

Book Abundance for Early Learning and Development, Early Literacy and Early School Success

October 7, 2025



Moderator



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Panel Discussion



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Arizona



Eliminating Barriers. Inspiring Young Minds.

DIVERSE BOOKS IMPACT STUDY

2023 Study Highlights



STUDY OBJECTIVES

- **Objective #1:** To better understand the impact of diverse classroom libraries from the educator perspective
- **Objective #2:** To better understand the impact of diverse classroom libraries with respect to student outcomes
- **Objective #3:** To add to the limited existing research on this topic



STUDY METHODOLOGY

Phase 1: Large Scale Quantitative Survey

- **Target Audience**
 - First Book Network Educators, Classroom-based
- **Design**
 - 20-question online survey
 - Data collection period was bi-monthly, December 2022 - May 2023
- **Response**
 - 3,682 participant applications
 - 592 selected participants
 - 437 final participants

Phase 2: Qualitative Semi-Structured Interviews

- **Target Audience**
 - Research participants who completed the quantitative requirements
- **Design**
 - 1-hour informal interviews via Zoom
 - Data collection period was June 2023
- **Response**
 - 415 participant applications
 - 15 final interviewees

KEY FINDINGS

- Students' reading scores increased after educators added diverse books to their classroom libraries
- Bilingual and LGBTQ+ titles drove the largest reading gains
- Students spent more time reading after educators added diverse books to their classroom libraries
- Allowing students to choose which books they want to read positively affected outcomes
- A majority of students chose to read diverse books that serve as mirrors, where they can see themselves



STUDENTS READ MORE WITH ACCESS TO DIVERSE BOOKS

+4 HOURS of collective reading each week

- The average amount of time classroom reading increased after adding new diverse books to the classroom library was 4 hours. ($p < 0.005$)

'Kids are just willing to read for a longer time when they have access to the right books. Whether it's a character they're familiar with or just a topic or story that reflects their interests ... there are a lot of ways to grab kids' attention. And if they want to learn more, they want to read more books.'

Katie, 25-year veteran teacher in Minnesota

WITH MORE DIVERSE BOOKS, STUDENT READING SCORES NOTABLY IMPROVED

- Educators reported gains in reading assessment scores across each time point
- These gains were 3 points higher than nationally expected average yearly gains (+9).
- Gains were greatest for the lowest scoring students (+11)





book harvest

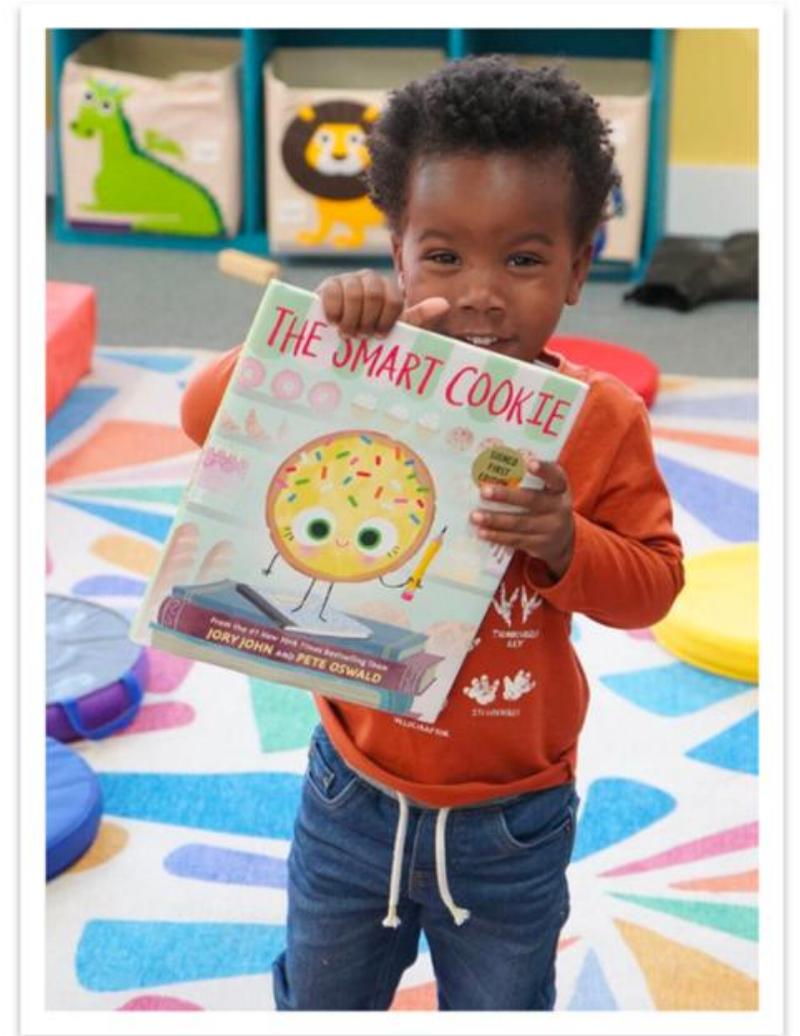
Book Abundance for Early Learning and Success Webinar

Tabitha Blackwell, Executive Director, Book Harvest Durham

Who we are

Book Harvest is a children's literacy nonprofit headquartered in Durham, North Carolina.

Since 2011, children and families have harvested more than 2.8 million children's books from Book Harvest—filling their home libraries, establishing a self-determined habit of shared reading, and nurturing a joyful identity as readers and book owners.



Mission

Books for every child.
Support for every parent.
Literacy for every community.

