

Welcome to Perth East Public Library's

1000 Books Before Kindergarten

Did you know that reading to your child is one of the most powerful ways to boost their 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.

Perth East Public Library's 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program is a fun, exciting, and free way to start your child on the path to success! Any child ages birth to five years can participate. Just follow these steps:

- **Start Your Reading:** Pick up a tracking poster at the Library or print them from our website.
- **Track Your Reading:** Cross out a circle on the tracking poster for each book you read to your child.
- **Every Book Counts:** Even if your child wants to hear the same book again and again, you can count it each time. You can also count the books your child hears in storytime, in daycare or preschool, or with a friend or family member, as long as your child listens to the entire book.
- **Keep on Reading:** Don't stop at 1000! Keep on reading together; there's more learning ahead!
- **Share Your Journey:** We invite you to share your 1000 Books Before Kindergarten journey on social media. Tag us @pertheastpl and use the hashtag #1000BooksB4K

Singing songs, rhymes, telling stories, and playing with your child are great ways to build literacy skills. Visit Perth East Public Library in person or online for free tips and programs that are fun and educational for your little one.

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! Ask our friendly staff for suggestions—we're here to help you on your journey to 1000 Books Before Kindergarten!



Happy Reading!

1000 Books Before Kindergarten



Read 1000 Books with your child before he/she begins Junior Kindergarten!

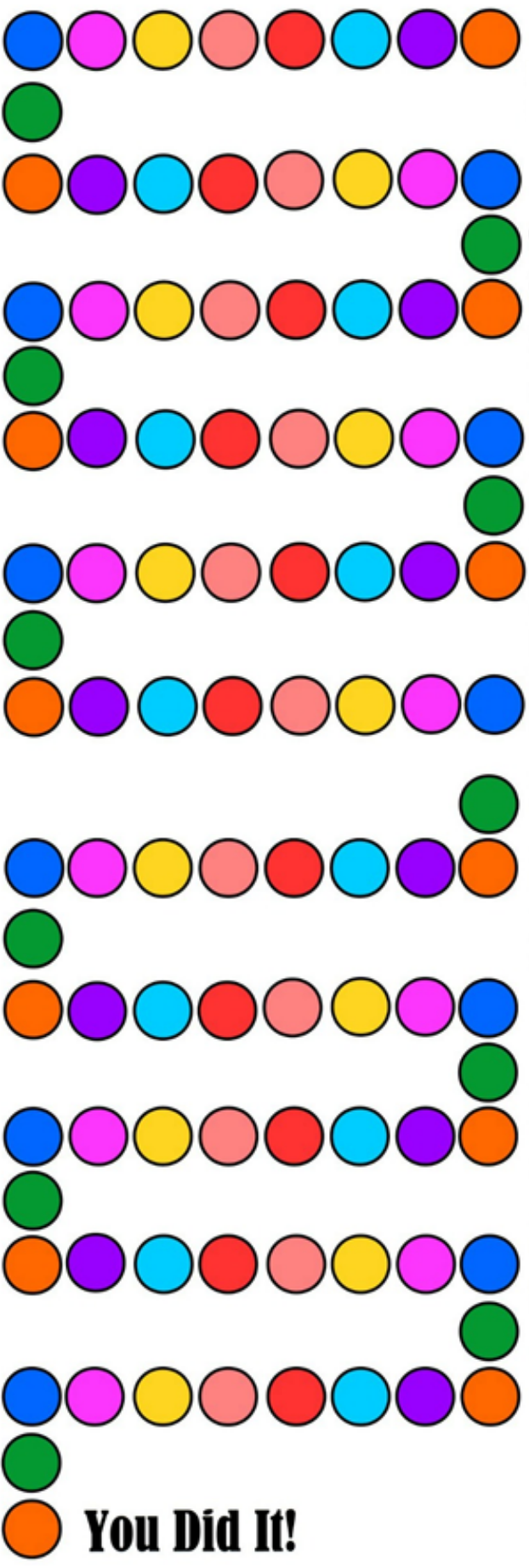
Print out the Challenge Sheet and mark a dot with an X each time you read a book. Cross off each dot to record your 100 books read! Then print more sheets until you get to 1000!



Are you UP for the challenge?

Cross off a circle for
each book you read.
Complete 10 sheets
to get to 1000
books!

Read 100 Books with your Toddler before Junior Kindergarten!



Why is Reading to Young Children so Important?

