



**Step 1: Ask a librarian for the FREE starting kit.**

**Step 2: Read a book with your child and cross off a circle on your Reading Record.**

**Step 3 and beyond: Repeat!**

**When 100 books are read, show your Reading Record to a librarian for a prize. Move your name marker up the wall of progress. Get a new Reading Record and keep going!**

1000 Books Before Kindergarten is meant to be FUN! Reading together is a great way to bond with your child. There's no need to tell your little one that his brain is creating new connections and that he is building language, literacy, and social-emotional skills that last a lifetime; even though that's what is happening! There are lots of ways to share books together: "read" the pictures, retell the story in your own words, sing, repeat the same book over and over, look at individual letters and talk about sounds, flip through to the pages your child wants, let your child retell the story. Bedtime is a great time to establish a reading and sleeping routine, but don't forget about books other times of the day too—in the car, waiting at appointments, in a restaurant, when you need a break from playing dolls or trains.

### FAQs

**1,000 Books sounds like a lot. Can we really do it?**

Yes, you can! It's easier than you think—read just 3 books a day for a year and you've already read over 1000 books, or 10 books a week for 2 years, and you've done it too!

**Do I have to read 1000 different books, or can I repeat the same one over and over?**

Repeating books is great for little minds, even if it does get tiresome for the adults. Feel free to count the same book multiple times, each time you read it.

**Grandma, babysitter, etc., reads to my child. Does that still count?**

Yes. The books shared between any caregiver and the child are what counts here. And when children are ready to read on their own, those books count too.

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

Yes, of course. Babies, toddlers, and preschoolers have varying attention spans and not all books will interest all readers. Sharing books together in the early years is about connection, book awareness, vocabulary, and play. It's ok to just talk about the pictures or move on before you get to the end of the book. Just be sure to share those books with your child, whichever way works for both of you.

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

This is, of course, totally 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. Singing a book can also be a great way to engage a young mover in a book.



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