

Welcome

Thank you for your interest in the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten Program offered at the Jesse M Smith Memorial Library. The 1000 Books Foundation is operated exclusively for charitable, literary, and educational purposes.

The objectives of the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten organization is: To promote reading to newborns, infants and toddlers, and to encourage adult and child bonding through reading. According to 1000 Books Before Kindergarten, "Numerous studies estimate that as many as one in five children have difficulties learning to read. Reading has been associated as an early indicator of academic success. Public formal education does not typically start until ages 5-6. Before then, parents and caregivers are the first education providers during the 0-5 early critical years. The 1000 Books Before Kindergarten challenge is a simple (read a book, any book to your child, with the goal of reading 1,000 before kindergarten) and very manageable endeavor."

More information can be found at 1000booksbeforekindergarten.org

How do I get started with my child?

To get started in the Jesse Smith Library's program, you may print off the book tracker on our website at imslibrary.org or you may stop into the Children's Department to pick up a packet.

How do I track reading?

Simply track each book read by filling in one circle for every book that is read. You may fill in each circle any way you prefer (X, checkmark, fill-in).

Are their prizes/incentives?

Yes! Fill in your tracker and once you have reached 250, 500, 750 and 1000 books read, you may come into the library for a small prize!

Those who complete the program with 1,000 books read, will also get a certificate of completion and their name on our Super Star Readers board.

What counts for reading?

Any time your child is read to, count it! Did your child attend story time where they heard 2-3 books read aloud? Count those 2-3 books! Did your child want the same book read to them 5 times in a row? You may count that as 5 books!

Is there an app?

Yes. Download the free 1000 Books Before kindergarten tracker from your app store. Simply show us your phone/tracker when you come into the library to claim a prize.

^{*}Program name and logo are used with permission from the 1000 Books Foundation



INSTRUCTIONS

Dear Parents/Caregivers:

On behalf of the 1,000 Books Foundation, we invite you to participate in this **free** program which encourages you to read 1,000 books with your child before he or she starts kindergarten.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The concept is simple, the rewards are priceless. Read a book (any book) to your newborn, infant, and/or toddler. The goal is to have read 1,000 books (yes you can repeat books) before your precious one starts kindergarten. Does it sound hard? Not really if you think about it. If you read just 1 book a night, you will have read about 365 books in a year. That is 730 books in two years and 1,095 books in three years. If you consider that most children start kindergarten at around 5 years of age, you have more time than you think (so get started).

The key is perseverance. Make it exciting. When your children reach a milestone, give him/her a small reward (stickers, backpacks, books).

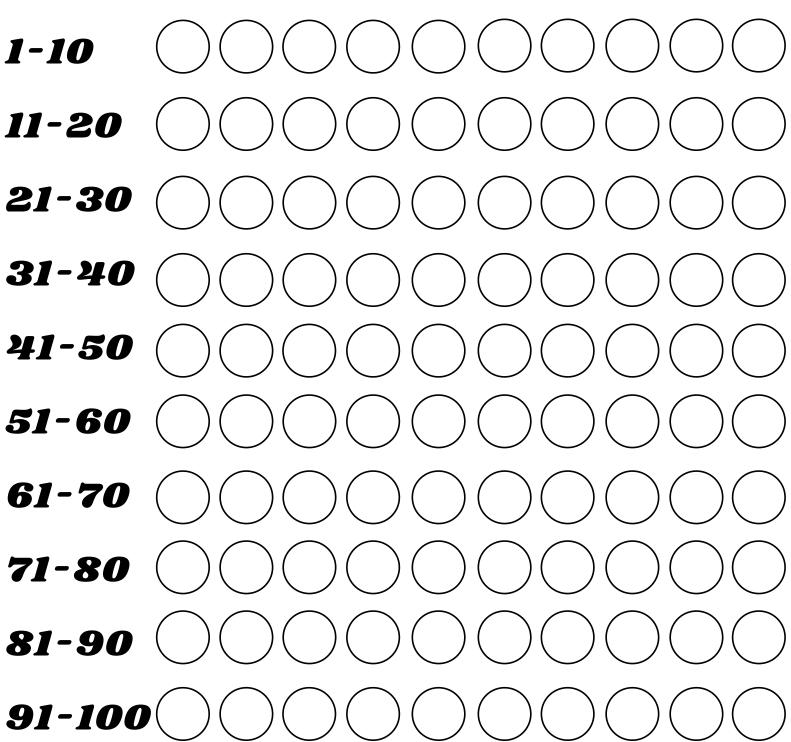
HOW TO PARTICIPATE

- Read with your child. Studies have shown that reading with your child provides a great opportunity for **bonding.** Reading together is fun and will create life-long memories for the both of you.
- Keep track of the titles of the books that you read with your child. Make a record of
 what you are reading in a spiral notebook, on our convenient reading log sheets, online,
 or by whatever method you want. The journal itself will make a great keepsake item for
 your precious child.
- If you are able to, make sure to keep a **record** of "any" book that is being read to your child. This includes teachers and siblings.

FREQUENTLY-ASKED-QUESTIONS

- Who can participate in this program? Any child from birth until he or she enters kindergarten can participate in the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program.
- How long will the program take? The program will take anywhere from a few months to a few years. The program is self-paced and will depend on how often you read together.
- How many of my children can participate? All of them (provided they have not yet started kindergarten). Make it even more fun and read as a family!