Key Points:

- It exposes them to new subjects and concepts
- Studies show children who are exposed to reading before preschool are more likely to do well in school
- Reading together encourages positive development through quality bonding time
- Even babies love hearing a soothing familiar voice - reading to them is the perfect outlet to form this connection

Reading to your child helps to expose them to all types of subjects and concepts, building your child's understanding of humanity and the world around them.

Numerous studies have shown that students who are exposed to reading before preschool are more likely to do well when they reach their period of formal education.

One of the most important things you can do to positively influence your child's development is spend time with them. Reading to your children provides a great opportunity to set up a regular, shared event where you can look forward to spending time together.

Reading to your children gives your child a sense of intimacy and well-being. This feeling of intimacy helps your child feel close to you, and the feelings of love and attention encourage positive growth and development.

With babies specifically, although they may not be able to understand what you're saying when you read to them, reading aloud provides a level of invaluable nurturing and reassurance. Very young babies love to hear familiar voices, and reading is the perfect outlet to create this connection.

At a broader, more scientific level, it's the nurturing relationships between caregivers and children that set a positive life course. If you are able to read aloud with your child at a predictable, scheduled time that fits with the daily routines of home and school, you'll be able to provide something constant that they can expect and likely even look forward to.

Reading aloud together and having a shared activity gives you and your child something to talk about, which in turn supports the development of reading and writing skills. And down the road, books can provide springboards to meaningful discussions about real-life experiences and issues.

Find book lists and more early literacy resources at
www.pertheast.library.on.ca



How to Help Your Child Become a Great Reader

Introducing Books to Newborns



It might seem a bit premature to think about books for a baby before they even support the weight of their own head.

But, even when your baby is a newborn, it's a great time to introduce reading! Here are some of the reasons why:

- ✓ It gives you another bonding opportunity for snuggles and interaction.
- ✓ Your child will be preparing, even when they don't know it, for reading on their own someday.
- ✓ It can help your baby develop language skills.
- ✓ They'll pick up on a variety of emotions.

Benefits of Reading to Your Child



Finding Age Appropriate Books

- ✓ Most children's books have the reading level listed on the front or back cover.
- ✓ Look at how difficult the words are. If you've been listening to your child read, you should be able to tell if they'll be able to handle it.
- ✓ Ask for recommendations from teachers, fellow parents, and librarians.
- ✓ Use tools like the Accelerated Reader website or Literacy Leveler app to find out the difficulty level of a book.



Tips To Encourage Reading



Ask Questions

Asking their opinion every few pages will help keep them engaged and improve comprehension.



Read the Same Book As Your Older Child

Book clubs are fun for a reason – hearing another person's take on the book you're reading is interesting. It can also be a bonding experience.



Choose Age-Appropriate Reading Materials

If the reading level is too hard or too easy, your kids will lose interest.



Gear the Books Toward Your Child's Interests

Take your child to the library so they can look at all the books and choose the ones they want.



Make Reading a Priority for You Too

Monkey see, monkey do. If your child sees you reading books or magazines when you have a spare minute, they'll want to do the same.



Don't Rush Reading Time

If you act like you can't get your nightly reading session over fast enough, your child will pick up on it.



Make Reading a Habit

It's easy to get sidetracked by other things but to make reading stick for your child, you need to make it a priority.



Don't Stop Reading Their Favorite

If your child loves one book and wants to hear it over and over again, you should just suck it up and do it. It can be tedious for you, but before long you'll miss those days of your child wanting to reread their favorite book repeatedly.



Keep Books Handy At All Times

Reading doesn't have to be so formal – it can be penciled in whenever you can make it work such as at the doctor's office, the babysitters, or even while in the car.



Have Fun with It

If you want your child to love reading, you need to show off the fun side of it. Use weird voices and lots of facial expressions to show that reading isn't so serious.



Perth East Public Library Library Card Registration Form



Perth East Public Library (PEPL) cards are available free of charge to residents of Perth East. PEPL cards can be used to borrow library materials from the libraries in Perth East, West Perth, North Perth, Stratford and St Marys as well as the digital collection. The digital collection can be accessed 24/7 through our website www.pertheastpl.ca or through the easy to use “Libby” app.

The information collected on this form is subject to Freedom of Information and Privacy Legislation. Identification and proof of address are required for all registrations.

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

911 Address: _____

Town: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

(note: this will be used to notify you of borrowed materials coming due and availability of requested materials for pickup)

Parent/Guardian Name (for cardholders under 18 years): _____

For children under 12 years of age:

As a parent/guardian of this child, I understand that children have access to all library materials, including adult and non book materials and I accept responsibility for my child's selections, use and return of all materials.

Signature: _____



The library card application can also be completed online using the link found at www.pertheastpl.ca.