

WATERTOWN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

1000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN

Hello!

Thank you for visiting Watertown Free Public Library and joining our 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program. 1000 Books Before Kindergarten is an ongoing program that encourages families to read, write, talk, sing, and play every day.

This is a flexible, adaptable program. Children's Librarians are available to help you select books, but there is no mandatory reading list. We encourage you to read books you enjoy. If you want to challenge yourself to read 1000 different books, great! If you want to read the same book 50 times, you can! Read wordless books, comic books, books in a new language - just read!

Today you received a book bag from the library to help you get started. The book bag has 1000 circles on it. For every book you read, color in 1 circle. There are stars at 100, 250, 500, 750, and 1000! These are milestones, and we want to celebrate them with you! We have book prizes for each milestone - just let a staff member know during your next library visit.

It will take time for you and your child to read 1000 books together: it may take 1 year or several years. You will complete 1000 books at your own pace - and that's OK! You are your child's first teacher. Studies consistently demonstrate that children who live in rich verbal environments enter kindergarten with an advantage. It's important that literacy begins at home, and continues when your child starts school. Story times and other library programs model reading strategies that you can practice at home. Use your book bag as a way to talk about numbers, counting, sorting and classifying. Encourage your child to retell a story to a sibling or another family member later in the day. Read books that are also songs and sing them loud and proud!

You can do this!

If you have any questions, feel free to give us a call at 617-972-6435, find us online at watertownlib.org, or stop by the Children's Room.

