

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Who can participate?**

Any child from birth until he or she enters kindergarten can participate in the program.

- **How long is the program?**

The program will take anywhere from a few months to a few years. It 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). Each child can get his or her own 1,000 Books library card.

- **Can we read books other than library books?**

Yes! The more books your child hears, the better. However, the library can only keep a record of books checked out from the library.

San Marcos Public Library
625 E Hopkins St
San Marcos, TX 78666

512.393.8200
libraryinfo@sanmarcostx.gov
www.sanmarcostx.gov/library

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625 E Hopkins St
San Marcos, TX 78666

Dear Parents and Guardians,

On behalf of the 1,000 Books Foundation, the San Marcos Public Library invites you to participate in a free reading program with your child.

The concept is simple, the rewards are priceless. The goal is to read 1,000 books to your newborn, infant, toddler or preschooler before he or she starts kindergarten. If you read just one book a night, you will read 365 books in a year. That is 730 books in two years and 1,095 books in three years. Considering that most children start kindergarten at around five years old, you have more time than you think.

Benefits of Reading

- **Brain development**
Children's brains develop more rapidly during their first three years than at any other time during their lives.
- **School readiness**
Research shows that the most reliable predictor of school success is being read to at home during early childhood. Reading to children from an early age can help close the vocabulary gap and prepare them to enter school with the skills they need to succeed.
- **For the love of books**
Sharing books with children promotes a lifelong love of books and reading.

Getting Started

1. Get your card.

Sign your child up for a 1,000 Books library card at the San Marcos Public Library. Cards are free to residents of Hays County and children living within SMCISD boundaries. Customers who reside outside our service area may purchase a card to participate in the program.

2. 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 lifelong memories for both of you.

3. Check your progress.

The 1,000 Books library card will help you track your child's progress by keeping a record of your library book check-outs. It will also create a cumulative list, which you can access online through our library catalog. You can even print your list of books as a memento of this special time in your child's development.



Tips for Reading to Young Children

- **Make a routine.**

Find the time that your child enjoys reading, such as in the morning, after lunch, at naptime or bedtime.

- **Get comfortable.**

Find a quiet, cozy place to sit.

- **Create interest.**

Ask library staff to help you find books on subjects that delight your child, such as princesses, dinosaurs or trucks.

- **Be playful.**

Bring out your inner actor. Change your voice, make sounds and giggle along with your child at the silly parts of the story.

- **Ask questions.**

“What do you think will happen next?”
“Where do you think they are going?”

- **Take your time.**

Children love to pore over the pictures. Take time to look at the illustrations.

- **Read it again.**

Most children have favorite stories that they like to hear again and again. After many readings, encourage your child to tell you the story as you turn the pages.