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Worcester Public Library Launches
“1,000 Books Before Kindergarten” Program

Worcester, MA – The Worcester Public Library has launched a “1,000 Books Before Kindergarten” program in an effort to promote strong early literacy skills, which has been shown to lead to success in school and other lifelong benefits.

The “1,000 Books Before Kindergarten” program is designed to encourage reading to children at even the youngest of ages and, in the process, encourage parent and child bonding time. The program is for newborns through age five.

“Reading with or to your child stimulates their imagination and fosters a greater understanding of the world around them, and will have lasting benefits throughout their lifetime. It is also a wonderful way to bond with your child,” said City Manager Edward M. Augustus Jr., himself an avid book reader. “I encourage everyone with a pre-school-aged child to take advantage of this terrific program.”

The new program will help parents and young readers keep track of their reading through Beanstack, an online reading tracker that is also downloadable as an Apple or Android app. Paper logs are also available. Participation in the program is free, registration is available at any WPL location, or online at mywpl.beanstack.org.

Participants will earn small incentives for each milestone reached, including a growth chart with stickers, a book and, upon completion, a t-shirt!

“Although the goal might seem difficult to achieve, reading one or two books a day is all it takes,” said Cynthia Bermudez, Youth Services Coordinator. “We want to encourage parents and caregivers to develop the habit - and the joy - of reading with their child. It’s the most important 20 minutes of the day!”
The 1,000 Books Foundation is a nationwide organization that encourages parents and caregivers to regularly read aloud to their children. The objectives of this organization are to promote reading to newborns, infants, and toddlers and to encourage parent and child bonding through reading.

For more information on the Worcester Public Library and a complete list of events and programs visit mywpl.org. For more information on 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten, contact Linnea Sheldon, Community Relations and Communications Manager, at 508-799-1654 or lsheldon@mywpl.org.