



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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1,000 Activities Before Kindergarten Develops Literacy Skills

JOHNSTON, Iowa – Sing, talk, read, write and play your way to kindergarten with the Johnston Public Library's 1,000 Activities Before Kindergarten program. The program begins **March 12, 2018** and encourages parents to complete 1,000 early literacy activities with their child before he or she reaches kindergarten. For every 200 activities families share together, children will receive a sticker and a prize.

"Developing literacy skills at an early age ignites a child's creativity and self-confidence in elementary school and beyond," said Library Director Eric Melton. "Our goal with 1,000 Activities Before Kindergarten is to provide families with information and encouragement to help young children build the foundational skills they will need to become proficient learners and communicators."

According to the American Library Association, children between the ages of three and five who have been read to at least three times per week are twice as likely to recognize all letters, have word-sight recognition and understand words in context.

To begin this new program, the Johnston Public Library is having a 1,000 Activities kickoff event from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. on Monday, March 12 through Thursday, March 15. We encourage community members to come into the Johnston Public Library for donuts, coffee, and play and pick up a 1,000 Activities folder with an activity log, activity ideas, tips, a free book and more. Foster a love of reading and the library with your young child as you sing, talk, read, write and play your way towards school readiness.

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