



1000 BOOKS Before Kindergarten



Black River United Way

1000 Books Before Kindergarten is a nationwide challenge that is easy, fun, and puts children on the path to success. Families and caregivers are encouraged to read 1,000 books with their child before they start kindergarten. Reading aloud to children from birth helps strengthen language skills and build vocabulary -- two important tools for learning to read.

In addition, Black River United Way coordinates a book drive campaign that helps build little libraries for children 0-5 throughout Georgetown and Williamsburg Counties. We partner with Georgetown County Library System, Williamsburg County Library System, and community stakeholders to collect and distribute books for children that are signed up for the challenge. Our goal is to create a culture of reading in our communities.

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brain development
occurs before
age 5

WHY WE DO IT?

- During the birth to 5 age range, 90% of a child's brain development occurs.
- Approximately 83% of Georgetown and Williamsburg children are deemed "not ready" when starting kindergarten (based on 2020 KRA scores).
- More than half of Georgetown and Williamsburg Counties third graders' are not reading at grade level.
- This partnership aims to impact Georgetown and Williamsburg children's literacy skills beginning from birth to the years they walk into kindergarten, so we may also impact the future skill base of our local workforce.

HOW WE DO IT?

- Work with local libraries and child care centers for families to sign-up for the challenge.
- Coordinate a Book Drive and receive donations of NEW books to go into our GW Mini Libraries (personal mini-library).
- Encourage parents to read 1 book a day and get them to log their books, even if it is the same book
- Reward children at 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, 900 and 1000 milestones for reading to their children.



FOR PARENTS:



1 Register by scanning the code or go to blackriveruw.org/1000books

2 Use a reading log to track how many books you are reading with your child. Your first log is included in your mini library.
** Additional logs can be obtained from your local library or at blackriveruw.org/1000books

3 When you reach each reading milestone, bring your reading log into your local library to receive a new reading log and a special reward (Check out the Prize Menu)!

Keep up the momentum, and repeat steps 2-4 to reach each milestone.

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GW MINI LIBRARY INCLUDES:

- A Corrugated Storage box
- Four (4) "NEW" High Quality Early Childhood Books
- Introduction Letter to the Parent
- Portrait of a Kindergartener
- First 100 Books Reading Log
- Incentives List (actual incentives available at local library)
- Dolly Parton Imagination Library Registration
- Information for Local Libraries for Georgetown & Williamsburg Counties



TIMELINE:

1000 Books Before Kindergarten is kicked off in the spring of every year. Corporate Sponsors and locations of book drives are secured by the beginning of the fiscal year.

All books and required materials for the GW mini libraries and are assembled and delivered on National Read Across America Day which is typically the first week of March. Corporate Volunteers are coordinated to pack the GW Mini Libraries and delivered to the sites on the same day.

Black River United Way will order any necessary materials and provide guidance and oversight to volunteers. Water, snacks, and a t-shirt will be provided. A press release will be issued. We will photograph the event and provide the sponsor with plenty of collateral for their internal communications.

SPONSORSHIP OPTIONS:

SPONSOR AN EARLY CHILDHOOD CLASS: \$400

SPONSOR A CENTER/SCHOOL: \$3000

SPONSOR A BOOK DRIVE:

- 120 BOOKS - SUPPORTS 40 STUDENTS
- 240 BOOKS - SUPPORTS 60 STUDENTS
- 360 BOOKS - SUPPORTS 90 STUDENTS
- 500 BOOKS - SUPPORTS 125 STUDENTS

TOTAL COST FOR 500 STUDENTS = \$10,000

CONTACT US

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local needs. local solutions.