WE’RE BOOKS FOR KIDS.

Literacy is about so much more than learning to read.

Books for Kids creates libraries and implements literacy programs to help children from low-income families develop the critical early, foundational skills they need to to be successful in school and in life. By addressing the structural inequalities in early education that prevent children from obtaining the vital tools that literacy provides, such as effective communication skills that allow them to advocate for themselves and others, we aim to halt the cycles of poverty that hold them back. By championing joy, encouraging curiosity, and developing empathy, we help children grow to self-identify as readers so that they may better understand their world and shape their place in it.

What sets us apart

We meet children where they are.
Designed to be print-rich, safe, and welcoming, our fifty active libraries live inside of preschools, Head Starts, community centers, shelters, and transitional housing facilities across the country right where children already spend their days. We personally curate age-appropriate collections to reflect the children in that community and include the high-interest and high-quality titles the kids love.

We do so much more than provide books.
School-day learning at the library in Story Time continues at home through book lending and our Build a Home Library program which provides books for children to keep. Our focus is on providing high-quality support to the libraries in our family and providing, wherever possible, consistent weekly programming including a dedicated Library Specialist.

WHAT EARLY EDUCATION?

“Early experiences affect the development of brain architecture, which provides the foundation for all future learning, behavior, and health.”
— The Harvard Center on the Developing Child

By creating positive experiences with reading and learning from the earliest ages, we have a chance to mitigate the effects of early trauma where it exists and prevent the very real possibility that a child may never achieve minimum proficiency in school. When children grow up to be literate adults, they are better able to have agency over their lives, advocate for themselves, and create the world that they wish to see for themselves and others.

Take a look at 2018-2019 in numbers...

School Directors who say Books for Kids improved their students’ literacy skills: 
100%

School Directors who say Books for Kids prepares students for Kindergarten: 
92%

New books distributed for children’s home, school, and classroom libraries: 
30,088

Number of active libraries: 
50

Books read aloud in Story Time: 
9,034

Number of children served by BFK libraries: 
7,700

“We don’t have a public library nearby so that’s why I’m thankful for this. This is our library.”
— Seubrena, mother of Nadia
Brooklyn, NY

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