

Our BOOK REPORT

THE BOOKSTART FUND, CHAPTER ONE, JUNE 2014

The first books...



The BookStart Story

Getting age-appropriate and delightful new books into the homes of families who need them most is the purpose of BookStart. The BookStart Team carefully selects and orders sturdy board books at 50% to 60% discounts for the Healthy Families and other programs at SCAN, Healthier Moms & Babies, and the Read & Rise program of the Fort Wayne Urban League.

Staff members from these organizations take the books into the homes of parents with young children (birth to 3 years of age) and teach and model ways for parents to get the most from a reading experience with their babies.

The **BookStart** program makes a difference by:

- Inspiring parents to read aloud routinely in a fun and loving environment.
- Introducing young children to the pleasures of books in order to inspire a passion for reading.
- Giving parents stories and pictures to talk about with their babies, thus encouraging language and vocabulary development.

What Moms are Saying

"I am writing to personally thank you for all the books that you have given to the program. My son is a month old and I read to him at least 3 times a day. I started while I was pregnant with him. Without your donations I would not be able to have the funds to afford any books. Without you, I would not have started reading. My son loves his story times and it has helped him grow so much."
Kristen

What Agency Workers are Saying

I had a little boy yesterday take the board book I gave him and run to sit on his Dad's lap. They looked at the book together and talked about the pictures. The books that have songs for them like Row Row your Boat are very good action books that I always sing and do with the families.

Mom gave each of the children a book and they ran around looking and talking to each other about the book they had. Neither child could read but they sat on the stairs as if they were reading. By the middle of my visit, Mom and the children were in the recliner and Mom was reading to them. It was a sight to see.

What the Research Says

The following is from: "What Reading Does for the Mind" which appeared in the American Educator/ American Federation of Teachers/spring 1998:

"Many researchers are convinced that reading volume, rather than oral language, is the prime contributor to individual differences in children's vocabularies"

"Conversation is not a substitute for reading. Children's books have 50 percent more rare words in them than does adult prime-time television and the conversation of college graduates."

Help Us Buy These Books Next!

Mail a check to the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne, 555 East Wayne Street, Fort Wayne IN 46802. Write BookStart on the memo line.

Or go to cfgfw.org and donate on line! Write "BookStart" as the special fund you want to support.

Thanks from the BookStart Team:
Ginny Clark
Jennifer Hayes
Dana Wichern

For questions, call 755-3543



BookStart Donors

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THANKS!