



Welcome to the Ames Free Library's 1,000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM!

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

Our 1,000 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 (not yet in Kindergarten) can participate. Just follow these steps:

1. **Register:** Sign up at amesfreelibrary.readsquared.com.
2. **Track Your Reading:** Log in to the ReadSquared platform on your computer, phone, or other device to enter each book you read.
3. **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. Looking at the pictures and talking about the story counts too, even if your baby won't sit for all the words in the book.
4. **100-Book Milestones:** You'll earn a badge in ReadSquared for every 100 books read. You can also come in to the library to collect a milestone sticker in Youth Services!

At milestones 500 and 1,000, your child will also receive a free book!

5. **1,000 Books:** You did it! Come in to Youth Services to receive your certificate, see your child's name placed on the 1,000 Book Wall of Fame, and receive your second free book.
6. **Keep on Reading:** Don't stop at 1,000! Keep on reading together; there's more learning ahead!

Singing songs, saying rhymes, telling stories, and playing with your child are all great ways to build their literacy skills. 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! Email us at kids@amesfreelibrary to ask Miss Jess for online reading suggestions - we're here to help you on your journey to 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten!

Happy Reading!

Ames Free Library Youth Services

kids@amesfreelibrary.org

Online Storytimes

Recorded storytimes can be found at amesfreelibrary.org/kids-homepage.

Wiggle Worms

best for children 15-36 months

Wiggle Worms is a fast-paced storytime with songs, rhymes, and stories to keep little ones engaged.

Babytime

best for babies 0-15 months and their grownups

Caregivers and babies will learn lap games, bounces, and rhymes which we'll repeat frequently so you can repeat them at home.

Stories and Songs

all ages family storytime
Stories, songs, and rhymes for toddlers, preschoolers, and caregivers to enjoy together.

Specialty Storytimes

ages vary

Check back periodically at the website above for newly recorded storytimes, live storytime links, or seasonal specials!