Vision

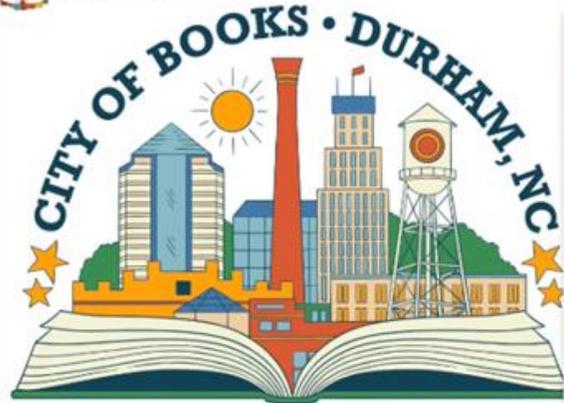
Literacy and justice for all.



Location Spotlight: Book Harvest Durham

Founded in 2011, Durham is Book Harvest's flagship community. Durham's portfolio of programs starts at birth and reaches deep into our community. It is guided by an Executive Director and a family advisory board.

- ➔ Initiatives include Book Babies, Books on Break, Books from Birth, Laundromat Literacy, Book Boxes, Bridge to School, and more!
- ➔ Durham was proclaimed the City of Books by the Mayor in 2024 due to Book Harvest's work in the community.
- ➔ Over 2.8 million books have been harvested by Durham families since 2011.



Family Space

Located inside Book Harvest Durham, the Family Space is designed to make it easy for children and families to play, learn and read together.

Storytimes and special events happen throughout the year.

All books are free and available for families to take home and keep forever.



Free books for children ages 0-18



Space for families and friends to read together



Toys, wall gadgets, books, and activities!



Cozy reading corners



Tables and tools for activities and crafts



Weekly storytimes



When it Comes to Building Reading Skills

**We're Stronger
Together**



MISSION

Raising a Reader supports families and inspires the development of literacy skills and a lifelong love for reading to help children attain brighter futures in which they can thrive and contribute in school, the workforce and society.

VISION

Every child has the family support and reading skills they need to thrive.

VALUES STATEMENT

We believe that all children deserve the opportunity to realize their potential. We believe that the best way to support children is by engaging and strengthening families, and that the lessons that last are those learned with love.



A photograph of a man and a young girl sitting together in a library, reading a book. The man is on the left, wearing a blue denim shirt, and the girl is on the right, wearing a pink shirt. They are both smiling and looking at the book. The background is filled with bookshelves. A green banner is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing text.

When Families Read, Kids Succeed

Shared Reading is the most effective way to help children learn to read and love to read.

Raising a Reader's Classic Red Book Bag Program



Impact: Strengthening Families



94%

of families reported an increase in their child's interest in reading



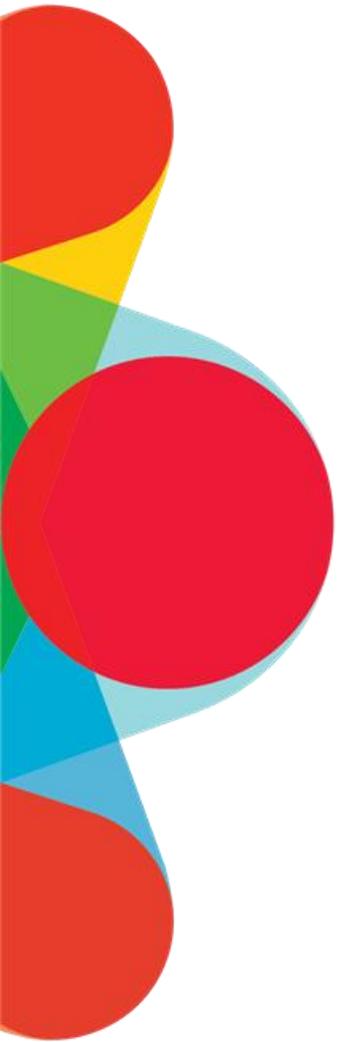
90%+

Families established a shared reading routine



50% Increase

Of children asking to share books with their family members 3 or more times per week



CREATING THE CONDITIONS FOR BELONGING

The mission of AmazeWorks is
to champion equity and
belonging for all



bring
belonging
to **life**



amazeworks.org

Make Way for Books



We Reach Those Who Need It Most.

We prioritize underserved communities where children face barriers to quality early learning. About half of the achievement gap between children from low-income families and their peers emerges before kindergarten. Our comprehensive neighborhood-level efforts — including educator coaching through our Story Project program and family engagement through our Story School program — ensure that children receive the early literacy support they need to thrive.

We provide programming across the state of Arizona, in spaces where our community is, focused on 5 primary literacy goals, supported with embedded coaching, and enhanced by our high-quality book selection and distribution



Educator Feedback

"I would like to learn different activities and tactics to use with children through books. I would also like to learn how to encourage parents to read books in a way that makes it easy for them to do at home with their child."

"I like when they help incorporate multicultural/differences"

"Ways to encourage students to explore books & New strategies to keep students engaged."

Educator Data

98% of educators reported gaining skills, confidence, and tools to teach early literacy and language

97% of educators reported that their early care settings are more literacy and language rich

What types of books do you have in your classroom?

Books with real images	92.73%
Fairytales and fantasy	76.36%
Science	89.09%
Books about people and careers	83.64%
Books about animals	92.73%
Books about social-emotional development	87.27%
Books that represent diverse groups	76.36%
Books in multiple languages	87.27%

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