

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Read a book (any book) to your newborn, infant, and/or toddler. The goal is to have read 1,000 books before your little one starts kindergarten. While it may sound like a lot, if you read just 1 book a night, you will have read 365 books in a year. That is 730 books in two years and 1,095 books in three years. If you consider that most children start kindergarten at around 5 years of age, you have more time than you think!

The key is perseverance. Make it exciting! We will be offering the prizes at certain milestones, including:

- A sticker at every 100-book milestone
- **100 Books**-Reusable Book Bag
- **300 Books**-Growth Chart
- **500 Books**-A New Book
- **800 Books**-A New Toy
- **1000 Books**-A Gift Card & mention in the library newsletter, **The Star!**

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

- Visit the library's Circulation Desk to sign up and receive your packet
- Read with your child. Studies have shown that reading with your child provides a great opportunity for **bonding**. Reading together is fun and will create life-long memories for the both of you.
- Keep **track** of the books that you read with your child. Make a record of what you are reading in a spiral notebook, or use our convenient log sheets provided in this handbook. Additional sheets are available online at **www.cityofrichmond.net/library**.
- Bring in your log sheets to the library's circulation desk at every 100-book milestone to collect your sticker and prizes!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Who can participate in this program?** Any child from birth until he or she enters kindergarten can participate.
- **How long will the program take?** 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 read together.
 - 1 book per day x 3 years=**1,095 books**
 - 10 books per week x 2 years=**1,040 books**
 - 3 books per day x 1 year=**1,095 books**
- **How many of my children can participate?** All of them (provided they have not yet started kindergarten). Make it even more fun and read as a family!
- **What books count?**
 - Books read at Story Time and Lap Sit if you attend
 - Books may be read more than once and recorded
 - Books from home or the library-or even other libraries
 - Books on CD as long as they listen to the whole story
 - A book read by any family member, teacher, etc. as long as they listen to the whole story
 - Books read on an iPad or e-reader
- **WHY?** Parents can help even young children learn the five early literacy skills which reading research has determined children must know before they can learn to read. These essential skills needed for school success are:
 - **Phonological Awareness**-being able to hear and play with the smaller sounds in words
 - **Vocabulary**-knowing the name of things and concepts
 - **Print Convention**-noticing print, knowing how to handle a book, and knowing how to follow words on a page
 - **Background Knowledge**-prior knowledge; things children have learned
 - **Letter Knowledge**-knowing letters are different from each other, knowing letter names and sounds, and recognizing letters everywhere