

Greetings legislators and stakeholders:

I am a Youth Services Librarian with the Lake Oswego Public Library. One of our favorite early literacy programs is 1000 Books Before Kindergarten (1000BBK). The incentive based reading program is often the beginning of years-long positive relationships between young readers and their library. Upon registration the family receives an imprinted book tote with designated spaces for merit badges the child will earn as their books are logged. Along the way to their goal these young readers are offered book suggestions and much encouragement from their librarian friends. Grant funds pay for the book bags, the incentive badges, and the prize books that are given to the children half-way through, and then at the completion of, the program. Despite the restrictions imposed by the pandemic we made a strong effort to recognize and applaud all of our participants in 1000BBK. Below is an email from the family of one of our proud finishers, Stryder!

Warmly,
Hilary Evert

Thank you, Lake Oswego Public Librarians, for offering the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Program and continuing to recognize the milestones during COVID! We cannot say enough good things about our experience with the program and the excitement that it offered our son. The program was easy to follow, provided achievable milestones, and gave our child an opportunity to be recognized for his hard work and perseverance. The librarians were all so fun, helpful and personable – their passion for reading was contagious! One important aspect of the program that went beyond our expectations was the final recognition once the 1,000 books were read – Being able to see our child's picture at the library and see his name in his favorite book allows for his love of reading to continue even after the program is over.
Scott, Lisa & Stryder Townsend

