What is the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Challenge?
The idea is simple, the rewards are priceless. Read 1,000 books to your newborn, infant, and/or toddler before kindergarten. Yes, repeat books count! Does it sound hard? If you read just 1 book a night, you will have read 365 books in a year—and be more than 1/3 of the way toward your goal. At that pace, you can read 1,095 books in just three years!

Attend any library storytime, and you will have more books to count against your goal. Just keep reading! Consistent reading to your child will increase vocabulary, help develop speech skills, teach basic reading concepts, and get your child ready for Kindergarten. The best part? Reading to your child is easy, fun, and free!

How to Participate:
- Pick up a reading log at any Rock Island Public Library.
- Write down every book you read with your child before Kindergarten. Include books read to your child by a teacher, at library storytimes, or by siblings.
- You can read and record the same book multiple times. If all your child wants to hear is Pete the Cat, that’s OK. It’s still reading!
- To widen your reading options, get your child a library card. Library staff are always happy to suggest books, too.

Children who complete all 1,000 books will have their picture taken for display in the library. We can also recognize your child’s achievement on our Rock Island Public Facebook page, if you wish. The biggest reward is the pride of accomplishment in reaching the goal—and the growth you’ll see in your child!
Color Max Reader Mouse, the Rock Island Public Library reading mascot!