

MEDIA RELEASE

ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



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1000 Books Before Kindergarten challenge available at all libraries in Erie County

Erie, PA – Erie County Public Library together with the Public Libraries of Erie County* announce participation in the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten challenge.

All public libraries in Erie County – including independent libraries that share many services and a catalog with Erie County Public Library – will be providing this program via Beanstack, thanks to the support of the Friends of the Erie County Library. Beanstack, an online platform, allows families to log the number of books read to their child, and receive recognition and encouragement upon milestone achievements.

The 1000 Books Before Kindergarten challenge is a national, continuous reading program designed to help parents prepare their children for kindergarten while cultivating lifelong literacy skills and a love of reading. Children develop the skills to read years before they begin formal education. The most effective way to get children ready to learn is to read to them. To encourage that behavior, this challenge is open to children from birth to those who are just beginning kindergarten.

“You are your child’s first teacher,” says Shane Donaldson, youth services manager for Erie County Public Library. “When you read, sing, play, write and talk, you are helping your child get ready to read. The practice of reading to your child throughout their formative years has a lifelong impact on their ability to learn. Our public libraries are the ideal place to host this challenge because we provide families a free and virtually endless supply of books to reach that 1,000-book goal.”

Reading aloud to children develops knowledge about a variety of topics, builds vocabulary and increases familiarity with story structure, language patterns and the reading process (*Straight Talk About Reading: How Parents Can Make a Difference During the Early Years* by Susan Hall & Louisa Moats). The 1000 Books Before Kindergarten challenge is a fun and family-inclusive way to build these skills in young children and set them up for success in school.

All Erie County residents are able to participate. Children can be registered via the new Public Libraries of Erie County Reading Challenge site at erielibrary.beanstack.org.

All questions can be answered by contacting the Erie County Public Library Youth Services Department at 814-452-6936 or library-reference@eriecountypa.gov.

*Public Libraries of Erie County:

- Albion Public Library
- Rice Avenue Community Library
- Waterford Public Library
- Union City Public Library
- Corry Public Library
- McCord Memorial Library

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