



Book Report from The BookStart Fund

Winter 2019

“Getting babies and books together”

Books as Communication Tools

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



Imagine that you are reading a new book with an 11-month old infant on your lap. You turn the page and she swivels her head around and looks at you inquisitively. You respond with “What is that?” She begins to babble and point. The conversation is off and running!

Getting books into the hands of infants, toddlers, and family members is a vital way to promote strong communication skills. Donors to BookStart realize this and provide an important community resource for families in Fort Wayne.

Why are books powerful as a communication tool? First, communication begins before the spoken word. When very young children respond to a book by making facial expressions, gestures (e.g., pointing) and sounds (e.g., grunts, squeals), it is clear that they are trying to tell us something. When we respond to their communication, they learn that sharing ideas is important. In addition, they learn to take turns in a

conversation – first I share, then you share, and repeat! Moreover, when we stop reading to respond to the children’s communication attempts, they learn that they are worthy of other people’s time. This knowledge can only be gained during interactions with important others.

Infants and toddlers need multiple opportunities throughout the day to engage in meaningful conversations. Because receptive language develops prior to expressive language, very young children comprehend spoken language long before they produce it. In fact, having rich conversations early on is associated with stronger language skills later in life (Norris, 2017). Having a wide range of books in each home allows adults to select books which reflect the child’s mood and interests each day. Parents cannot do this without a library of books from which to select just the right book for the moment and the BookStart Fund gets those home libraries started!

Reference: Norris, D. J. (2017). Comparing Language and Literacy Environments in Two Types of Infant–Toddler Child Care Centers. *Early Childhood Education Journal*, 45, 95–101. DOI 10.1007/s10643-014-0679-9

What Families are saying about BookStart

The only books my baby has are the ones you bring me.

I really notice the difference in my baby when I read to him. Every time I rhyme words, he looks up at me and smiles.

If this program did not exist, we would not own books. Now (the dad) is building a book shelf.



From the Director's Desk



Ginny Clark
BookStart Fund Director

It has been a joy to watch the BookStart program grow and thrive! Five years out, it continues to succeed because so many of you respond to this quarterly Book Report with generous and repeated donations to the BookStart Fund. The goal remains to provide enticing new board books to local social service agencies that work with parents with very young children. The idea is to provide the very best age-appropriate books, always including cultural diversity, loving relationships, lots of rhyme, and compelling art to families that will benefit from them.

We are excited to welcome a new partner agency, Young Lives! Watch for more information in the next issue. The Partner Agencies and their staff members who work with parents of young children have the pleasure of taking the books to the families and seeing the delighted responses from both children and parents. These staff love having the books to give their clients! They see benefits beyond the obvious important educational ones for the children—the books are providing happy, loving interactions and increased parent-child bonding.

As Director, I have the joyful task of finding wonderful books that I can buy using your donations. In this issue you'll see some of my latest finds. Books such as these would make great holiday gifts for little children on your list. Donating to the BookStart Fund in someone's honor is another good gift idea. Even without a small child to give to, you can give to many children in Allen County with your donation to this fund. See the back page for How to Make a Donation. And remember, every dollar goes to purchase more books!

Thank You to our 2019 Donors!

This list recognizes our donors from 12/1/2018 - 11/30/2019. We are grateful for you!

Edward D. and Ione Auer Foundation
Adie & Dick Baach
Amy & John Beatty
Janet & David Bell
Stephany & Dan Bourne
Liz & Steve Brown
Martin & Mary Ann Buchman
Mary Campbell
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Dr. Philip & Marcia Wright

Honoring a friend or a loved one with your donation is the perfect holiday gift for the person who has everything!

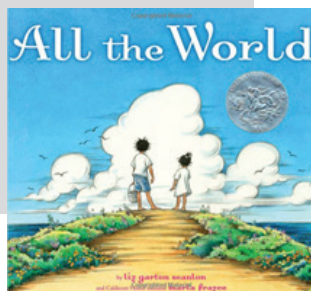
Gift Ideas for the Children in Your Life

You know we love books here at BookStart! Here are some of our favorites we recommend for the children you may have on your holiday lists.

All the World

Liz Garton Scanlon and Marla Frazee, 2009

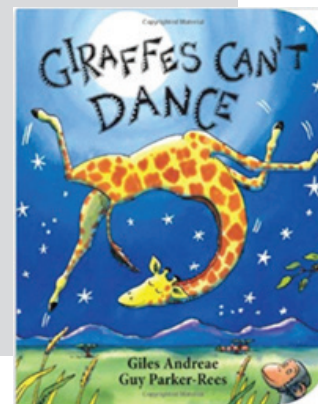
A book that will move the heart of everyone, it is an ode to all things great and small in our world. For families with older children, get it in the large hardback format to enjoy the detailed Caldecott Award winning illustrations.



Giraffes Can't Dance

Giles Andreae and Guy Parker-Rees, 1999

Hilarious pictures of animals cavorting at the jungle dance party—Gerald is teased when he tries to join in. Off he goes by himself, sad and alone, until a wise cricket inspires him to dance to his own song.



Bear Snores On

Karma Wilson and Jane Chapman, 2002

Rollicking good fun as Bear's cave fills up with seven animals looking for warmth. During the party bear wakes up...and joins the party!



Vroom Vroom Garbage Truck

Asia Citro and Troy Cummings, 2018

Amazing amount of story shown in the illustrations, while the sounds the truck makes are the only words!

Every dollar you give to the BookStart Fund goes directly to books!



At the BookStart Fund, we provide new board books each month to eight partner agencies serving young children who may not have access to books.

Will you join us in giving each child we serve the gift of owning their very own books?

These children are not just building a wider vocabulary or gaining a better understanding of their world, their relationships with their parents are deeper and stronger because they spend quality time reading together and building a bond.

Each donation to the BookStart Fund is spent only on books. No overhead, just a mission to put babies and books together.

BookStart Expenses	\$18,556.83
Books	\$18,556.83
Administration	Donated

Two Ways to Donate to the BookStart Fund

1. 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.

2. Donate online at cfgfw.org/donate/ by selecting “BookStart” under Donor Advised Funds.

Questions? Contact Ginny Clark at 260-625-3837.

Who are the BookStart Advisors?

Why is reading to children beneficial?

What are the book selection criteria?

Where are the answers?

At BookStartFund.org!

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
Young Lives
YWCA Shelter