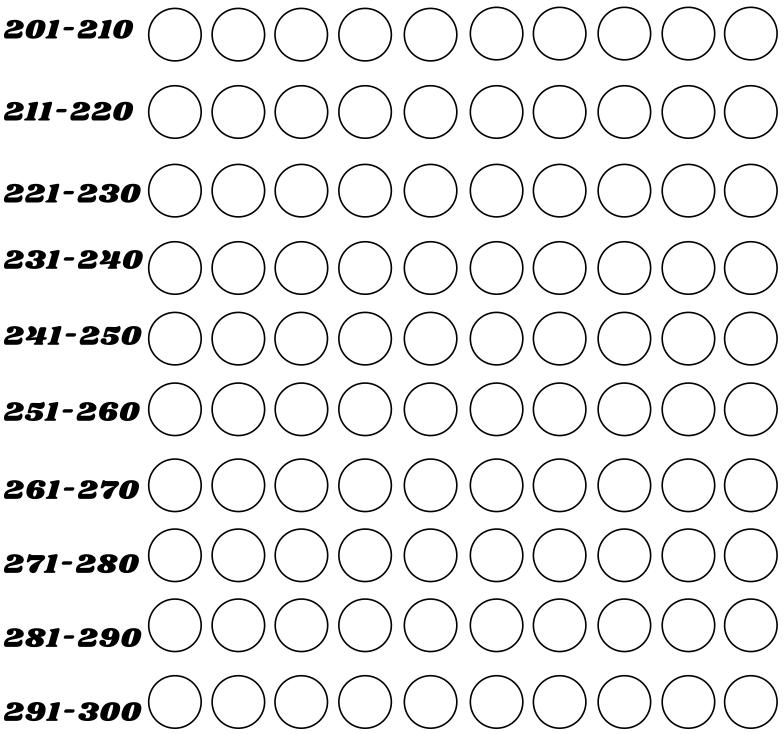




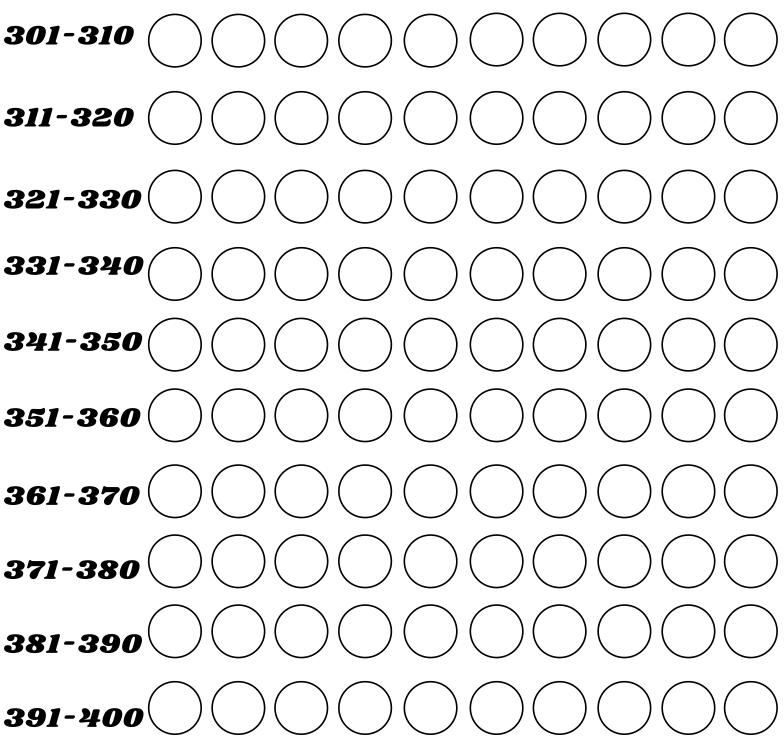


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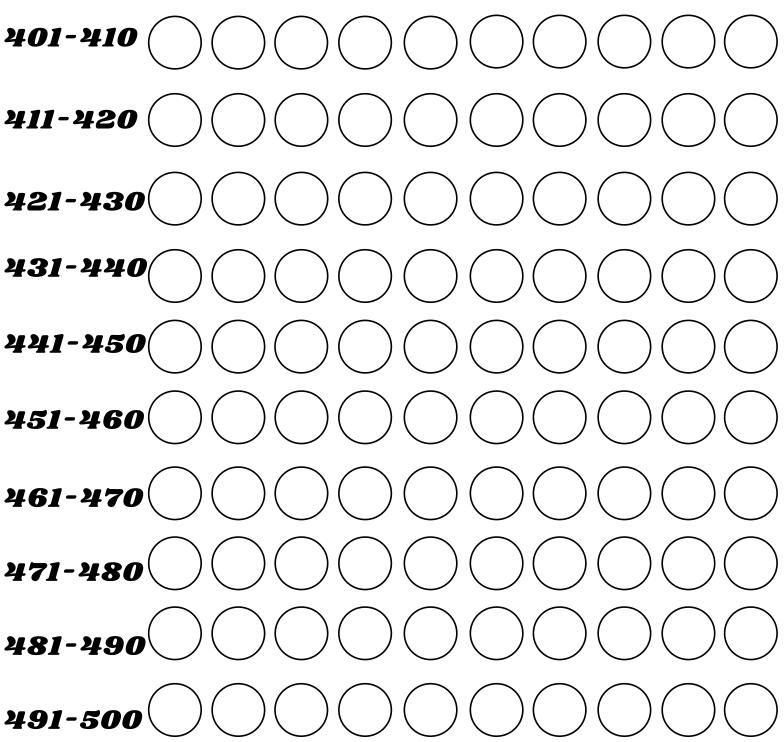














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