedtime Math has a daily math puzzle for “Wee Ones” to promote math literacy at a young age:

http://bedtimemath.org

Books to look for:

*Book with No Pictures* by BJ Novak  
*How Rocket Learned to Read* by Tad Hills  
*I Will Not Read This Book* by Cece Meng
1000 Books Before Kindergarten

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975 Books
My sticker

1000 Books
My sticker
Some of our favorite books:

Caregiver Tip:
Keep it going! The strong bond you have created with your child will grow from continued time reading together. Even when children are able to read by themselves, they still enjoy being read to by parents. Continuing your reading routine may also enable your child to develop vocabulary and imagination from books that they are not able to read yet on their own.

Young Reader Artwork: My picture of ME:

Books to look for:
- *School’s First Day of School* by Adam Rex
- *We Are In A Book!* and other Elephant and Piggie books by Mo Willems
- *Frog and Toad Are Friends* by Arnold Lobel
Thank you for reading 1000 Books Before Kindergarten!

Got a picture of you and your child reading together? Please tag your photo and share it on the Newark Public Library’s Facebook page - https://www.facebook.com/newarkpubliclibrary/ - or the library’s Instagram page @newarklibrary #npl1000 #newarkreads