

# 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Did you know that reading to your child is one of the most powerful ways to boost her/his brain power? The simple and enjoyable act of sharing books helps your child learn pre-reading skills, such as understanding the sounds letters make, developing a bigger vocabulary and building background knowledge—all important skills that help prepare your child for learning to read and entering kindergarten.

Haywood County Public Library is kicking off a free program called 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten in January. This program combines reading 1,000 books with the five pre-reading skills that are the foundation of the national Every Child Ready to Read initiative: reading, writing, talking, singing and playing. The 1,000 Books program encourages families to read together, and provides caregivers with simple suggestions on how they can help their child on the path to becoming a reader.

Children not yet enrolled in kindergarten are invited to sign up for this program at any point in time by visiting the Waynesville or Canton libraries to register. While the program will kick off in January, registration will be ongoing. At the time of registration, each child will receive a packet that contains a tracker for the first 100 books and early literacy tips for caregivers. When you have completed the tracker, simply bring it back to the library to get the next tracker and tip sheet. With each 100 books read, children will receive a prize and get to add a fish to our reading ocean. When a child has read 1,000 books, she/he will receive a free book and also have a favorite book placed in the library collection in her or his honor.

One thousand books may seem like a lot, but if you read just one book a night, you'll meet your goal in less than 3 years. If you read three books a night, you could reach your goal in just one year! Help your child become a life-long reader and learner with this wonderful program. For more information, call the youth services librarians at Canton (356-2561) or Waynesville (356-2511).

