

## Welcome to 1,000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN at the Marcellus Free Library



Reading to your child is a powerful way to boost his or her brainpower. The simple act of sharing books helps your child learn early literacy skills. Early literacy skills include understanding the sounds letters make, developing greater vocabulary, and building background knowledge—all-important skills that help prepare your child for learning to read and entering kindergarten.

*1,000 Books Before Kindergarten* program is fun and free! Any child ages birth to five years can participate. Just follow these steps:

1. **Register:** Sign up at Marcellus Free Library or online at [www.marcelluslibrary.org](http://www.marcelluslibrary.org) and pick up a started packet at the library.
2. **Track Your Reading:** When you finish reading a book with your child, you and/or your child can color in the corresponding box on the tracking sheet you received in your starter packet. Make sure to keep these tracking sheets to return to the library for recording and prize winning!
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 storytimes, in daycare or preschool, or with a friend or family member, as long as your child listens to the entire book.
4. **100-Book Milestones:** Each time you read 100 books with your child, bring your tracking sheet to the library to receive a special prize, and pick up the next tracking sheet for the following 100 books!
5. **1,000 Books:** You did it! Come into the library to receive your child's certificate of completion and their final grand prize!
6. **Keep on Reading:** Don't stop at 1,000! Keep on reading together; there's more learning ahead!

Singing songs, rhyming, telling stories, and playing with your child are all ways to build their literacy. Visit Marcellus Free Library for programs that are fun and educational for your little one and to find great books to share with your child.

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 staff for suggestions—we're here to help you on your journey to 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten!

Happy Reading!