

1000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN

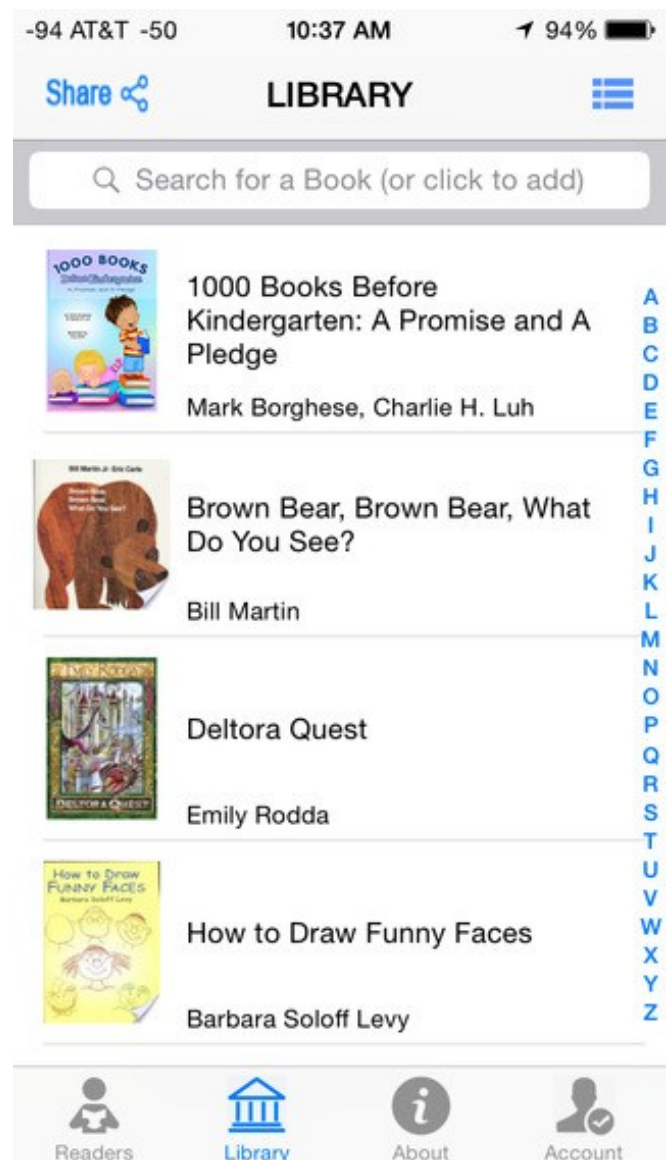


In early 2016, PALSPlus will be launching the **1000 Books Before Kindergarten** program. This is a free program that encourages parents/caregivers to read 1000 books to their child before entering kindergarten. The goal of the PALSPlus Youth Service Committee is to get all the PALSPlus libraries to participate in this initiative. This passive program is a great way to promote early childhood literacy and is

relatively easy to administer. If you are not familiar with this program, you can reference all the specifics at: www.1000booksbeforekindergarten.org. There are many ways to run this program and each library is free to choose whatever works for them. Whether you purchase materials from Upstart or devise your own method for tracking books and offering incentives, once the program is set up, it requires very little time!

Tracking Books

There are so many ways to track a child's progress. The 1000 Books Before Kindergarten App is just one more tool available to parents/guardians! It is available in both iTunes and the Google Play Store, for Apple and Android devices. Set-up is simple! Download the app. Create an account. Add a reader (or readers!). You can then start adding books to your "library." There is the option to search for a book, add a book manually, or scan a book using the ISBN barcode. Once a book is added, it can be marked read as many times as needed! While the app is not 100% without error, it's a great way to track a child's progress and keep a record of the books read together!



Incentives

Reading incentives can sometimes be tricky. Should reading be its own reward? Should parents be rewarded in a program such as this where THEY are the ones reading TO their child? Does a 6 month old require a prize? What about a 4 year old? The decision whether or not to include incentives in your program should be up to each individual library. Demco does have stickers available for purchase to mark every 100 books read. Some libraries have already decided to use stickers as a small incentive. Some plan to distribute buttons upon completion of the program. Another idea is to create a book plate for each child that completes the program. You could also create a certificate of completion as a keepsake. Don't let worries about incentives hold you back from this great program! The possibilities are endless!



PALSPlus Support:

Book tagging

- We are suggesting that each library will recommend titles among their new picture books 3 times a year, to be tagged. This will help patrons to identify books for their children. Those titles will be chosen combining reviews, circulation and librarian's viewpoint. At least 4 copies of the titles chosen should be available in the catalog.

Advertisement

- PALSPlus will add a banner or carrousel in the new catalog (Enterprise), promoting the program to parents and showing suggested books.
- PALSPlus will create a double sided bookmark that will include simple instructions on how to use the catalog and suggested titles. One side of the bookmark will be left empty for each library to add their own information and/or suggestion titles .

Social Media

- The PALSPlus Youth Committee encourages Children's staff to advertise their programs on the Committee's Facebook page as well as on their own library's social media sites.

Resources Available



The following resources can be found on the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten official website www.1000booksbeforekindergarten.org.

- Information on the 1000 Books Foundation
 - Program instructions (available in English and Spanish), along with a summary of the program and Frequently-Asked-Questions
 - Printable reading log sheets in 100 book increments.
- Signs that say “I read 100 (200, etc.) books” with the official logo.
 - 1000 Books App
 - Reading Lists
 - Tips for reading to infants and toddlers
 - Worksheets on learning the alphabet and numbers
 - Reading tips for parents from the U.S. Department of Education
 - Information on the book “1000 Books Before Kindergarten: A Promise and a Pledge”

The 1000 Books Foundation has partnered with Upstart (www.upstartpromotions.com) to promote the program through the following products:

- Items available for purchase include bookmarks, posters, reading records, & stickers.
- Free program materials include a Start-Up Guide, an Outreach Kit which contains an Introductory Letter, Press Release, Fundraising Letter, and Photo or Video Permission Slips. These can all be customized to your library’s program. Several handouts and reproducibles are also available: 20 Ways to Raise a Book-smart Baby (in English and Spanish), Book Lists, Bulletin Board Patterns, Picture Frames and Coloring Pages.
- Early Literacy Resources such as Blogs and Webinars can be found at www.ideas.demco.com.