

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SPL promoting early literacy by joining 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Saskatoon Public Library (SPL) has signed on with 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten, a program that encourages parents to read with their children and build early literacy skills that help prepare them for school.

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten is a charitable organization that promotes reading to newborns, infants and toddlers. With numerous studies showing that up to one in five children have difficulty learning to read, striving to read 1,000 books with a child before they start school can provide significant educational and parent/child bonding benefits.

"Parents are a child's first teacher, and we're excited to offer SPL patrons a fun and interactive way to build early literacy skills with their children" explained Lise Fortier, SPL's senior manager of neighbourhood services.

Early literacy is everything that children know about reading and writing before they can read and write themselves. Recognizing print, letters and numbers, rhyming, vocabulary, narrative skills, and the motivation to read are literacy skills that children can start learning from birth.

SPL patrons can register for the program online at <https://saskatoonlibrary.beanstack.org>. In addition to receiving a certificate upon completing the program, patrons will also earn rewards and literacy tips for reaching various milestones along the way.

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