



The Library is a shared community resource, open to all.

Grant R. Brimhall Library
1401 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362 • 805-449-2660

Newbury Park Branch Library
2331 Borchard Road, Newbury Park, CA 91320 • 805-498-2139

www.toaks.org/library



Program Overview

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten is a new Library program that encourages all Thousand Oaks families and caregivers to read 1,000 books with their young children before they enter kindergarten. This program is being adopted nationwide to promote reading to newborns, infants, toddlers and preschoolers and to encourage parent and child bonding through reading. Research has shown that reading to children before their formal education is the most effective way to prepare them to read on their own. Experts tell us that children need to hear a thousand stories read aloud before they begin to read for themselves.*

How to Get Started:

1. Enroll your child by picking up your first reading log, and a folder to store all additional reading logs in, at the Children's Help Desk in the Grant R. Brimhall Library or at the Information Desk at the Newbury Park Branch Library.
2. Color a circle on the log for every book you read to your child.
3. After reading 250 books, bring your reading log back to the library to collect your first prize and a reading log for the next level. (Prizes, provided through a TARGET Early Learning Reading Grant, will be available starting July 1, 2015.)
4. Visit the Library to receive additional prizes and a new reading log at 500 books read and 750 books read.
5. When you reach **1,000** books you will receive a special book bag and certificate.



Reading logs can also be downloaded at <http://research.tolibrary.org/kidsevents> from the library website.



- Have fun! Reading together should never be a chore. Children learn best when they are in a good mood, so read with your child when the experience will be the most pleasurable for both of you.
- Take every chance to read with your children, tell and talk about stories, say nursery rhymes and sing songs.
- What if your child wants to read the same book over and over? Repetition is key to learning. Each time you read a book it counts. If you read the same book 5 times, color 5 circles.
- You can read books from anywhere not just library books. Every book your child hears at storytime or other library programs counts too!

Reading Superheroes

Older siblings who read to their younger siblings are Reading Superheroes! Each Reading Superhero who reads 100 books to a younger child enrolled in 1000 Books Before Kindergarten will receive a prize. To redeem their prize they must fill in a separate log and bring it to the library.

One thousand is a big number; when you stop to break it down over five years, or even two years, the task isn't overwhelming. If you take five full years to complete the program you could read one book every other day. If you complete the program in two years, that would be about two books a day. If you read one story at bedtime every night for three years you'll have shared 1,095 books! If you read ten books a week for two years, you'll have shared 1,040 books! This small time commitment is well worth the advantage you will be giving your child and the memories that you will form spending time with them.

*Many of these facts and tips are taken from the American Library Association's website *Every Child Ready to Read* (www.ala.org/everychild) initiative and *Reading Magic*, by Mem Fox.

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