



BookShare Box Libraries

Do you love to read a great book? Many children from low-income families don't have access to books to read! It is known that if children do not learn to read by third grade, they will experience great difficulty when challenged to "read to learn" throughout the rest of their education.

Here's Your Project:

You can help children in need by collecting new and like-new books and assembling BookShare Box Libraries.

Supply List:

- Small wooden crate or fruit box
- Sandpaper
- Latex or acrylic paint in two or more colors
- Paintbrushes
- Sponge shapes
- Coffee cans or plastic containers for sharing paint
- Coffee can or plastic lids to hold paint for sponging

How To Do It!

1. Contact homeless shelters, low-income day care centers, low-income pediatric clinics, libraries or low-income afterschool programs and discuss your project. See if they are interested in receiving your BookShare Box Libraries.
2. Collect new and like-new books. (No scribbled or torn pages) You can collect from family, friends and even check with local schools to see if they have an extra books they can donate.
3. Check yard sales, library sales and thrift shops for books you can purchase inexpensively.
4. Sort through all the books you collect and make sure they are in great condition.
5. **Making a BookShare Box Library:**
 1. Sand the crate lightly until smooth
 2. Paint the box. Be creative! Make it cheerful!
 3. Give the box two coats of paint, allowing drying time between each coat.
 4. Once the box is dry, decorate by dipping the sponges in paints and lightly pressing the sponge against the box.
 5. When the box is completely dry, fill with books. Sort by reading levels if you have enough books.
6. Deliver your BookShare Box Library to your chosen organization.



Interesting Fact:
The ratio for age appropriate books in middle-income neighborhoods is 13 books to 1 child. In low income neighborhoods the ratio is 1 book to 300 children



Preflection:

Before your volunteer project, ask these questions to be clear about what the goals and expectations are. If you are part of a group, talk about why you are doing a service project. Here are questions to guide your thinking or discussion:

1. Who are we helping?
2. Why are we helping them?
3. How are we helping them?
4. What are we most excited about?
5. What might be tough or challenging about our project?
6. What are everyone's jobs during the project? What do we each have to do?

Reflection:

After your volunteer project, it is important to reflect on the experience. Ask these questions or, if you are part of a group, do the Whip Around reflection activity:

Reflection Questions

1. How did our project help people?
2. What worked well about our project?
3. What can we do better next time?
4. What is our next service project?

Whip Around Ball Toss:

Have your group sit or stand in a circle facing each other. One person will have a ball to toss or roll to someone else in the circle. Each person will have a chance to complete a statement about the project. The person with the ball makes a statement, and then says the name of the person they are tossing the ball to. The next person completes the statement in his or her own way, and so on. When the ball has gone around once, start a new round with a new statement. Try these:

"This project made me happy because _____"

"I didn't know I was good at _____"

"Next time we volunteer, I'd like to help _____"



Resources:

Suggested Reading

***The Wednesday Surprise* by Eve Bunting**

On Wednesday nights when Grandma stays with Anna, everyone thinks she is teaching Anna to read. But seven-year-old Anna and her grandmother are planning a special gift for dad's birthday: secretly, the two read books together until finally the grandmother has learned to read.

***More Than Anything Else* by Marie Bradby**

From sun-up to sun-down, nine-year-old Booker packs salt at a salt work, but more than anything else, he wants to learn to read. Set in the fall of 1865 in Malden, West Virginia, this story is based on the childhood of Booker T. Washington.

Internet Resources

First Book—For news, information, and ways to get books into the hands of children, visit:
www.firstbook.org

Milk and Bookies—Fun ideas for promoting literacy:
www.milkandbookies.org

Pledge this project for the **Holiday Gift Campaign** and **Hasbro** will donate a toy through **Toys for Tots** on behalf of each person helping with your project! (Up to 100,000 toys!)

PLEDGE

