



Book Report from *The BookStart Fund*

Summer 2019

“Getting babies and books together”

No books for sale = No books for learning

by Terri Jo Swim, Professor of Early Childhood Education, PFW



You’ve probably heard of food deserts, but have you heard of book deserts? The ideas are quite similar – book deserts exist in communities where there are few print items for sale.

In *Urban Education*, Susan B. Neuman and a colleague recently studied children’s access to books in impoverished

neighborhoods in several areas throughout the United States. In three large metropolitan cities, the researchers went street by street in high-poverty areas and a borderline community adjacent to them to count and categorize the types of print resources – books, newspapers, magazines – available to purchase in stores.

Imagine the impact of the discrepancies found: borderline communities averaged 16 times as many books per child as the high-poverty neighborhoods in the same cities. It is of no wonder that many children in high-poverty areas go to school under-prepared for learning: they just do not have access to print materials.

Unfortunately, there is evidence that some children in Fort Wayne live in book deserts. The social service agencies that deliver new books from the BookStart Fund report that many families they work with had no children’s books in the home.

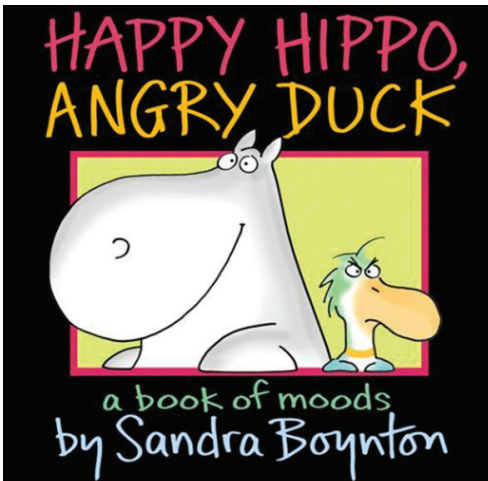
As a professor of early childhood education, I know the importance of exposing very young children to books. It stimulates the development of skills such as attention, language comprehension and production, social interaction, and emotional regulation.

Organizations like BookStart are vital to addressing book deserts, but we need to do more. Getting more books into the hands of each child in high-poverty neighborhoods may go a long way to reducing the impact of income inequality.

Reference:

Neuman, S. B., & Moland, N. (2019). Book Deserts: The Consequences of Income Segregation on Children’s Access to Print. *Urban Education*, 54(1) 126–147. DOI: 10.1177/0042085916654525

Book Spotlight: Happy Hippo, Angry Duck



Sandra Boynton's delightful book, *Happy Hippo, Angry Duck*, a book of moods, is perfect for introducing emotions to very young children.

We know now that anger, sadness and other moods can be overwhelming for young children. Experts say that naming these feelings is a good first step in helping children know that these feelings are normal.

This book is a new favorite we recently sent to the BookStart Partners.



Published by Little Simon in 2011. By Sandra Boynton.

BookStart Partner Agencies

Bright Point Early Head Start
Healthier Moms and Babies
Just Neighbors Interfaith Homeless Network
Rescue Mission: Charis House

SCAN: Healthy Families and other programs
Vincent Village
YWCA Shelter

Healthier Moms & Babies Appreciates BookStart



Healthier Moms and Babies Staff Photo

Article by Jackie Martinez, Programs Manager

Study after study outlines the benefits of reading to your baby. Reading encourages brain development, increases cognitive awareness, improves language skills, and so much more. At Healthier Moms and Babies, both in our Nurse Family Partnership Home Visitation Program and our Prenatal Home Visitation Program, we encourage reading throughout our clients' pregnancies and after birth to facilitate tummy time.

However, books are expensive. Age-appropriate books can range from \$7 to \$20. While our clients want to be able to read to their babies and build their libraries, they cannot always justify spending their money on books when they still need diapers, wipes, clothes, food and other necessities.

We appreciate the BookStart Fund's generous donations of beautiful new books for our families, which allows us to offer more books to our clients. Our moms are grateful for their books. Many of them say the books remind them of their own childhood: "Oh I remember that book—my mom used to read that to me. I want to read that to my baby." This gets them excited to read to their babies. For clients with older children, we engage mom in the visit, encouraging them to read to their other children.

We offer the books as incentives throughout their pregnancies and after their babies are born, encouraging our clients to talk to baby, even while they are still in the womb. By being able to distribute a wide range of books to our clients, we provide our moms with the opportunity to build their baby's library. Our clients all want what is best for their babies but cannot always afford to give it to them. Healthier Moms and Babies is grateful to partner with BookStart to be able to help fill those gaps, to help our moms give their babies the best start in life.

Remembrances

IN MEMORY OF

Don Fisher
Tom Staak

FROM

Charlene Holly
David and Susie Meyer

IN HONOR OF

Judy Lee
Ginny Clark's Birthday

FROM

Judge William Lee
Amy and John Beatty
Sharon and Ben Eisbart
Maureen and Alan Grinsfelder
Marcia and Andy Johnson



Mrs. Bear sat on the bed
beside Sam and they read
his favorite book and they
both knew all the words.

How to Donate to the BookStart Fund

There are two ways you can donate to the BookStart Fund and help us provide children with great literature. Write a check to the ***Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne*** with BookStart on the memo line. Mail it to CFGFW at 555 East Wayne Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802.

You can also donate online at cfgfw.org/donate/ by checking "Other" and entering "BookStart" as the fund name.

Questions?

Contact Ginny Clark at 260-625-3837.

Illustration from Kiss Good Night by Amy Hest, illustrated by Anita Jeram