

Why children’s books are so important for every young child...and for society!

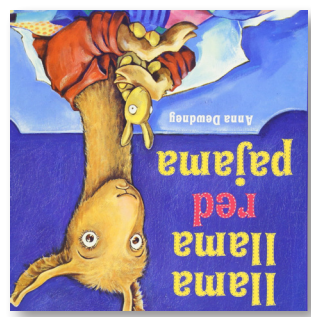
Many serious problems facing our community today can be traced to reading problems in school-aged children. A child who cannot read with understanding by the end of Grade 3 is less likely to find success in further schooling and adult work. We now know that the crucial time to prepare the child for reading success is from birth to age three.

The BookStart Fund’s eight partner agencies meet regularly with low-income families to help with the many challenges they face. In repeated visits, usually in the home, a mentoring relationship develops between staff member and parents as they work together on effective parenting practices. These include talking and reading to the children in the first three years, using the carefully chosen books from BookStart.

Learning to read is difficult if a child has no experience with books in the early years of language development. Reading to young children builds their vocabularies (see next article) and leads to an understanding of how books work, how spoken words can be written, and how books and reading are pleasurable. This is all crucial for successfully learning to read in school. For this, a home needs children’s books! Even a top quality childcare program that includes some reading aloud cannot make up for a home with no bedtime book-sharing sessions by a loving parent or caregiver.

Thanks to donations to the BookStart Fund at the Community Foundation, we provide our partner agencies with a steady stream of books that are fun for the parents and children and that the family can relate to. The agencies’ parent educators introduce the books and model age appropriate ways to use them, sharing with the parents how to enjoy the book with their children—exploring the words and pictures in a positive, loving way.

Wonderful things happen when the agencies take beautiful, new books into their clients’ homes—and leave them there as gifts!



Our latest book purchase is this very popular book. It’s full of humor, rollicking rhyme and rhythm, and loving actions by a very, maybe overly, patient parent. Little ones will love it and parents will laugh.

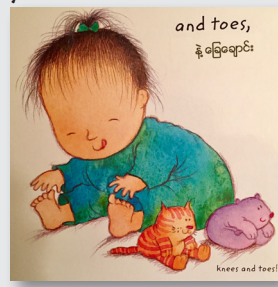
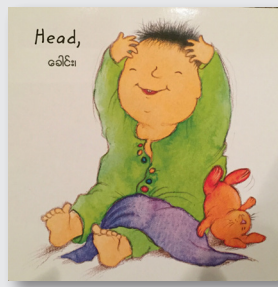
Llama, Llama, Red Pajama

- BookStart Fund Advisors**
- Madeleine Baker, CEO Early Childhood Alliance
 - Becky Hill, retired member FWCS Board
 - Lanissa Maggert, Early Childhood Alliance
 - Greta McKinney, Executive Director, MLK Montessori School
 - Odellet Nance, Assistant Dean, Early College Programs NE IN, Vincennes University
 - John Peirce, Consultant to Big Goal Collaborative and United Way
 - Terril Jo Swim, Professor of Early Childhood Education, IPFW
 - Dee Szyndrowski, CEO of SCAN, Inc.

Burmese translations of five books!

We have had five books translated into Burmese, by Minn Myint Nan Tin of Fort Wayne. Printed on clear address labels so they can be applied below the English words to form home-made bilingual books for Burmese families.

Here’s an example, from *Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes*, by Annie Kubler:



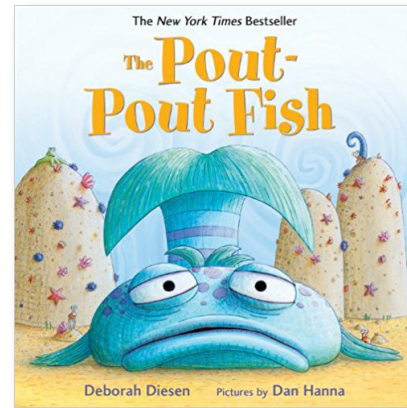
Why reading picture books is better than just talking to young children

Research on the words in children's picture books shows why the BookStart program is so important. Here's the start of an article, by Susan Frey, describing the findings:

In "The Pout-Pout Fish" children's picture book, the author weaves words like "aghast" and "grimace" into a story about a fish who thought he was destined to "spread the dreary-wearies all over the place" until... well, no need to spoil the ending.

Finding such rich language in a picture book is not unusual, and reading those stories aloud will introduce children to an extensive vocabulary, according to new research conducted by Dominic Massaro, a professor emeritus in psychology at the University of California, Santa Cruz. He said although parents can build their children's vocabularies by talking to them, reading to them is more effective.

Reading aloud is the best way to help children develop word mastery and grammatical understanding, which form the basis for learning how to read, said Massaro, who studies language acquisition and literacy. He found that picture books are two to three times as likely as parent-child conversations to include a word that isn't among the 5,000 most common English words.



BookStart Partner Agencies

Allen Co Superior Court: Bright Steps
Bright Point: Early Head Start Home Visits
Fort Wayne Urban League: Read & Rise
Healthier Moms & Babies

Just Neighbors Interfaith Homeless Network
Rescue Mission: Charis House
SCAN: Healthy Families & other programs
Vincent Village

Some of the people who make BookStart work



Carol Deakins and Ginny Clark
open newly arrived books at SCAN



Dana Wichern and John Peirce,
BookStart Advisors, share a fun book

Donors from the Past Twelve Months

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Irene & Bob Walters
Dick & Marnie Waterfield
Dana Wichern
Judy & Frank Wright

**Donation in memory of Florence Pauly by Dolores Tomusk*

Grants received in 2017

This year we have been blessed with grants from five local organizations. Our thanks to them for adding to our ability to purchase books!

Rotary Club of Fort Wayne
Parkview Community Health
Improvement
St. Joseph Community Health Foundation
Ian & Mimi Rolland Foundation
Flora Dale Krouse Foundation

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