



1000 Books Before Kindergarten: Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Who can sign up?

A: We welcome all parents and guardians to sign up and log reading on behalf of their child (0-5 years).

Q: Can daycare/Montessori teachers sign up their classes?

A: Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate group participation at this time.

Q: Can we log a book we've read more than once?

A: Yes, absolutely! If you read Go, Dog, Go ten times in a week (we've all been there), that still counts as ten books! Repetition helps your child to read and understand, so don't shy away from it!

Q: Is there a required reading list?

A: Staff at the WPL will always be happy to recommend books, [create Library-to-Go kits](#), and [help you to DiscoverReads](#), but ANY books you read - in any language! - will count.

Q: Do I need to have a library card?

A: While we personally think it's a fabulous idea to have a library card (especially since we have [so much to offer for young readers!](#)), you do not need to be a cardholder to enroll in this program. You can sign up for a library card [here](#).

Q: Can we also enroll in other Beanstack reading challenges?

A: Yes, absolutely! In fact, we encourage it! Beanstack allows you to enroll in any current reading programs that align with the age of the reader.

Q: Can we count books read by someone else (a librarian, sibling, grandparent, babysitter, etc.)?

A: As long as your child is accompanied by someone else, and is being read to with care, it counts!

Q: My child won't sit still for a full story. Can I still count it even if they're moving around?

A: Of course! Children move to learn, and staying active is an important part of cultivating early literacy. If you have an active child, try reading interactive books that incorporate movement into the story (check out [You Are a Lion!](#) or [Stretch](#)), or take dance breaks



(check out [Hoopla](#) for some kids' tunes)!

Q: Can I count books in languages other than English?

A: Yes! Please count any book read with your child, regardless of language! At the library, we offer an expanding collection of [World Languages](#), [bilingual](#), and [French books](#). (And caregivers, check out our [multinational/multilingual magazines!](#))

Q: English is not my first language. Are there any extra resources available to me?

A: The [Whitby ESL School](#) has a number of amazing courses and services! Please contact them at LearnEnglish@dcdsb.ca.

Q: How long will the program take to complete?

A: The length of the challenge varies from participant to participant. Some complete the challenge in a matter of months, some years. The program is self-paced, with a goal to complete before your child enters kindergarten.

Q: Can we count books we read before the challenge began?

A: Yes... but only once. For example, if you've read Goodnight Moon twenty-five times before beginning the challenge, we ask that you record it once, and then log any successive readings after beginning the challenge.

Q: What if our child will be homeschooled / is enrolled in Montessori school?

A: No problem! The program's main intent is to foster a lifelong love of reading and help build foundational literacy skills. While starting kindergarten is an ideal marker for development, feel free to interpret this "deadline" as your child's fifth birthday, or another milestone that makes sense for you! We simply ask participants to keep in mind that the program is for children under the age of five.

Q: My child is just about to start kindergarten. Can we still enroll?

A: Yes. Perhaps you won't get to a thousand books before your child starts kindergarten, but tracking your reading is a great way to stay motivated! Try to reach as many milestones as possible before your little one enters kindergarten, or reaches the age of five.