



The BookStart Fund

Newsletter Number Eight, March 2017

Agency home visitors see growth in appreciation of books

Home visitors from each of the 8 participating BookStart agencies are the ones who work one-on-one with the parent/s and child. Since the home visitors have an ongoing relationship with the family, they are often the first ones who see the growth in baby book behaviors. Their anecdotal comments show how much babies respond to books and the read-aloud experience and how much the parents are learning.

On the right are some of their comments:



Mother and baby at Vincent Village selecting books from BookStart

"Now that the child is walking she will take a book, walk it over to the bottom of the stairs and just sit on the bottom step reading her book. Child is 12 months old."

"Mom loves story time because her children calm down and fall asleep peacefully. The child brings her favorite to be read."

"Children show more interest in reading, they look for books and give it to Mom to read. Child sings and dances when Mom is reading the books."

"Mom and Dad are more involved with story time, they find it difficult to read in English, but speak in Spanish about the pictures. Mom loves the books and wants the children to learn English and Spanish and this is a tool, she is learning too."

"When Home Visitor arrives, child goes and gets an armful of books and hands some to Mom and some to the Home Visitor."

Supportive Comments from Three Partner Agencies

“The free books families receive not only promote education but also bonding, attachment and positive parent-child interaction. This is particularly important for the families of SCAN because many did not grow up in an environment where reading was valued and used to make important parent-child connections that are vital to positive childhood outcomes. SCAN families enjoy the books they receive and look forward to them each month.”

Carol Deakins, SCAN

“In a homeless shelter, BookStart offers adult-child time that is comforting to both during a crisis. Last week our mentor met with a single dad with four children, ages 4, 3, 2, and 1. The mentor handed one child the book, but the others said they wanted a book, too. It was great to see their enthusiasm. So, the mentor gave each child his or her own book. Dad and the kids were pleased!”

Jane McGraw, Just Neighbors

I talk about using voices, being silly and making the reading experience joyful for them and their child. I gave each family the BookStart book bag and write the family name on it, let them choose 3 books and tell them to keep the books hanging in the room for easy access.

Cindy Keaton, Vincent Village



Pam Leffers, a volunteer at Just Neighbors, shows the baby's mom (not pictured) how intent he is on the book.

How To Donate

Write a check to the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne
(Write BookStart on the memo line).

Mail it to CFGFW

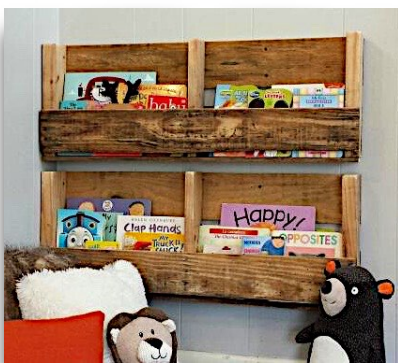
555 East Wayne Street
Fort Wayne IN 46802

Or donate on line at cfgfw.org/donate/

Check "Other" and write

"BookStart" as the fund name.

Questions? Ginny Clark: 625-3837



One mom made bookshelves out of a pallet!

First Time Donors Since 12/10/16

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Cherie & Mark Becker	Marcia & Andy Johnson
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